

INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

INTEROPERABILITY SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 25, 2010

HOLIDAY INN

750 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE

MARSHFIELD, WI 54449

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 9:40 AM

ATTENDANCE

- MEMBERS
 - David Collins
 - Tom Czaja
 - Steve Hansen
 - David Mahoney
 - Sue Riseling
 - Rob Rude
 - Ben Schliesman
 - Doug Meier
 - David Steingraber
 - Markley Wahl

REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN DAVID STEINGRABER

- NEW MEMBER
 - Welcome to Steve Hansen (Chief, Racine Fire Department)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

- MOTION
 - Motion made by Tom Czaja to approve January 14, 2010 meeting minutes
 - Motion seconded by Ben Schliesman
 - Motion carries

INTEROPERABILITY INITIATIVES UPDATE - DAVID SPENNER

- WEBSITE
 - www.interop.wi.gov launched
 - Meeting and event documents will be made available
- STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY PLAN
 - Information collected today will be used at the June SCIP workshop to formulate a SCIP update (for presentation to the IC in July)
- INTEROPERABILITY WITH MINNESOTA
 - David Spenner is currently working with the state of Minnesota for a border interoperability demonstration project (for border state interoperability funding)
 - Project will include WISCOM / ARMOR system tie-ins and overlays for Superior / Douglas county to talk on Minnesota's 800 Mhz ARMOR system
 - Working to address common interests between the two states and Canada, along with the Duluth / Superior ports
 - Minnesota will be the lead for the grant application, which is due in the third week of April
 - They ask that the IC or OJA provide a letter of support for their application

- Issue came with too short of notice to have had it be an action item on the agenda
- No objections from the group to have OJA draft a letter of support
- GRANTS
 - Turnback funding available for law enforcement-focused radio grant (100-150 radios) in April
 - Larger grant (round six) is coming out this fall; approximately \$2,000,000+ will be allocated
 - The Homeland Security Funding Advisory Committee has recommended that radio replacement has been achieved and radio programs in the future will be used for achieving WISCOM accessibility and other SCIP goals
 - MABAS grant for IFERN dispatch centers to be announced between April and June

MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP REPORT - TOM CZAJA

- INTRODUCTION - DAVID STEINGRABER
 - The WISPERN board, a long-standing group chartered to manage law enforcement frequencies, was replaced by the MFCG, which is an advisory / policymaking group with an expanded scope (more frequencies)
 - Tom Czaja is the chair of this group
- OVERVIEW
 - Jan 19th was the inaugural meeting
 - Held elections
 - Carl Guse and Paul Wittkamp the other officers (Vice Chair and Secretary)
 - Subcommittee developed
 - Annex D of the SCIP looked at as per IC recommendations
 - Standard operating procedures to be developed and incorporated into this Annex
 - Touchy issue involving Racine County and Illinois parks / forestry
 - Illinois denied request to operate MARC repeater, due to alleged interference
 - Meeting in Illinois on March 29
 - Letter of concurrence needed from Illinois to license MARC interoperability operations in that area of the state
 - Interoperability with Michigan
 - 800 Mhz radio sent to Michigan for programming (WEM)
 - MARC frequency usage in Michigan looked into, but we may not have authority for this
 - Michigan is 800 Mhz while MARC is 700 Mhz
 - Vacancies
 - Warren Warrington and Matt Joski welcomed as new members
 - Discussed VTAC channels for regional drug task force use
 - Motion made to allow digital P25 use on that channel
- FUTURE WORK
 - Mutual Aid Frequencies Communications Guide (Annex K)
 - The IC will review and act on this at this meeting
 - Meetings are open; anyone and everyone is invited
 - If you have suggestions for the MFCG, please email Tom Czaja
- ACTION ON ANNEX K
 - Public comment
 - Do these frequencies fall under MABAS policy?
 - The document was formatted as per committee work; the MABAS communications committee has its own guidelines. This document is a list of frequencies, not a list of the policies for frequency use. The MABAS committee chair sits on the MFCG, so there is continuity. This is one of the ongoing projects for this group.
 - The listing of those frequencies is for document structure and organization, rather than an effort to set policy. That's not to say that policy won't be made in the future.
 - My understanding is that MABAS limits the output wattage to 10 watts. We need more wattage to communicate even on those frequencies. We have 100-watt radios that can't even be cut back to that limit.

- The listing of these frequencies is not intended to address the output issue. That's not to say that it won't be resolved, but it won't be resolved by this group today.
- This could be a question easily answered by licensing. If the frequencies are licensed at a certain power level, they're required to meet those levels.
- o Motion
 - Motion made by Rob Rude that: "The Interoperability Council moves to adopt the revised SCIP Annex K - 2010 Mutual Aid Frequencies."
 - Motion seconded by Sue Riseling
 - Motion carries

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS GROUP REPORT - DAVID SPENNER

- OVERVIEW
 - o The ICSG was created as a formalization of a PSAP working group
 - Been a little slow-going, but is now under full steam
 - o The group first met in March and recommended to forward a draft annual PSAP registration document / outline to the IC
 - The hope is that the form would eventually be available online
 - No policies proposed if the document is not completed
 - o The proposed action is to approve the outline and recommend annual registration in 2011
- PUBLIC COMMENT
 - o Is this in anyway associated with other PSAP efforts?
 - In the context of interoperability, there need to be PSAP standards consistent with state interoperability planning. I don't know that the legislation is restrictive on policies. We want to focus on operational aspects. This legislation pre-dated a lot of PSAP issues.
 - This is mostly a data collection effort at this stage. There has been some talk about non-compliance, but we hope that won't be an issue. The document accompanying this effort is a work in progress. The meetings are open to the public and are posted to our webpage.
 - o Confidentiality of some frequencies / frequency use. Is this something to be concerned about?
 - There is no intent to allow people to easily collect information. This is open records, but more private information could be restricted.
 - If this is assumed to be open record, Wisconsin provides for a balancing test: If the public interest in not disclosing outweighs the public interest in disclosure, the information can be withheld. The form could be modified accordingly, notifying PSAPs of sensitive information.
 - This isn't intended to be a public document, but a technical document for research. We will modify the form to allow the responder to designate confidential information / frequencies.
- MOTION
 - o Motion made by David Collins to accept the PSAP registration form as presented and discussed
 - o Motion seconded by Ben Schliesman
 - o Motion carries

REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY RESERVE - KEITH TVEIT

- OVERVIEW
 - o WEM designated (by the SSMG in September, 2007) the responsible agency to coordinate the STR
 - o \$600,000 to be applied in two categories (\$400,000 to mobiles and \$200,000 to portables)
 - Hoping to purchase between 80-100 P25 VHF trunking portables (stakeholders will evaluate portable radios)
 - WEM will be purchasing a cache of radios for each regional office and warning / communications centers
 - o Upgrades will be done to both WEM trailers
 - A new trailer will feature slide-outs for multiple telecommunicators,
 - Changed from a 5th-wheel to a truck / trailer
 - Includes support for a call center (call takers and dispatchers could be called in)
 - MARC repeater support included
 - Surveillance possible

- PUBLIC COMMENT
 - Will there be HAM radio capabilities in the trailer?
 - It isn't spec'd for HAM currently, but we're applying another \$160,000 in upgrades.
 - Acknowledgment of WEM's role in interoperability / public safety communications.
 - Reminder that all of this is a balance between statewide continuity and local development (grass-roots efforts). It may appear complicated, but it ensures the maximum involvement of local stakeholders.

OJA REPORT ON THE CREATION OF NEW SUBCOMMITTEES

- OVERVIEW
 - The IC moved to adopt the Regional SCIP Implementation Groups (six), the State Agency SCIP Implementation Group, and the Statewide SCIP Implementation Group
 - This effort is new, but regions are already hosting meetings
 - Groups will comprise of various agencies who utilize interoperability communication technologies
 - 3 members from each county; we would like a diverse representation (fire EMS, and LE)
 - A part-time staff person in each region will oversee / organize these efforts, on a regional level
 - TICP and CASM to be implemented by these representatives
 - County level reps will be contacted about tower sites for a secure mapping tool
 - Interoperability exercises are being conducted (hoping to see more of this)
 - Integration of AAR of actual interoperability incidents is a top goal
- DISCUSSION
 - Reminder that you can sign up to receive alerts about interoperability initiatives (as well as other OJA programs); you can also contact OJA through www.oja.wi.gov

BREAK

APPOINTMENTS

- MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP
 - Carl Guse
 - Kent MacLaughlin
 - Warren Warrington
 - Paul Wittkamp
 - Dave Spenner
 - Matt Joski
- JUNE 30, 2010 MFCG EXPIRATIONS
 - Bill Bouma (dual-role)
 - Carl Guse
 - Doug Meier
- MOTION
 - Motion made by Tom Czaja to accept nominations
 - Motion seconded by Sue Riseling
 - Motion carries

PROPOSAL FROM THE SSMG TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE REGARDING WISCOM'S USE OF BADGERNET - CARL GUSE

- DISCUSSION
 - Motion formalizes request to communicate with DoA about BadgerNet
 - BadgerNet is a statewide network
- MOTION
 - Motion made by Rob Rude that: "The Interoperability Council moves to ask the Department of Administration to work with the WISCOM project to explore the options for BadgerNet use in the system."
 - Motion seconded by David Collins
 - Motion carries
 -

BRIEFING ON THE STATE PREPAREDNESS REPORT - KENT MACLAUGHLIN

- OVERVIEW
 - Report was last done in 2008 (not annual)
 - Not directly tied to funding
 - Federal DHS requirements released in February with a May deadline
 - They want us to showcase capabilities / targets and provide a preparedness plan to FEMA
 - The report demonstrates how states use federal funding to achieve capabilities
 - 37 capabilities assessed
 - Preparedness levels are scored between 1 – 10
 - “Strengthening communications capabilities” is the interoperability capability
 - State agencies and local / private sectors all contribute to this report
 - Communications planning is difficult to assess, but the SCIP is helping with moving that forward

MODERATED DISCUSSION ON 2010 SCIP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - DAVID SPENNER

- DISCUSSION (SEE REVISED GOALS FOR SUGGESTIONS)
 - P25 compliance is worth mentioning
 - There is some ambiguity / confusion as to what P25 compliance means
 - A lot of terms, but no formal process to establish P25 on a technical sense
 - CAP was put together to establish independent technical tests / standards for P25 certification. A ways off, but meeting to finalize tests for submitting to labs
 - This compliance has to be done on a federal level
 - HAM radio concern something we should look at seriously
 - Open architecture system is focal point

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RELATED TOPICS

- DISCUSSION
 - Greg Engle, Director of OJA Homeland Security, introduced
 - Notice of upcoming requirements
 - National emergency communications plan goal #2: By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions shall demonstrate one hour response for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. Interoperability is supposed to flow smoothly for routine events by 2011. Congress will measure our effectiveness against this for funding purposes. AAR of routine event will take place in 2011-2012 and may be tied to funding. Process will be similar to something that UASI is doing right now. These will not involve site visits.
- GENERAL QUESTION AND ANSWER
 - The 911 industry has had challenges to develop standards and training. Could we have an administration / governing board for 911? There might be an opportunity through the interoperability initiative to get access for federal funds by expanding PSAP regulation.
 - We would have to look at the state statutes. OJA will take every opportunity to get federal funding. You may have to be patient, but we’ll do the best we can. APCO and NENA have been looked at.

NEXT MEETING DATE DISCUSSION

- DISCUSSION
 - July 22nd next meeting (open meeting)
 - Dave Steingraber thanks the IC for their participation

ADJOURNMENT