STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2009
DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by Co-Chair Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: George Carbonell (DOT), Joseph Carlone (DOC), Andy Celli (Motorola), Brian Fernandez (Red Cross), Charles Fuller (OSET), John Gustafson (DEMHS), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Philip Mikan (USCG), Tyler Millix (CFCA), Jeff Otto (DPS), George Pohorilak (DPS), Gregg Prevost (Region 2), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Mike Varney (DOIT), Stephen Verbil (OSET), Ed Wilds (DEP), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Jerry Zarwanski (OSET), Bill Callion (City of Stamford), Sheri DeVaux (DOIT), Richard Mielhall (Newington P.D.), Joseph Soto (CT EMS Advisory Board), and Kerry Flaherty (City of Stamford)

Public Comment:

None

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting notes of March 17, 2009 - first by Jeff Otto and seconded by Gregg Prevost; motion unanimously approved.

PSIC Grant Update:

Steering group meeting held 4/21/09 to review the status of grants. IJ1 – Report given by George Pohorilak; IJ2 – Report given by John Gustafson; IJ3 – Report given by Stephen Verbil.

Sub-Committee Reports:

a. Technical Workgroup - The workgroup is receiving responses on submitted applications and working on PSIC Grant IJ2 Communications Vehicles and Strategic Technical Reserve (STR).

b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – No report

c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – The planning group met on 4/20/09. Items discussed included radio frequency allocation and addressing the Region 19 plan.

Motion to accept recommendation from 700 MHz Sub-Committee to add FCC Region 19 channel allocation category headings a pass fail for interoperability and timeliness header for category for inclusion in Connecticut 700 MHz plan. Motion was unanimously approved.

Kerry Flaherty addressed the status of Stamford's 700 MHz application. Steve Verbil will provide additional documents needed for the application. Notification should be received before the next 700 MHz meeting.

d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – Steve Verbil & Jerry Zarwanski explained the FCC application process for obtaining a license.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

14 ITAC tests were conducted; 3 ITAC activations were completed by the Communication Center 1) 3/3/09 North Branford motor vehicle accident; 2) CSP Air 5 requested a TAC channel for interoperability with Weston Fire Dept for a brush fire on 3/24/09; 3) West Stafford Fire Dept requested a TAC Channel for a medical stand by for a special event on 3/31.

Interoperability Grant Approvals:

Region 1 – submitted; Region 2 – submitted; Region 3 – approved; Region 4 – approved; and Region 5 - submitted

Old Business:

a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – No Report

b. Transit Security Grant – A meeting was held at DPS and an agreement was made to put a project in place. The project will include the establishment of a Transit Security Talk Group on the Connecticut State Police Radio System. This talk group will be linked to the Metro North Railroad dispatch center in Long Island City, NY. New radio control stations will be deployed in each 911 PSAP and emergency communications center in municipalities along the rail corridor from Greenwich to New Haven, equipped to operate on the Transit Talk Group, these units will be in addition to the existing ICALL/ITAC Control Stations. Finally all ICALL/ITAC portable radios held by first responders along the rail corridor will be replaced with new units capable of operating Transit Talk Group.

c. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – Region 1 – submitted; Region 2 – submitted; Region 3 – approved; Region 4 – approved; and Region 5 - submitted

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – Region 1 plans to conduct training in the next year. COML leaders are needed.

Region 2 (Gregg Prevost) – Reported STOCS training is scheduled for next week.

Region 3 – No report.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – IECGP grant application was approved. A June date is scheduled for TIC Plan meeting. The Region is in its second round of obtaining requests for info in order to narrow down the number of vendors for interoperability systems project.

Region 5 – The region's TIC Plan Workshop is scheduled for May 28 & 29.

New Business:

None

Correspondence/Grant Reviews:

American Red Cross of Connecticut has filed a request to be allowed to utilize various State of Connecticut Communications and Interoperability Networks. Emergency Telecommunications Managers John Gustafson (DEMHS) and Steve Verbil (DPS) met with ARC-CT representatives and forwarded the attached recommendations.

Motion made to open topic for discussion first by Mike Stemmler; 2nd by Gregg Prevost. Motion unanimously approved.

The committee discussed the topic and Brian Fernandez, CT-ARC representative answered additional questions raised by committee members.

Motion made to accept recommendation made by the DEMHS and DPS Emergency Telecommunications Managers. Motion unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., DOT Research Lab, Rocky Hill, CT.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 14:10 p.m.