

# Communication Interoperability Working Group

December 20, 2005

## Minutes

### WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 1309 hours by the Chair, Mike Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Roy Piper (DEMHS), Stephan Brown (DOT/Bradley), George Carbonell (ConnDOT), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Matt Valleau (CAP/CSP), Mike Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Jonathan Barbagallo (Hartford Hospital); Paul Jakubson (CPCA/Madison PD); Chuck Beck, DOT; Peter Beckwith (USAR); Joe Murray (Hamden); Jeffrey Otto (QVEC); and Lee Toffey (secretary). Guest John Spencer of Lifestar.

There were no public comments.

Minutes of the 11-15-05 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by Roy Piper, second by Matt Valleau, unanimous/moved and will be post on the website. Minutes of the 11-29-05 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by Roy Piper, second by Joe Murray, unanimous/moved and will be post on the website.

### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Technical Committee: George Carbonell advised that the committee is working on a paper regarding what can be installed on the portables, mobiles, and trailer units. Looking into the service contract to see if any warranty issues may be affected by adding additional frequencies. Believes the STOCs plan should be blessed at a higher level – Governor? – to give it more weight. Per George Pohorilak statutes exist in other State agencies, DPS etc. that may give the project the structure needed. Discussion on subject.
- B. Governance Committee: Mike Varney reported that a short meeting was held, the next to be on January 9, 2006 at 1300 hours at DOIT. Structure of the committee will model State Interoperability language from other states. A draft document will be ready before the next meeting. They conceive of a smaller group that can make a decision if the entire group is unable to be in attendance. Discussion on the State Strategic Plan, statewide plan to the FCC, and statutory reasons to back up authority over radio changes made by the recipients. Chuck Beck suggested an overall Communications Plan for the state and the discussion led to how to move toward a state committee by going through the Coordinating Council to make a recommendation to the Governor. The goal should be a communications system for all users, possible 700 mHz, and a plan for the future using common band width. Discussion on the FY2006 grant process and the submission of a two and five year plan. Meetings begin in January.
- C. Training & Exercise Workgroup: Mike Varney stated that he met with Commissioner Thomas, Deputy Commissioner Sandford and Jeff Morrissette and money for training will be made available. A meeting will be called as soon as they hear from the Fire Academy who plan on 15 ITAC/ICALL training sessions in the 5 regions using their trainers.

**REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:** none reported

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs: Gordon Shand waiting for reply on the inventory from DPS.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Test & Training Issues: none
- C. UASI: no discussion
- D. Homeland Security Grant Program: Equipment being delivered to the Towns.
- E. Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan: This will be a significant full-scale event with a train blowing up in Norwalk. There will be a workshop on January 31 to write a significant portion of the plan and a second day on February 1<sup>st</sup> to validate what has been written. Location to be announced. An online mapping tool for communications will be used and all statewide partners will be involved. A propagation study from ICTAP has been requested.
- F. STOCs equipment: RFI has been re-advertised with a closing date of January 17, 2006 under number 05ITZ0106, reposted to bring in more vendors and to be able to test a larger pool of equipment.
- G. RFP for master catalog: Currently being re-worded and will be available soon – multiple vendor, catalog based contract.
- H. Request from CT-IMT4: Will submit a paper for the committee.
- I. January 2006 report to Legislature: A one paragraph section submitted by DEMHS for the Governors report.
- J. CEDAP: closes January 13, 2006.
- K. Prime Mover radios and Licensing: Query to Rosemary Salerno regarding who licensed the radios. Waiting for reply.
- L. DEMHS VHF Radios: Need to check with Kerry Flaherty regarding system. Committee would like to have someone from DEMHS to explain how the recommended system will work.
- M. Other: 1) Peter Beckwith questioned whether USAR would loose the 42 radios it is currently using when the last of the Decon Trailers arrives. Answer appears to be yes. 2) Jon Barbagallo questioned if Lifestar was ever given permission to have an ITAC/ICALL mobile radio. John Spencer from Lifestar was in attendance and advised that Hartford Hospital is currently updating all communications for Lifestar. There was discussion and the past minutes of the meetings will be reviewed. John asked to send a letter to the committee through Mike Varney making the request and the committee will vote on subject.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Control Station Guidelines: Discussed at last meeting.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Proposal: Paul Jacobson met with Commissioner Thomas regarding expanding the use of the radios to the local level, i.e. mobiles in cars. Commissioner seems interested. Paul to contact Commissioner Boyle of DPS and see if he agrees that the plan is beneficial. Paul to keep committee informed.
- C. Other: 1) Mike Varney will send out a link to all for a high level planning guide. 2) International Fire Chief's and National Sheriff's Association Symposium – 700 and 800 mHz systems were discussed.

**CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:**

- A. Interoperability Communications equipment requests processed are as follows:  
Weston, Darien, Bethlehem and Canterbury all approved.

- B. Correction to October 25, 2005 minutes to show East Haddam radio request as being disapproved. Motion to change made by Chuck Beck, second John Gustafson, unanimously approved.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting will be **January 17, 2006, at 1300 hours, location to be determined.**

Meetings open to the public.

Minutes will be posted to DEMHS website.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Beck, second by Steve Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 1450 hours.