

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2008
DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1303 hours by Co-Chair William Hackett. The following individuals were in attendance: Stephan Brown (DOT/Bradley), George Carbonell (DOT), Joseph Carlone (DOC), Anthony Diaz (Hamden PD), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Chuck Fuller (OSET), John Gustafson (DEMHS), John Masciadrelli (OSET), William Hackett (DEMHS), John Masciadrelli (OSET), Philip Mikan (DEMHS), John Murdock (CTNG), Bernie O'Donnell (DOIT), Jeffrey Otto (Region 4), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gregg Prevost (Valley Shore), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Matt Valteau (CAP/DPS), Mike Varney (DOIT), Keith Victor (Region 3), Timothy Symonds (CTNG), Stephen Verbil (OSET), Jerry Zarwanski (OSET), Paul Zito (DPS), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Brian Fernandez (ARC), Bob Davis (Verizon Wireless), Kitty Ing (Verizon Business) and John Quinlavin (CT EMS Advisory Board)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting minutes of September 16, 2008 made by Keith Victor; seconded by Mike Varney - accepted unanimously.

Announcement and Introduction of new Emergency Telecommunications Managers

John Gustafson (DEMHS) and Stephen Verbil (DPS) were introduced as the two new Emergency Telecommunications Managers for DEMHS and DPS.

PSIC Grant Update:

Mike Varney reported that funds can be drawn down once MOUs are returned. Phil Mikan reported that 62% of MOUs were returned. John Gustafson plans to reach out to those towns that are behind. He will later meet with the Regions to discuss further.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Workgroup – (STOCS) Phase 1 receiving MOAs and distributing boxes; Phase 2 MOAs were sent out to CEOs. Phil Mikan announced he will be leaving DEMHS in two weeks and transitioning issues to John Gustafson.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – State of CT was selected to receive COML Type 3 Training. Ten seats are available for the class. Dave Brown, DEMHS, is the lead. CT will try to acquire more seats as the host. John Gustafson will meet with Dave Brown to finalize plans. There are currently 23 registrants for the class. Those who meet the prerequisite will get priority and anyone without should get them ASAP and will be included if space is available. Mike Varney announced that the credentialing working group had a meeting and details will be available at the next meeting.

- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – George Pohorilak reported that the group met and discussed frequency needs for special teams in the regions. He also discussed regional systems on 700MHz for Fairfield County. A representative from Greenwich briefed the group on the proposed system and possible application for 700 MHz spectrum. Region 19 committee will process the application.
- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – George Pohorilak reported that the Cross Island Ferry is seeking 4.9 Spectrum. Details are not clear on the grant they received. It is a Region 19 issue. Further discussion is needed. John Gustafson has been in discussions with Ken Rigney on this issue and will try to get the specifics on what the grant entails in order to determine if they are eligible for what they are seeking. Jeff Otto expressed that if implementation of the system that he proposes within DEMHS Region 4, causes interference, then he would not be able to support this request.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

There is new command staff at DPS. No report available. George Pohorilak will follow-up.

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – Bill Hackett has the radios and batteries and will discuss distribution with John Gustafson.
- b. Transit Security Grant – Contact was made with New Jersey and a meeting will take place to write the plan and submit to NY. There is no change in the format. Mike Varney has collected the information to upgrade the submission.
- c. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – Nothing to report. Currently waiting for a response from DEP.
- d. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – Mike Varney reported that a proposal was put together for this 1st year grant program. There were no issues to get accepted for the grant. There are six components (5 Regions & State). A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss disbursement of grant. A meeting will be conducted w/Regions to begin draw down of funds. Grant money is immediately available. Congress re-appropriated the same funds for next year. No guidance yet available.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 – No Report.

Region 2 – No Report

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – There were 66 attendees at the Oct 14th TIC Plan exercise/training from Federal, State and Local agencies, and representatives from Massachusetts. Exercise was observed by FEMA Region 1. An after action report is forthcoming.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Region 4 is interviewing prospective vendors for IT network. Region will begin a detailed inventory next month for hardware that will be on the network. The concept of the Region 4 project is to procure hardware and software that would ride on the fiber network. OSET will put in place a fiber network to interconnect radio service in Region 4. Jerry Zarwanski asked if Region 4 has a project profile. Jeff Otto stated no, but they have a summary that was submitted to DEMHS. George Pohorilak stated that he must be sure Region 4 does not buy something the State will provide. Jeff Otto stated that he has spending deadlines and want to use the money efficiently and that is why they are meeting with vendors.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – ESF2 met and toured the EOC in the Ridgefield/Danbury area and had discussions on building a regional radio system for next year spending. The Region plans to discuss this concept with other ESFs for prioritizing that issue. There is still a request for CASM training for the Region.

New Business:

Mike Varney announced that the National Governors Association (NGA) is putting out a competitive grant for a Governance Policy Academy and they are working on the possibility to apply for the program. A committee will be formed and members may be asked to serve. The grant is sponsored by NGA and DHS and is due October 29th. Mike Varney will have a discussion after the meeting on this issue.

Keith Victor announced that New England States have adopted to use the new interoperability (NITAC) channels.

Bill Hackett informed the committee that a new person will be needed for John Gustafson's voting membership and steering committee membership. The appointment will be made by Commissioner Thomas.

There will be a REP Conference on December 10 -12th. Jeff Otto, Region 4 asked if he could sit on the panel. Gordon Shand expressed that a panel is needed and there will be a PowerPoint presentation with Q&A. An interoperability panel will be needed for December 12th. Bill Hackett also informed the committee that DEMHS met with Volpe last week to gather information for the interoperability system for NY/NJ Transit System.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews: Nothing to report.

DEP Communication Vehicle:

Item erroneously included from the September 16th meeting agenda.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 1:00 p.m. at Department of Correction Training Center located at 275 Jarvis Street, Building 2, Cheshire.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by George Carbonnel; seconded by George Pohorilak - accepted unanimously at 1410 hours.