

STATEWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

INTEROPERABILITY COMMITTEE

May 17, 2016 1:00 p.m.
Chair: Dave Thomson
Mn/DOT Arden Hills Training Facility
1900 West County Road I
Shoreview, MN 55126

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

Members/alternates:

Chair: **Dave Thomson**/vacant—MN Chiefs of Police Association
Vice Chair: Tim Boyer/vacant – Minnesota State Patrol
Victor Wanchena/Steve Ouradnik – MN Dept of Corrections
Dan DeSmet/Vacant– MN Ambulance Association
Bill Schmidt/Vacant – MN Department of Health
Brian Askin/Dan Kuntz – MN DNR
Tim Lee/Mukhtar Thakur/Brad Peters – Mn/DOT
Bob Norlen – MN EMSRB
Ron Jansen/Chris Kummer– MESB
John Sanner/vacant – MN Sheriffs Association
Ulrie Seal/Vacant – MN Fire Chief's Association
Lance Lehman /Bill O'Donnell –MN Bureau of Crime Apprehension
Pat Coughlin/Vacant – MIFC
Mike Martin/Brian Smith – Federal Seat
B.J. Battig/Vacant – UASI
Tom Simota/vacant– MN National Guard
John Dooley/- HSEM
Michael Wisniewski - HSEM Greater MN
Terry Stoltzman/Vacant – HSEM Region 6
Rick Freshwater/Mark Darnell – SE MN RAC
John Maatz/Paul Johnson - SW MN ECB
Brett Miller/Darrin Haeder – SC MN ECB
Micah Myers/Kristen Lahr– Central MN ESB
Kerry Swenson /**Bruce Hegrenes**– NE MN ECB
Dave Olson/**Bryan Green**– NW MN ECB
Monte Fronk – Tribal Government
vacant– Association of MN Emergency Managers (AMEM)
**Members attending marked with highlight.*

Guests:

Jim Stromberg, DPS-ECN
Rick Juth, DPS-ECN
Cathy Anderson, DPS-ECN
Carol-Linnea Salmon, DPS-ECN

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomson calls the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

APPOVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Thomson asks for a motion to approve the agenda.

Victor Wanchena makes a motion to approve the agenda.
Bruce Hegrenes seconds the motion
Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Thomson asks if there are any changes to the March meeting minutes.

Hegrenes makes a motion to approve the March minutes.
Wanchena seconds the motion.
Motion carries.

ACTION ITEMS

SOAR CHANGE MANAGEMENT (JIM STROMBERG)

Jim Stromberg introduces the request. The Scene of Action Repeater (SOAR) has been discussed but has not gone through the formal change management steps. Under Standard 1.5.2, any operational change needs to be discussed by this committee to decide if it is a major or a minor change. This question was considered by the OTC and the OTC determined that for technical matters it is a major change. The OTC created a workgroup to look at the specifics. Stromberg agrees that it should be considered a major change.

Ron Jansen makes a motion that this is a major change for interoperability because most radios would need to be reprogrammed and that this committee follow the OTC's lead.

Ulie Seal seconds the motion.

Hegrenes ask to amend the motion to add that some members of this committee be on the workgroup to talk about the operational aspects.

Jansen and Seal accept this as a friendly amendment.

Discussion:

Rick Juth says as part of that review he would recommend that the workgroup review the draft Central Region standard that outlines operational protocols for the use of the SOAR in Steven's County.

Stromberg says the OTC asked Al Fjerstad to lead the group and identify membership.

Hegrenes says he has had discussions in his region about expanding this to put it in a command vehicle. They see a need for a repeater in a command vehicle that is used throughout the region. This will be coming forward. They are requesting the SOAs because they are allowed to be used digital and they could be encrypted and what is allowed now can't be encrypted. There is a need in Greater MN for an encrypted repeater in some spots.

Motion carries.

REPORTS

CASM WORKGROUP (JIM STROMBERG)

Stromberg reports that the CASM workgroup meets monthly and he is optimistic about how the work is moving forward. A CASM training was offered at the Minnesota Interoperability Conference with about 10-15 people attending.

Stromberg lists the members of the workgroup:

Al Fjerstad, Central
Chris Kummer, Metro
Keith Ruffing, Southern
Rick Freshwater, Southeast
Harry Algyer, Southwest
Steve Olson, Northeast
Brian Zastoupil, Northwest

He adds that it was agreed at the OTC and then the SECB that TICP be removed from the CASM Standard. The CASM workgroup has discussed whether there is a need for a state TICP Standard. The Metro Region has one because they are eligible for federal grant money by having a TICP. No other region has this opportunity. The workgroup does not see value in creating a state TICP Standard and decided that the requirement should be left to each region.

ONTARIO/MINNESOTA INTEROPERABILITY PROJECT (JIM STROMBERG)

Stromberg reports that the Ontario/Minnesota Interoperability Project has been successful and is 99% complete. The patch between Minnesota and Ontario is functioning perfectly. In a test with Rochester, St. Paul and Ontario, the connection happened rather seamlessly on the Minnesota side. There are some issues on the Ontario side. There are two dispatch centers in Ontario- one in Kenora and one in Thunder Bay. The Kenora connection is working well but the Thunder Bay connection has some issues that are being addressed. The Minnesota State Patrol is managing this and will oversee the required weekly tests.

There were plans to begin a similar interoperability project with Manitoba but those plans have been changed. Manitoba purchased a new P-25 700 MHz system and is focusing on that right now.

ECN PROJECTS (JIM STROMBERG)

The Minnesota Interoperability Conference held in April was successful. Stromberg will share the official feedback when it is available but anecdotally he heard feedback that it was a good conference.

He informs members that another change management request was approved by the Operations and Technical Committee and will come before this committee at its next meeting. The request, introduced by Hennepin County, is for LTAC encrypted channels.

The SCIP plan will be reviewed and updated at an in-person meeting on August 3. Stromberg emphasizes the importance of participation from committee members. Planning calls will begin in June and Stromberg will keep members informed.

Updates to the ARMER website have been a little slow due to the time required for the Interop Conference planning and also because the DPS Communications Department has to make some of the changes. Stromberg expects this to move more quickly now that the conference is over.

Review of Strategic Technology Equipment. Stromberg has visited the Northwest and Southeast regions to take inventory of the equipment and the best practices. He will continue with visits to the other regions. He is interested in seeing how the equipment is deployed, recorded and maintained. He would like to create a report so the regions can learn from each other.

COMU Program. Stromberg has inventoried the records along with the records in CASM and they are aligned. A workgroup meets monthly with a focus on how to envision the program for the state. A panel was held on this topic at the Interoperability Conference and there was a good discussion with many notes for use at the next workgroup meeting. The plan is to conclude this work by the end of the year with a report and recommendations presented to this committee.

Border State Interoperability Assessment. Adam Item, the state GIS coordinator, created a map with the border counties of Minnesota and the county in the bordering state. The map is color-coded to show interoperability. The plan is to identify how interoperability is happening county-by-county and then identify what the best practices might be. The map is not completed yet but when it is Stromberg will circulate it and post it on the SECB website.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourns at 1:32 p.m.