



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee			
Date	March 17, 2016	Location	John W. Olver Transit Center 12 Olive St Greenfield, MA Room 221
Time	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Duration	2.5 Hours
		Facilitators	Walter Tibbetts
		Meeting Cancellation Notice	413-774-3167 x153

Agenda Items	Action/Motion
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were: Bruce Beliveau, Joe Cuneo, Bob Dean (FRCOG), Butch Garrity, Dan Nietsche, John Paciorek, Bill Perlman, Kurt Seaman, Walter Tibbetts, Wendy Snow, Chip Dodge, and consultants from Communications Design Consulting Group.
2. Review/approval of February 18, 2016 meeting minutes	Motion: Kurt Seaman motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.
3. Final report from Communications Design Consulting Group	See Attached Final Report from CDCG. Representatives from CDCG presented their final report which included Option 2A. The Committee asked CDCG to explore this Option at the last meeting. Option 2A was to convert the system to a mixed mode with both Project-25 Digital UHF and analog being able to be interoperable. There was a lengthy discussion about the options presented by CDCG's report in terms of which option will be best suited for the FCECS in the long term. The Committee as a whole agreed that Option 4, joining the Commonwealth's Statewide P-25 800 MHz Trunked Radio System would be the best option. In the time between when the Commonwealth completes its study for this system, the Committee will look towards improving the current system. CDCG will be preparing ten hard copies of the final report and sending them to FRCOG.
4. FCECS Strategic Planning Items	The Committee reviewed the plan and it was updated. Attached to this document is the updated plan.
5. Chairman's Report	911 grant changes – no new construction of buildings will be allowed. Verizon 911 was bought out by Motorola. Exact is the company that won the bid for the state-wide communication study. FCECS decision to use UCALL 40D for helicopter to ground frequency has spurred the conversation in other counties, WMRIC suggests holding off to make sure that there are not any changes in the new MIFOG; WMRIC also requested releasing the CDCG report to SAIC consultants.
6. Member Reports a. Police b. EMS c. Fire d. Dispatch	a. No Update b. No update. c. No update. d.

<p>e. Sheriff's Office f. FRCOG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder that oversight meeting in April and Oct is a joint meeting • Issue where our frequencies got patched with Berkshire frequencies • Planned radio work template will be emailed out <p>e. Sheriff's Office: No update. f. Ashfield reported the communication system has been running very well.</p>
<p>7. Radio System Manager</p>	<p>Bruce Beliveau asked Bill Perlman how the communication has been via the Plainfield Site. Bill Perlman reported that the audio has been good.</p>
<p>8. Old Business</p> <p>a. Report from Green Mountain Communications: Montague Coverage Map from Poet's Seat</p> <p>b. Report on coverage maps for First Light owned towers on Northfield Mtn.</p>	<p>a. Bruce Beliveau reported that adding additional equipment to the Poet's Seat Tower site would increase the quality of communication in the Avenue A towards Montague City Road area. Bruce reported that he will complete an equipment list of both on hand equipment that can be used for this site and what new equipment needs to be procured. Bruce will supply an estimate by the next meeting.</p> <p>b. Bruce produced two coverage maps for this study. Both of them showed that the First light towers will not produce better coverage than the tower in Erving.</p>
<p>9. New business</p> <p>a. Leyden Paging Issue</p>	<p>a. The issue of paging Leyden on Sim 2 was brought before the Franklin County Police Chiefs Association. John Paciorek reported additional data showing how many calls/pages were missed in the last couple of years will be needed before the Chief's Association can make a decision. A quick look at the data showed no issues in 437 calls including paging.</p>
<p>10. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</p> <p>a. Gary Cromack</p>	<p>a. The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council has approved \$150,000 to be used for existing sites. He asked for direction on where the committee would like them to design improvements. The designs need to be completed by July 31, 2016. The Committee recommended the designs focus on the gaps in coverage in west county especially; Monroe and Rowe – Bear Swamp Site, Coverage in Leyden, and the Vt. Yankee Tower site.</p>
<p>11. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>Bill Perlman made a motion to adjourn with Kurt Seaman seconding it. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.</p>