



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee			
Date	February 17, 2022	Location	Via ZOOM
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Duration	2.0 Hours
Facilitators		Walter Tibbetts, Chair	
In attendance: Bill Pearlman Dana Johnson Joe Cuneo Butch Garrity Walter Tibbetts John Paciorek Absent:		FRCOG Staff: Xander Sylvain Kurt Seaman Bob Dean Other: Steve Kozloski, WMLEC	

Agenda Items	Discussion
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Walter Tibbetts opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.
2. Review/approval of January 22, 2022 meeting minutes	Walter made a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Bill Pearlman. A roll call vote passed unanimously at 10:05 a.m.
3. WMELC	Chief Steve Kozloski of Monson Police and Western Mass Law Enforcement Council System (WMLEC) joined our call to discuss WMLECs ongoing 450MHz radio system needs in Franklin County. They have identified that they will continue to need the equipment on three tower sites and that this equipment is very much intertwined with FCECS equipment. Kurt Seaman and Steve Kozloski will continue to work together to determine which equipment is WMLECS and how to keep their equipment online during FCECS decommissioning. The FRCOG has requested a contractor to assist with decommissioning planning and will ensure that WMLEC is looped into that planning process as it moves forward.
4. Chairman's Report	Walter Tibbetts requested more information about the CoMIRS regional purchases that the CoMIRS Advisory Group requested WMRIC funding for. So far, these purchases include mobile radios and a consolette for Shelburne Control that will allow for back up communications and two briefcase size mobile 800MHz system DVRS that will be deployed as regional assets for the county. Walter needs more quote info and approval from the FRCOG that they are willing to take ownership of these assets. As these are Franklin County CoMIRS purchases, this conversation will be moved to the Advisory Group for follow up.
5. Radio System Manager Update	Report given by Kurt Seaman – A noise has been clipping on the 800MHz system coming from the 450MHz side. The problem appears to have been identified and a solution is being worked on. In addition, it appears that the repeaters on Toby are currently interfering with each other and one of the repeaters (probably Toby 2) will likely have to come down permanently to solve this problem. The road to the site is currently unpassable and physical diagnostic and repairs will have to wait until some of the snow melts.

<p>6. CoMIRS Advisory Group Update</p>	<p>Report given by Xander Sylvain, Joe Cuneo, and John Paciorek –</p> <p>The Commonwealth released their Phase 2 CoMIRS build out plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All radio equipment distrusted and CoMIRS AG looking to break the patches between FCECS/CoMIRS channels. • By Summer 2023, the county CoMIRS signal should be completely digital. This provides a timeline for when digital paging can be implemented. • There will be no CoMIRS assessment costs to FC communities until 2026. • On street coverage proposed to expand by significant quality and margins by 2023/2024.
<p>7. Public Safety Partner Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fire Chief Association b. Police Chief Association c. Franklin County EMS Committee d. Shelburne Control e. Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nothing to report. b. Police are beginning to test the impact of breaking Sim 2 450MHZ to Police 2 800Mhz patch. c. Staffing shortages continue. d. Shelburne Control may get State funding for a regional I am responding license that could be applied as a paging solution fix/back up. e. Annual meeting next week.
<p>8. Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Decommissioning plan b. Meeting Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Due to the complex and technical nature of decommissioning FCECS radio system infrastructure, the FRCOG is looking to hire technical experts to write the FCECS decommissioning plan. An RFP has gone out and there are a few interested parties. A bidder conference will be held remotely on 2/22/2022 and bids will be due back by mid-March. Once the bids are in, the contract work will need to be approved by the FRCOG Executive Committee. If everything goes according to plan, the contract will be approved, and a plan will be completed by the summer. This plan is needed to understand decommissioning timeline and costs (including FRCOG staff time and cost of hiring contractors to dismantle any equipment that will need to come down). b. FCECS Oversight Committee will continue to meet monthly and CoMIRS, radio interop, and other non-450MHz discussion will happen during CoMIRS Advisory Group meetings. Next months agenda will reflect this change.
<p>9. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No new business 	
<p>a. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMRIC equipment proposal discussed and will be moved to CoMIRS AG for further work. • Add communications plan to the next CoMIRS AG agenda for mutual aid partners that we are taking a patch down. • Add paging solution to the next EOTTS/FRCOG planning meeting. • Invite Greenfield Dispatch to next meeting to discuss a patching concern. • Discussed moving ground to air medical communication to the 800 system. • The radio box system uses a UHF frequency that isn't licensed to the FRCOG and should be switched over to Greenfield or Montague Dispatch as decommissioning moves forward.
<p>b. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>John Paciorek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Joe Cuneo. Roll call votes passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.</p>