



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee			
<b>Date</b>	May 19, 2022	<b>Location</b>	Via ZOOM
<b>Time</b>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Duration</b>	2.0 Hours
<b>In attendance:</b> Bill Perlman Dana Johnson Joe Cuneo Walter Tibbetts John Paciorek		<b>FRCOG Staff:</b> Xander Sylvain Bob Dean Kurt Seaman	
<b>Absent:</b> Butch Garrity			
Agenda Items	Discussion		
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Walter Tibbetts opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.		
2. Review/approval of April 21, 2022 meeting minutes	Joe Cuneo made motion to accept minutes as written, John Paciorek seconded the motion. Roll call vote passed unanimously at 10:05 a.m.		
3. Chairman’s Report	<p>WMRIC followed up on the mutual aid response into FC using the 450MHz system and found that recommendations from previous meeting have addressed the major issues. There has been a recurring issue where towns in Franklin County switched to fiber and which switched land based line to Voice over IP, had issues some of the houses addresses were input incorrectly into the 9-11 system and would be directed to the wrong PSAPs in different states. This issue can only be addressed one house at a time but is something that dispatchers and responders in the region should be aware of.</p> <p>Franklin County request for tactical briefcase DVRS was approved by the W.MA Interoperable Radio Committee and still needs to be approved by the full council. Full council approved a suitcase repeater for Berkshire County recently and this request has a high chance of success.</p>		
4. Decommissioning Planning with Communications Design Consulting Group, LLC	<p>Norm gave a planning study update – CDCG has met with Kurt Seaman at the FRCOG, Todd Stacy at Goosetown, John Ruggerio at MSP, and reached out to WMLEC and Shelburne Control but yet to connect for interviews. Norm will reach out to Director Johnson to discuss CMED connectivity. What they are seeing is that 20 of the 26 town in the county have enough coverage on the 800 system for their radio traffic. 6 towns are having some issues with coverage completely until the state moves over to P25 (<b>FCECS Committee believes that all communities and agencies in Franklin County have 800 radios installed and using as their primary radios</b>).</p> <p>There are a few communities that are using 800MHz pagers but the majority are still using the FCECS simulcast system for paging. This is the bottleneck preventing migration from fully moving forward. The state is ready to move over to 800 paging in the areas that currently have digital coverage (<b>a paging talk group is no longer needed as Motorola now has capacity for tone stacking – this also needs to be confirmed with CoMIRS AG and MSP and implications of this system discussed</b>), however, there are still coverage gaps in the east part of the county (at least 6 towns). Until the P25 system is available in those areas, they will need to continue to use 450MHz pagers and potentially rely on FCECS for coverage in some areas of their town.</p>		

	<p>The July 2023 operational date for full digital P25 coverage has been pushed out to December 2023. <b>(CoMIRS AG will have to confirm this with the next EOTSS/FRCOG admin meeting)</b>. Some communities want to wait until the P25 project is complete until before purchasing pagers.</p> <p>Preliminary results of the planning study are showing that taking the system down piecemeal may be more expensive than keeping the system up and running until the pager solution is implemented and the whole system can come down all at once. CDCG will begin exploring which communities, pending 800 pagers, could be prepared to fully operate on CoMIRS without relying on FCECS as a backup. Once this has been identified, they will review coverage maps and the layout of the current system to identify what changes could be made to bring unnecessary towers or equipment down.</p> <p>For the record - Joe Cuneo made a note that some of the information provided by CDCG sounded outdated, particularly that 6 towns had not yet migrated to using CoMIRS as the primary system. All FC agencies should be fully using CoMIRS for routine radio traffic and only using FCECS for paging and gap coverage in a few locations, primarily in Erving Center and some areas of Warwick.</p>
<p>5. Radio System Manager Update</p>	<p>Not major changes and no recent technical issues. Goosetown is in the process of their preventative maintenance reports to see where everything in the system stands.</p> <p>Repeaters Toby 2, Montague 1, Buckland 2 are still currently offline.</p>
<p>6. Public Safety Partner Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fire Chief Association</li> <li>b. Police Chief Association</li> <li>c. Franklin County EMS Committee</li> <li>d. Shelburne Control</li> <li>e. Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Greenfield has been approved to use OPS 6 as the Greenfield Fire Ground Channel; meaning that Greenfield Fire no longer needs to ask Shelburne Controls permission to use this channel</li> <li>b. Warwick is still looking at 800system coverage issues and Erving Center is still a concern.</li> <li>c. Franklin County EMS has made it official that there will be a charge per call per community for any community that doesn't have a standing primary EMS contract.</li> <li>d. Rep not present</li> <li>e. No update.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Royston Tower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bob Dean - The FRCOG is working on updating its surplus inventory policy to allow for equitable and legal distribution of surplus supplies. Mr. Taylor, the land owner, is onboard with the plan of transferring the tower to the new tower owner. A special permit is needed to work on the site and maintain a tower and the FRCOG is looking at transferring the permit to the new tower owner. and the new tower owner will work to submit for a new permit to the town. The special permit transfer will include that the town of Rolston will be allowed to keep public safety equipment on the tower.</li> </ul>
<p>8. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discuss and vote to approve the purchase of two G4 Unication pagers</li> <li>b. New chair for FCECS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Committee discussed expanding this to up \$5,000 towards G5 pagers for each member of the committee and the FRCOG, seconded by Bill. John and seconded by Bill. If there is enough money in the capital budget, G4 not recommended at this time due to the coverage gaps. This will be for research so each committee member can have one to test throughout the county and for the FRCOG. Roll call unanimously at 11:26</li> <li>b. Walter is retiring from the Committee effective July and his last meeting will be in June. Walter will be chair for the June meeting and Joe for July first, motion by John seconded by Bill. Roll call successfully at 11:26</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Paging – committee would like a larger survey with attestation of rosters before any committee can be eligible for pager financial support. Committee would also like to know more about McGovern's support for the earmark for pagers, what this funding means, grant requirements, and timeline.</li> </ul>

	b) Next meeting will be a hybrid meeting at the FRCOG.
b. Wrap up and adjourn	John Paciorek made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Roll call vote passed unanimously at 11:27.