

March 12, 2015

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX
Roy Benevente-WSEM
Clay Freinwald-WSU
Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle
Jim Dalke-DBS

Phone Bridge:

Lowell Kiesow-KPLU
Melanie Groner-AlertSense
Marlin Jackson-KXLY
Mark Allen-WSAB
Arthur Willets-KWDC
Don White Tribune
Ruth Brownstein-KAOS

Clay opened the meeting. Introductions were made and the previous minutes were approved.

The FCC is possibly going to be closing the Seattle, Portland, and most of their other field offices. This action is currently under review. This would be a big change in the way the bureau does business.

AWARN uses DTV broadcasts to deliver multi-media emergency alerts to mobile TV equipped smartphones and other devices, as opposed to delivering emergency alerts using cellular networks. The advantage is that broadcast TV sites are usually "hardened" and more likely to have a long term source of emergency power. Cell networks also tend to crash during periods of heavy use. See <http://www.awarn.org/>.

KARR (AM 1460), licensed to Kirkland, is back on the air operating under an STA. They lost their transmitter site just over a year ago. KMCCQ (FM 104.5), licensed to Covington, has been sold to EMF, a religious organization. This was a move-n from The Dalles OR.

KQXI in Granite Falls notified Clay that they were having trouble picking up their assigned monitoring assignments, and they proposed some alternatives. This is a reminder that monitoring assignments cannot be picked at random and must be taken from Tabs 5 or 6.

Laurie Melson is the new EAS web lead at WEMD. Steve Friederich is now in charge of the state EMD web site.

In old business, the shift of Grant County to the North Central area will be finalized soon.

The Tab 10 update still needs help and input from the various local areas. It will not be put up on the web until it is done. The task is being divided up between Clay and Marlin. There will be a phone conference on the 25th at 7 PM. Phone bridge info will be on the remailer.

The Tab 2 (Local Area Contacts) update is progressing thanks to Don White. He will add text explaining how to submit a personnel change request. Changes will be sent to the

remailer. The goal is to have 2 people per area, someone from both the EM and broadcaster side.

Jim Dalke is still working on the Cable Tab update.

Lowell Kiesow is still working on the consolidation of the event code tabs. It is mostly for broadcasters, not originators. It will be designated Tab 8. Tabs 17 and 25 will be deleted. The revision will be put out on the remailer. There will be a two week comment period.

There is nothing new on finding a replacement for Clay as chair.

In new business, Clay proposed the new position of database manager. They would keep track of changes in the tabs and update information.

There were some problems recently with some alerts sent by AlertSense. There was a time zone issue with one of the originators. AlertSense has added a preview button to the origination page. They are always open to suggestions and will do training.

The state EOC will do a training session on, Tuesday, April 21 at 10 AM. It will be an orientation on what happens in the operations center for emergency managers and any other interested parties. There will also be a session on AlertSense.

The Technical Committee reported that the RMT issues in North Central were caused by programming irregularities in the EAS boxes.

The EMD is in the planning stages for the Cascadia Rising Emergency Exercise June 7-10, 2016. It will simulate a very large earthquake with loss of communication and transportation. See <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/cascadiarising2016/view?objectId=3233584>.

At the WSAB, Mark Allen has been working with the legislature on several pieces of legislation. The Silver Alert was originally supposed to involve EAS, but now it won't. Mark is retiring. Applications for his replacement are being accepted until May 8. He will be in DC for meetings, but mostly not anything to do with EAS. First Informer legislation will not be happening in Washington during this session. Other areas that have this require training. Individuals are licensed, not stations.

For the National Weather Service, the Seattle weather radio station went off the air a couple of times in January thanks to commercial power disruptions resulting in circuit breaker failures. A UPS system is planned to be added to the site to help prevent such outages in the future.

NWS IT security scans verified that Harold Price of SAGE filled identified security holes in the NWS Seattle SAGE. The fixes will now be installed at SAGE ENDECs across the country. This fix should open the door for a similar "Seattle system" SAGE installation to occur at NWS Spokane.

In Spokane, they are working on updating the local plans. They are working with Idaho to align the state plan with the local plans. The backup origination point for the Idaho counties will be in Meridian. The Washington State EOC will back up the Washington counties in the Inland Empire local area. An alert for a missing person was sent using the LAE code. This was a mistake, but it worked with a good outcome.

The next meeting will be, Thursday, May 7 at 9:30 AM at KITCOM in Ellensburg.

Terry Spring
Chief Engineer