

SECC Meeting
1/20/2016
Camp Murray

Present

Terry Spring-KWPX
Lowell Kiesow-KPLU
Jim Dalke-KARR
Laura Goudreau-FEMA
Roy Benavente-EMD
Clay Freinwald-WSU
Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Via Phone

Carri Gordon-WSP
Monte Simpson-Amateur Radio
Don White-Tribune
Arthur Willetts-KWDK
Phil Johnson-Central Puget LECC
Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton
Ruth Brownstein-KAOS

The meeting was called to order by Clay Freinwald. Roland Robinson and John Kasprick could not be here today. Ted Buehner was teaching a class elsewhere on base and was there for part of the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The state plan web site needs updating. Clay talked to Chris Moores and made some suggestions. Efforts are also underway to get the SECC minutes archive available on the site. See <http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan>.

Who will be in charge of the Inland area? Marlin Jackson has moved to Lewiston.

Both the NAB and NPR have been working on getting and activating FM chips in cell phones. How would people know where to turn in an emergency for detailed information? Radios in autos? WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts)? If cell towers are down there is no WEA.

Clay is working on a CSRIC committee to revise the official FCC EAS handbook. Stations are required to have a copy of the current handbook even though it is outdated. He is working with Gary Timm and others. Their goal is one document for radio, TV and cable. Presently there is separate handbooks for each service.

There will be a planning meeting for EPIS (Emergency Public Information System) on Wednesday, January 27 at 9:30 AM at the King County Emergency Management. A phone bridge will be available with the same number and PIN as the SECC meetings.

Mark Allen has officially retired from the Washington State Association of Broadcasters. Keith Shipman is the new CEO. He plans on being involved with the SECC.

A regional NPT (National Periodic Test) is coming soon. The event code must be programmed into your EAS box. Results will be reported to the FCC.

The SECC minutes archive is being moved from the WSAB web site to the state EAS web site.

Kurt Oberloh is the new market engineer for Town Square Media in Central Washington.

Tab 10 (EAS Monitoring Assignments) is being updated by Jon Kasprick. He needs the local LECC's to cooperate. Old outdated charts will not be put up on the web site. Updating has to be done at the local level. Tab 2 (Local Area Contacts) is being updated by Don White. He is reaching out to the principals. He has set a target date of February 10. Jim Dalke has been working on the Cable TV Tab 19. He is contacting the NCTA. There have been changes there in the last year.

There was a discussion of amateur radio and how they might assist in the local areas. When EAS first started there was more engineering staff at the local stations. The problem is worst in the smaller markets. Station management has no time to deal with EAS. One untapped resource is local amateur radio clubs. Hams have a lot of technical expertise and understanding of communications systems.

The broadcast calendar and how it relates to EAS was discussed. One locally originated RWT is supposed to be scheduled every week. Different stations start their week on different days. Some stations might log 2 tests one week and none the next. This is not a big deal. All that's needed is an explanation in the log. The FCC does not care what week a station uses. Jim Dalke will be working on an explanation for the web site.

Some of the stations in Eastern Washington had problems connecting to the CAP server recently. This was a temporary problem. This is something that will happen occasionally.

Messages sent to more than one email address will be rejected by the Washington EAS remailer email server. So you need to send the message twice if you need to send to multiple addressees. Phil Johnson administers the remailer.

At EMD, Alert Sense has been making changes and upgrades. They are working the bugs out. The AMBER Alert on 12/14 was sent with the wrong audio. This was due to operator error. Changes have been made to try to prevent this happening in the future.

Carri will post AMBER Alert cancellation criteria on the remailer.

At the National Weather Service in Seattle, the "System" that monitors national, state, and local EAS messages and automatically relays them onto all their NOAA Weather Radio stations has worked well since its implementation in April 2001. SECC Technical Committee Chair Lowell Kiesow has provided his expertise to this system over the years. The PC that the Seattle office was using to record EAS message audio died and been removed. In the past they have recorded incoming alerts so that they can be played back later on the weather radio. Audio files can be downloaded from the SAGE if one was sent and Lowell offered assistance here.

A similar system for NWS Spokane has been discussed for a few years now. The hang-up involves concerns about SAGE Endec IT security holes that Harold Price resolved in 2015. The specs for the SAGE Endec were shared with NWS Western Region in Dec so they can better

understand how the Endec works. The 'Seattle System' can work at NWS Spokane until HazCollect comes on line.

HazCollect has been in development on a national level for a number of years now, but still has technical issues that are being addressed. HazCollect would permit any EAS messaging be routed to targeted NWS offices for use on their NOAA Weather Radio stations.

The Yakima weather radio station was off the air due for a few weeks thanks to the phone line being cut. It was recently repaired.

Ted plans to put together a meeting with his lead tech to see what help they might need in NOAA Weather Radio off-air emergencies. Two of their seven stations are monitored directly off the air at their Seattle Office at Sand Point. They also have a hot line to report outages that operates 24/7. During a recent trip to Whatcom County, Ted met with KWPZ in Lynden to ensure they are now monitoring the correct weather radio transmitter for EAS messages. Washington State Emergency Management and the NWS are still working to renew backup power at their Mt Octopus weather radio transmitter site.

The 2016 RMT schedule is now on the state EAS website.

There is still no EAS participation from the cable industry.

The next meeting will be on March 9 at 9:30 AM at the National Weather Service Building 1 at Sandpoint. More information will be on the remailer prior to the meeting.