

**State of Connecticut**  
**Public Safety Interoperability Executive Committee**  
**DESPP HQ – 1111 Country Club Road Room 349**  
**Middletown, Connecticut**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2019 1300 hrs**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order by SIEC Chairman John G. Gustafson.  
A quorum was established.

The following individuals participated:

William Hackett	DESPP/DEMHS
Nick Carlone	CT-DOT
Robert DiBella	Glastonbury EMD/CEMA
Judith Reynolds	DPH
Robert Drozynski	DESPP/DEMHS
Phil Mikan	USCG
John Gustafson	DESPP/DEMHS
Betty Morris	North Central CT EMS – CMEDS via C/C
Greg Prevost	Valley Shore ECC
Vaughn Dumas	SWRCC
Jared Heon	Ansonia Fire-Rescue
Michael Varney	FirstNet
Scott Wright	DESPP/DSET/CTS
Gary McCarraher	FirstNet
Peter Giamarco	Verizon Wireless
Joseph Gaudett	Stamford – ESF #2 Chair R1
Wayne Gronlund	ESF #2 Chair R4
Al Russo	Danbury EM - R5 Rep
Jerry Zarwanski	DSET
Richard Coleman	USCG
Brandon Hudson	SGNL

**Public Comment:**

Peter Giammarco – Verizon Wireless, New locations for cellular equipment:

Tolland - Small Cell

Windsor – Small Cell

Backus Hospital (Norwich) In building coverage

Coventry – Macro

Torrington – Small Cell

Manchester – Small Cell

Middletown – Small Cell

Windsor Locks – Small Cell

Cheshire – Small Cell

Newtown – Small Cell

Hamden – Marco

East Hampton – Small Cell  
Wesleyan - Marco  
Stamford – Small Cell

Greg Prevost – Valley Shore ECC – Expressed concern over multiple disconnects several times in a week of the Public Safety Data Network (PSDN) without pre-notification.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:**

A motion was made (DiBella), seconded (Gronlund), and passed to accept the June 2019 minutes. All in favor.

**SWIC Update:**

Director Hackett reported there are ongoing preparations of equipment for hurricanes, and ongoing monitoring of the weather.

DESPP/DEMHS is working on EMAP re-accreditation which includes being able to establish an alternate EOC. This will be done at Brainard on September 26, 2019.

NCSWIC Meeting upcoming in Georgia

Ohio White paper available regarding Concerns with Cellular to LMR Integrators  
(Emailed to SIEC list)

**SIEC Chair Report:**

John Gustafson reported CT was represented at the New England States, along with New York and New Jersey NCSWIC Markers meeting to address the status of 25 different area of communications aspects. Connecticut had 8 areas listed as “Optimized” (Highest level) 16 as “Defined” (Middle) and one as “Initial” (Lowest) for Wireless Priority Services (WPS) adoption.

The SIEC will endeavor to have a presentation on this program and also conduct outreach to encourage emergency services to enroll for the free program.

**Working Groups:**

**Technical Work Group** – Scott Wright reported the group met to review, from a technical aspect, the request from Region 5 for a vertical lift antenna. The consensus was to recommend approval with a few conditions, 1) Review licensing implications 2) require “Reflector” report before usage. Motion made (Wright) and seconded (DiBella) to move to the SIEC Chair for further action. All in favor.

**Broadband Wireless Working Group**

Chair Leonard Welch has left State service. Connecticut was represented at the New England States Roadmap meeting. The build out process for all six states was reviewed highlighting both the State Plan sites and “Business As Usual” (BAU) installation. Also discussed was technology developments including the FirstNet approved applications.

Members with approved FirstNet State Plan access will meet with FirstNet/AT&T on Thursday September 19, 2019 to receive a quarterly technical update specific to Connecticut.

**CMED Working Group** – Betty Morris reported the group met September 11, 2019 and continues to work on a directory and also the forward movement of patients.

### **Training and Exercise Working Group**

A proposed change to the Credentialing policy to include Auxiliary Communications Position (AUX COMM) was presented for review.

The materials to support the region wide training with various EMS law enforcement and fire agencies has been distributed to the EFS 2 Chairs. Training should be underway.

### **Air Operations Communications Working Group – No report.**

As learned from this group's research there is a FCC 10 watt power restriction on transmitters when attached to an aircraft. This could apply to the vertical lift antenna.

### **Maritime Communications Working Group – Bob Drozynski**

Held an initial meeting: GOALS

- 1) Improve real time communications between maritime resources, shore based and aviation resources from various disciplines, including PSAPs, with the USCG Sector to provide increased coordination for routine and emergency incidents
- 2) Ability to create documents and relationships which will withstand the test of time and changes in leadership

Source materials:

Communications resources from R1,R2,R3,R4 from TIC Plans and local knowledge

Evaluate current ICS-205 for accuracy

Obtain Region 1 ESF #2 representation

Once preliminary tasks are completed:

Inclusion of ESF 20 members R1-R2-R3-R4

Coordination with FDNY Communications Staff as well as Long Island Counties and Rhode Island

Include representation from DEEP Enforcement Section

### **FCC Region Updates Region 19**

Jerry Zarwanski reported the last R19 meeting was held September 10, 2019 in Maine. The new Vice-Chairman, John Ruggiero is from the Massachusetts State Police.

Next meeting December 10, 2019 in Rhode Island at Rhode Island EOC.

T Band – Must vacate by January 2021 – Action of Congress is needed to stop process.

R8/R19 have 24 reserved channels which can be migrated, however there may be some conflicts with the 7 Call, Tactical channels, and adjacent channels.

CAPRAD – Applications for 800 MHz must be submitted through CAPRAD

R19 Plan and minutes to be added along with a mapping tool for frequency allocation by county

Region 19 800 MHz updated plan has been presented to 10 tribal nations for review. Also sent to Regions 8 and 30 for concurrence. Region 30 concurrence received. Plan has information about engineering changes.

Region 8 Meeting held September 12, 2019 voted on the approval letter for Region 19 plan (positively)

Connecticut applications approved: Norwalk, 3 for State of Connecticut, New Haven.

4.9 GHz Blanket license must be updated with specific locations

6.0 GHz for public safety use may be used for commercial uses

APCO Atlantic Chapter meeting November 2019 Falmouth MA – Agenda available

Greg Prevost asked is anyone has checked to see if there is any UHF or VHF spectrum available. Consensus is licenses are still active.

### **Regional Reports**

**Region 1** – Joe Gaudette – ESF #2 meets monthly R1 ESF #2 will be supporting the Sikorsky exercise to support communications. Region 1 appreciates the State’s willingness to support a combined radio system.

**Region 2** – Jared Heon reported the Region 2 proposal for an “All Hazards Hotline” to replace the low band version in place is in the planning stages. (See subsequent section for details). ESF #2 is working with the Haz Mat Team to obtain EF Johnson Portable Radios which are consistent with the radios recently purchased for the South Central SWAT Team, which operate on the State Trunked Radio System.

**Region 3** – No report

**Region 4** – Wayne Gronlund ESF #2/MCV 4 activity  
Supported Celebrate East Lyme  
Radio Outage in New London due to a lighting strike  
Brooklyn Fair  
Woodstock Fair  
SERC Haz Mat Exercise in Gales Ferry  
Inter Ops Training Waterford & New London Police and Fire

**Region 5** – Al Russo  
REPT endorsed some communications projects for the region  
Planning an MCV Boot Camp to train new members  
MCV 5 has been busy: Supported the search for a homicide suspect in the woods in Western CT, Middlebury Triathlon, Disaster Drill with Eversource, Torrington Fire Department, Goshen Fair, Demo for Morris Fire Department – WCSC has 4 events upcoming

**Tribal Nations** – Rich LaSaracina written report  
Inter Op Communications used to support a mutual aid law enforcement operation occurring at the casino  
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation invited to participate in FCC National Broadband Summit  
Everbridge Mass notification System in place  
IPAWS MPTN has initiated talks with FEMA to permit access to IPAWS Network  
AT&T Wireless has committed Band 14 upgrades to the MPTN Marco Site  
MPTN is currently reviewing FirstNet/Verizon Public Safety Deployments

### **State Agency Reports**

CTS – Scott Wright, P25 Phase 2, live 6/11/19 updating various resources – Troops H-E-I are done  
He attended APCO training in Baltimore, EF Johnson Training and ISSI/CSSI training

New Britain- Needed and update to the system, the State needed better coverage within New Britain with New Britain tying into the State Core both were achieved. This saved New Britain millions.

CTS is in the process of adding new zones to increase capacity options and is refreshing the microwaves.

CT-DOT Nick Carlone - Service Patrols (Mon-Fri 6am-7pm) are now linked to the state trunked radio system. Next District offices will connect. 91 new highway traffic cameras have been installed.

USCG – Recent change in command, Al Hoffman retiring in September and Scott Graham in December.

**FirstNet** – Gary McCarraher reported on the FirstNet Outreach and Roadmap meeting in New Hampshire. Day 1 was update to the New Hampshire stakeholders, Day 2 was the New England States. First Net Board of Directors will meet to discuss the reinvestment of the 18 Billion dollars. Public Safety input is crucial. The offerings of the APP Store continue to grow. 110 devices are now approved to operate with FirstNet.

Scott Wright reported he is on a committee to review the possible band class 14 interference with LMR systems in Miami and Phoenix.

### **Presentation:**

Mike Boucher – Farmington CT Dream Ride

Mike reported the communications plan was devised to provide interoperability with LMR using all three STOCs – no issues reported

FirstNet Uplift – Several FirstNet subscribers which were extended primary were uplifted to provide them with increased priority. There was a live stream Facebook video of the cruise using FirstNet as the transport without any issues.

There is a FirstNet App which allows users to see any uplift events within 50 miles which allows them to request to be uplifted. The app also reports service issues nationwide with a mapping tool.

There continues to be the distinction of FirstNet Service versus the FirstNet Black SIM card.

### **Old Business:**

John Gustafson report Mike Boucher de-conflicted an issue with the Four Town Fair and radio operations at the Big E. Reminder to use the “Reflector” for reporting usage and a 205 for planned events using interoperable communications frequencies must be submitted.

Bob DiBella commented the past practice has been to allow the use of 8Call90 as a back-up to public safety communications for a temporary solution.

### **New Business:**

Introduction and one month review, proposed change to Credentialing Policy to include Auxiliary Communications, will request discussion and action at 10/15/19 meeting.

Scott Wright – Provided and overview of the concept for a Region 1 and Region 2 “All Hazard Hotline” using the State trunked radio system. Due to numerous issues with Low band (interference, lack of equipment...) the current system is no longer as useful. The proposal under

development is to use control stations on the State trunked radio system for point to point (PSAP to PSAP) communications to coordinate resources. It is not intended for tactical use. Region 1 already has the UASI radio system in place which could assist in this project, Region 2 has some HSGP funds approved and is seeking additional funds to add control stations where needed.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Interoperable Grant Fund Approvals:**

Region 5 Additional UHF portables for MCV 5

**Next Meeting:**

October 15, 2019 1:00PM – DESPP 1111 Country Club Rd – Room 349

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn 1452 hrs. All in favor.

Recorded by: Robert Drozynski – EMPS, CT DEMHS