



# West Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 5/12/2020	<b>Time:</b> 1530	<b>Location:</b> Online
Meeting Called To Order: Bobby Hoge		

## SIEC Membership & Participation

(X – Present; Blank – Absent; X-CC – Present via Conference Call)

1	Bump, Paul		WV Zone 1 Switch Agency
2	Burnside, Dirk	CC	WV Department of Transportation
3	Channel, Fred	CC	RIC 4 Chairman
4	Dooley, Lisa	CC Proxy Dave Erwin	WV Municipal League
5	Spence, Josh	Proxy James Dixon	WV Office of Technology
6	Zilinski, John		RIC 5 Chairman
7	Gore, Tyrone		WV Parkways Authority
8	Hart, Tom	CC	RIC 2 Chairman
9	Hoge, Bobby	CC	WV E-911 Council
10	Patterson, Reginald	CC Proxy Jeff Perry	WV State Police
11	Neal, David	CC	WV SWIC
12	McCallister, Roy	CC Proxy Jim Mangus	RIC 1 Chairman
13	Ogle, Jody	CC Proxy Danny Kirby	WV National Guard
14	Palmer, Larry		WV Sheriff's Association
15	Piercy, Jennifer		WV County Commission Association
16	Polczynski, Jeff	CC	RIC 3 Chairman
17			WV Health & Human Resources
18	Saffel, Dave	CC	APCO
19	Sharp, Bob	CC	WV State Fire Marshal
20	Kirk, Thomas	CC Proxy GE McCabe	WVDHSEM Director
21	Vargo, Lou		WV Zone 3 Switch Agency
22	Vititoe, Steve	CC	RIC 6 Chairman
23	Wolfe, Justin		WV Emergency Management Council

## Non-SIEC Board Members Present

(X – Present; Blank – Absent; X-CC – Present via Conference Call)

1	RC Faulk	CC	Assistant SWIC
2	Tony Novel	CC	
3	Tom Gagnon	CC	
4	Dustyn McConnell	CC	
5	Rodney Evans	CC	



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Previous Minutes Reviewed and Approved

- **Motion:** Dave Saffel
- **Second:** Dirk Burnside
- **Motion:** Passed

## Technical Committee Report – Dave Saffel

- Report from Frequency procurement
  - Status of frequency searching
    - New Sites –
      - North Mountain (Berkeley) – Report from Jeff Polczynski, no movement or changes
      - Crossroad (Hinton) – Luttamus frequencies available
      - Dingess (Mingo) – Luttamus, falls within Luttamus zone frequencies available
      - Weirton – Awaiting equipment
      - Richwood (Nicholas) – Luttamus falls within Luttamus zone frequencies available
      - Wetzel – Wetzel County is working on freq's
      - Gary (McDowell) – frequency search underway
      - Wallace (Harrison) – frequency search underway
      - Hundred – – frequency search underway
      - Lick Knob – Possibly going to have to move
      - Gilbert - – frequency search underway
    - NTIA – No report
    - Business – No report
- Equipment testing –
  - Motorola radio – mobile and portable radio models have been received and are being evaluated currently.
  - Tait testing – Tait rep has requested approval for new radios. Mobile and portable versions will be evaluated, with a portable to be evaluated initially.
- System Version Upgrade Status
  - Phase 1 of the upgrade restarted on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motorola has successfully loaded the new databases into the 7.18 system and verified the data in the servers and zones.
  - Week 2 Motorola working in Zone 3 and the simulcast area and preparing software updates for the ASR sites.



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- Programming
  - Current Versioning –
    - Motorola APX 21.00.01 - MEGA Firmware 20.61.00 (Not for APX900)
    - Motorola CPS 20.01.00 – Firmware 20.50.10
    - Kenwood – KPG-95DGN v 8.30 (10 Series) Firmware – 4.43 (v2) 6.14 (v3)
    - Kenwood – KPG-112DN V2.33 (20 Series) Firmware 2.21
    - Kenwood – KPG-D1N 4.22 (NX-5X00 & 30 Series)–Firmware 4.24
- Mobile Antennas – The technical committee is going to create a document of recommendation of antenna types that are desirable for use in the SIRN system. Further discussion of currently installed antennas took place at this meeting
- North Mountain (Berkeley) – Report from Jeff Polczynski on the status of obtaining business frequencies. – frequency search underway. No further movement on this.
- Doddridge County purchased a SIRN site and had Motorola delete the backhaul option. County planning on utilizing a T1 connection with VPN rather than microwave for the backhaul. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) would own and control the equipment. Further discussion required.
- Gary site (McDowell County) grant funding being reviewed by DHSEM grants section. Discussion for this site held and forwarded to Planning Committee.
  - Lick Mountain site – Discussions held relating to status of possible site relocation due to coal company wanting to mine the property and the concerns for impact on SIRN coverage and paths. No new information received at this time.
- Motorola provided information on Motorola Edge. The technology related to the T-Sub as requested at the March 2020 meeting.
  - Motorola presented a project proposal for one T-Sub site at Cacapon servicing the Eastern Panhandle's 8 sites for \$420,000.00.
  - This is expandable for additional sites in West Virginia as needed as well as to Frederick County Virginia.
- Discussion on 48-volt power conversion for ASR sites.
  - Objective is to reduce the use of small rack mounted UPS units.
  - Cost to totally convert each site is approximately \$23,000.
  - The batteries purchased separately cost \$2,800.
  - Recommendation to purchase the new Lithium-Ion batteries on sites currently in need of replacement and reinstall the 48-volt wiring removed from the racks when originally installed.
  - This would leave only the Cisco equipment needing a viable UPS in order to function without commercial power.



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- Tower Lights – Tower lighting repairs are top priority. The FAA may issue a fine of \$10,000 per day for lighting not being operational at any location. Tower lighting evaluations are urgently needed at several locations
  - Ward Rock – Tower lighting is currently working, discussion about replacing the existing system and repaint the tower OR change to the new lighting system and refile with the FAA eliminating the need to repaint the tower. Cost comparison under consideration.
  - East River Mtn – Lights work only in failsafe mode; requires new system
  - Tyler – Lights only work on failsafe mode; needs new beacon, trigger, controller (equivalent cost as new style system) Premier Construction is to provide pricing.
  - Windmill Gap – Discussion to replace existing style system (with side lights) or refile with FAA for a system with no side lights, Cost comparison under consideration.
  - Malden - Discussion to replace existing style system (with side lights) or refile with FAA for a system with no side lights. Cost comparison under consideration.
  - Green Knob – Discussion if the lights can be removed or if they need replaced/fixed. Cost comparison under consideration.
- Radio Programmer Training
  - Recommendation of a 60-day temporary extension for programmer expirations for those who expired in April and May due to COVID.
  - Discussion concerning online classes for “recertification” only.
  - Discussion for new programmers that have no background check completed to start with online learning versus the classroom.
  - Certification expirations extended to September 30, 2020 was approved.
- 7.18 SIRN Upgrade – The database has been installed and testing completed successfully. Work underway in Zone 3. Everything is on track and moving forward.
- Yaeger airport has requested use of a TAC channel.
  - Approval to use Region 7 TAC 10.
  - SIRN policy states TAC’s 6-10 are regional only.
  - Site Access Profiles are being checked to determine permissions.
- Clay County Emergency Management was provided information about SIRN and RF licensing they were not aware of. Clay County has placed a hold on their proposed P-25 VHF changeover in order to get the UHF system operational again as parts had been removed by the vendor attempting to sell them a VHF system. Upon reinstallation of the UHF equipment, they will reevaluate their system. SIRN will assist in addressing coverage issues.



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- Damage to a leg of the tower at Catherine’s Knob. It appears that the tower is bent and is not repairable. The tower is owned by Monongalia County. Repair or replacement determination will be made by contractors.

### Important Technical Information

Channel ID Plan	3	4	5
<b>Bandwidth</b>	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz
<b>Transmit Offset Sign</b>	+	+	+
<b>Transmit Offset MHz.</b>	5 MHz	5 MHz	9 MHz
<b>Channel Spacing</b>	12.5 kHz	6.25 kHz	6.25 kHz
<b>Base Frequency</b>	453.025 MHz	450.000 MHz	400 MHz

### Important Kenwood Programming information (UPDATED 04/12/16):

Check Background Hunt and RSSI CC Hunt  
 BER = 4.0 (default)  
 Hunt Start Time (Hunt) = 300  
 Hunt Start Time (Idle) = Not changeable version 2  
 Acceptable RSSI Level = -108 (default)  
 Good RSSI = -88 (default)  
 LM1 = 0 (default)  
 Home RFSS = FE  
 Home Site = FE  
 (FE disables the radio from trying to look for a Home RFSS and Home)  
 PTT Release Hunt = unchecked  
 Hunt Option > Slot = 99 (ensures all adjacent sites are searched)  
 Hunt Option > Sampling Rate = 7 (number of adjacent sites)

### Policy and Procedures Committee Report – Rodney Evans

### Training/Education/Outreach Committee Report – RC Faulk

- All TA’s that were scheduled remain on hold.
- The Broadband Guidance Development TA scheduled virtually in mid-May has been put on hold as CISA and the contractor work to gather additional information. This is the first TA of this type in the country and additional groundwork needs to be done before beginning work with State partners.



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## Conference Committee Report – Jeff Perry

- Danny Kirby is going to check with the staff at Camp Dawson to see if they plan to host any events in 2020.
- The Conference Committee will meet remotely before June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss feasibility of the 2020 Conference.
- Currently, Conference activities are on hold.

## Planning Committee Report – Bobby Hoge

- Applications for affiliation
  - Elk Garden PD added to Mineral Co group
- 2018 De-obligated grant funds \$335,000 from another project may be available to help with Wood Co, Richwood or Dingess site locations. SWIC will check restrictions on use of funds.
- Discussed microwave battery stacks, replace batteries with li-ion for \$ 2800 per 48-volt stack. Discussion to update/upgrade chargers and electrical systems to operate entire site on 48-volt DC. Total rack replacement cost approx. \$ 23,000.
- Subscriber unit licenses, after 7.18 upgrade, may need more licenses. Review of unused radio IDs to reduce load. Increments of 500 licenses cost \$5000. The old gold elite consoles used an ID for each talkgroup on each console, may be recoverable.
- May 28, 2020 DHSEM will be renamed as Department of Emergency Management (DEM), and DMAPS will be renamed Department of Homeland Security. DEM will also be moving from Coonskin to offices in Fairlawn Ave in Dunbar.
- Edge site trunking solution (t-sub) pricing for eastern panhandle (hub at Cacapon) with 8 RF & 3 consoles. Capable of 32 sites. Quoted at \$420,000.
- Horsepen project, being reviewed by Everest, lease amount pending.
- Shentel served notice will be moving from Malden due to no longer requiring MW link from that location, loss of \$6000 /year rental income.



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- SWIC report
  - Still working to hire more technicians
  - Telemedicine Broadband project, utilized in Elkins for telehealth, tie in with connectivity with Med Bases
  - WALLACE – County advised antennas are being installed.
  - DINGESS – Working with AEP on possible co-location agreement. Mingo county lost 2 legacy sites one by tower falling, one with the loss of commercial power.
  - LIMESTONE – Landowners changing from LLP to LLC. New lease agreement in process. Upon finalization, SIRN can finish migrating all equipment from old site to new tower.
  - HORSEPEN – Lease draft being reviewed by Everest.
  - GARY – Grant funds have been de-obligated but can be reviewed for future grants.
  - CLAY County is interested in moving full time to the SIRN. Coverage improvement needed in downtown Clay.
  - DOH is concerned about SIRN coverage in Clay County and they are still looking at a statewide legacy VHF system for replacement of their Low Band. Discussion to determine if DOH can contribute/build SIRN with Clay County to reduce overall costs.

## **New & Emerging Technologies – Paul Bump**

- AT&T representative DJ Sigmon reported on several items from the FirstNet/AT&T team. These include a new FirstNet PTT feature separate from the AT&T Enhanced PTT. There is no bridging between the two planned to support interoperability. John Zilinski (Raleigh County) is testing some new hardware and AT&T will be providing some demo units of mobile equipment for DHSEM to test.

## **RIC Region 1 Report – Roy McCallister**

Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, Jackson, Roane, Calhoun, Ritchie, Wirt, Wood, and Pleasant

- Nothing submitted

## **RIC Region 2 Report – Tom Hart**

Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor

- Met on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via ZOOM
- 17 members present
- Minutes were read and accepted with no corrections from last RIC 2 meeting.
- SIRN Upgrades scheduled Week of June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Direct connect consoles upgraded week of June 8, 2020
  - Upgrades should be shoved out one channel at a time



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- System should never be down
- Possible site trunking in northern part of the state
- Monthly radio testing on Radio Region 1 & 3, EM & 911 talkgroups completed with just a couple small problems
- Weirton Tower:
  - Most equipment in
  - June/July timeline for installation
- Powhatan, OH Tower
  - Delivery of equipment late May/early June
  - June/July timeline for installation
- Wallace 5 points
  - Installation in process
- Doddridge
  - Evaluating connectivity situation
- Barker-Wileyville
  - Obtained tower grant
  - Trying to secure funding for radio equipment
- East Liverpool area
  - Jason Lively Region 2 liaison trying to make contacts there
- New Business
  - The breaker box was changed out at Laurel Mountain
  - Next meeting time and location TBA

## **RIC Region 3 Report – Jeff Polczynski**

Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Berkeley, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan

- Nothing submitted

## **RIC Region 4 Report – Fred Channel**

Pocahontas, Pendleton, Webster, Randolph, Tucker, Barbour, Upshur, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis

- Nothing submitted

## **RIC Region 5 Report – John Zilinski**

Mercer, McDowell, Wyoming, Raleigh, Summers, Monroe, Greenbrier, Nicholas, and Fayette

- Unable to meet due to the COVID Pandemic.

## **RIC Region 6 Report – Steve Vitito**

Cabell, Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo

- Nothing submitted





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## Business Conducted

- Discussion of an in-person meeting for the month of June at the Flatwoods facility. If permitted, DHHR advised for use of their facility only one person per table will be allowed. This is dependent on current COVID Pandemic status and the status of the DHHR/Flatwoods facility. As the meeting time draws near, RC Faulk and the Flatwoods Coordinator will discuss the situation and RC will notify the group.

## **Meeting adjournment.**

- **Motion:** Dave Saffel
- **Second:** Jim Mangus
- **Motion:** Passed