



West Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date 3/8/2021	Time 14:00	Location Virtual
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	White, Byrd		WV Department of Transportation
3	Channell, Fred	CC	RIC 4 Chairman
4	Dooley, Lisa		WV Municipal League
5	Spence, Josh		WV Office of Technology
6	Zilinski, John	CC	RIC 5 Chairman
7	Miller, Jeffrey	CC (Tyrone Gore)	WV Parkways Authority
8	Hart, Tom		RIC 2 Chairman
9	Tatum, Mike	CC (Bobby Hoge)	WV E-911 Council
10	Cahill, Jan		WV State Police
11	Neal, David		WV SWIC
12	McCallister, Roy	CC	RIC 1 Chairman
13	Crane, Bill		WV National Guard
14	Stephens, Steve		WV Sheriff's Association
15	Piercy, Jennifer		WV County Commission Association
16	Polczynski, Jeff	CC	RIC 3 Chairman
17	Mills, Michael		WV Health & Human Resources
18	Saffel, Dave	CC	APCO
19	Tyree, Ken		WV State Fire Marshal
20	Mccabe, GE	CC (Bobby Hoge)	WVDEM Director
21	Vargo, Lou		WV Zone 3 Switch Agency
22	Vititoe, Steve	CC	RIC 6 Chairman
23	Meadows, Dean		WV Emergency Management Council

Non-SIEC Board Members Present

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

1	Jim Mangus	CC	RIC1
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Previous Minutes Reviewed and Approved

- **Motion:** **Dave Saffel**
- **Second:** **Roy McCallister**
- **Motion:** **Passed**

Technical Committee Report – Dave Saffel

- Report from Dave Saffel on new tower in Putnam County – Tower height is 340 feet. Dave Saffel searched for frequencies and found that if Putnam County could contribute three frequencies that they have licensed in that county there are four possible public safety frequencies that could be used on the tower. Other than those, frequencies would probably have to come from some other source.
- Equipment testing – None
- Programming
 - Current Versioning –
 - Motorola **APX 22.00.05** - MEGA Firmware **23.01.00**
 - **APX Tuner – R22.00.00 (Released November 2020)**
 - 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 4.31 (NX-5X00 & 30 Series)–Firmware 4.24
- System Managers Report – Statistics
 - Push to talks = 3,471,792
 - Busies = 1,885 (3rd month in a row of decline in number of busies reported)
 - Current subscriber units = 41,904
 - Kanawha 911 continues to work with Motorola on direct connect consoles
 - Morgan 911 plans to go live on 2/22/2021; Motorola advised they forgot to tell SIRN this and need circuits run; Due to short time frame and weather, that may or may not happen.
 - Brooke 911 is reported to be building a new PSAP and will be planning to install direct connect consoles. RC Faulk will reach out to Brooke for additional discussions.
 - RC Faulk joined the Turnpike Authority, DOT Cabinet Secretary, and NRP Coal to discuss moving Lick Knob; Coal Company will be providing possible relocation spots.
 - Beginning in February RC Faulk and the Motorola ST's will begin cleaning up old user and service accounts from the Astro System. They will also be verifying and locking down all current user accounts to assure that user only interacts with the assets of the agency they represent.



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- Motorola pushed Microsoft and McAfee updates to SIRN without notice or approval to proceed. Multiple issues occurred including forced shutdown of operator positions. RC Faulk informed Motorola that was not acceptable and he will not allow any further updates until a resolution is found for the issues in the January update scenario.
- The TDMA plan we had developed may not actually be how we can do TDMA deployment. RC Faulk checked further for some answers to some follow-up questions based on what we had originally planned and here is what he discovered:
 - Can we move TDMA from one site to another?
 - In reality, it is complicated but possible. This involves uninstalling TDMA knowledge from a site and recouping the TDMA license that was applied to the site back into an “unused” license. Then the newly identified site has to be upgraded with the TDMA and then the license has to be applied to the channels there.
 - Can we do just a single TDMA channel at a site and get more sites using TDMA versus double TDMA channels and half the number of sites.
 - WV only bought 6 RF “site” TDMA licenses, of which 5 are available. So, even if all things considered were available for field use and we could use TDMA at all of those sites on 1 GTR, we can’t. We can only pick up to 5 sites now to apply TDMA licensing too because of how the contract was written and licenses were set for.
 - RC wanted to be sure of this before we concreted our TDMA plan into action with Motorola upgrade team, so I think we’ll have to revisit the original list which was:
 - Weirton – Tony Novel has requested that this one stay on the top of the list.
 - Berkeley Springs
 - Blue Ridge – Jeff P indicates that there may be limited quantities of TDMA radios currently.
 - North Mountain (Berkeley)
 - Barkers Ridge
 - PK Mt.- Harrison County has been purchasing a huge quantity of TDMA so PK could very well be an excellent site to consider.
 - Harmony
- Weston – Dave Saffel begin looking for frequencies for this site on the behalf of SIRN. He found ONE possible. It would be wise if an entity that could license business channels be considered. Additionally, remember that this site is inside the quiet zone.



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- There are several sites that are in need of additional channels. Currently, those sites are:
 - Catherine's – Dave Saffel found two channels but one will require an LOC from Bethany Volunteer Fire Department
 - Belleville - Louttamus group may be used here according to John Davis.
 - Keeney
 - Clover (Roane County) – 3 channels possibly with power reduced to 75 watts.
 - Confidence (Putnam Co) – 4 channels possibly if Putnam County would contribute 3 UHF channels that they currently have licensed.
 - Wallace – Sonny Jordan doesn't think they have any yet.
- The Durbin & Greenbrier Valley railroad asked for access to SIRN to include a standing patch. Fred questioned the value of the patch. Dave Saffel suggests that they could benefit by a talkgroup and their traffic will probably be minimal. He also doubts they could really benefit from the patch. At least with a talkgroup, even if they had to walk five miles to get coverage, it would be better than having nothing available to them!
- Motorola staff has indicated that Kanawha County will be adding three console sites, 27 consoles, 2 AIS servers, and an unknown number of CCGWs or what kind of CCGWs. They have not given formal notification of this intent.
- During the winter storm in the south, there were zero failures of the Motorola 7.18 platform. All of the issues were related to the loss of commercial power, generators that were unstable, and/or that ran so long they ran out of fuel because fuel trucks could not get there.
 - RC provided a list to David Neal of the generators that had extended run time on them. Some of the generators ran in excess of 8 days and one I think ran 12 days straight. The units on the list were to be sent to the generator service members from the Poca warehouse for immediate service checks. Due to the long time these units ran, they need to be serviced and have their oil checked, anti-freeze and other PM related functions as well as fuel checks to get these units replenished.
- Due to age, multiple sites have the original Absolyte battery stacks still in operation and some are down to zero capacity. Not even enough capacity to maintain a site for a generator run test transfer. David Neal has been working expeditiously to get us into a position of being able to start taking those old stacks out of service and replacing them. We are currently testing a new configuration from HCI Energy at the East River Site. The HCI stack was installed but has not been performing up to expectations. RC was on a call with HCI two weeks ago and expressed disappointment with the product and they assured him that they had a fix for it and would deploy it as soon as it was available. HCI flew in two technicians who performed upgrades and additional work to the unit at East River to clear out the continuing alarms and interface lock-ups. This work was completed and the GTR ESS stack was converted to run on the 48volt power as a test of that system component. We have three more HCI racks that are in state and were also updated and we are preparing them for deployment. They are planned to be put in service at Charlies and Haines.



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- Cabell County has offered to place external generator plugs onto some of the equipment sheds in that area. According to Steve Vititoe, they have offered to do it for several sites in that area and are currently looking at a funding stream. They also have offered to put propane monitors on their sites.
- On March 16th, there will be a kick off for West Virginia Stakeholders for review of the FEMA DEC Communication annex via Teams. RC has distributed that information already. It will be 1030am EST on the 16th.
- Roy led the discussion of the TA catalog for 2021. We can select 5 and we have to rank them as what we want first, second, et cetera. As of today, we have the following:
 - 2nd Incident Tactical Dispatcher Class
 - Com T Class (this is an in-person class and will not be given until we are through Covid)
 - Next Gen 911 Strategic Planning Support
- We now have an opportunity to have a virtual Federal COML. The registration for that has already been published and registration is available on line.
- This week Motorola will be in and we are told that they will be working on updates to Master Sites and checking to make sure all of the patches and updates that we were supposed to have received have indeed been applied to the system in light of the recent flop of the attempted auto update pushes.
- Lick Knob –Dave Saffel has been analysis of the latest information from the Coal Company regarding possible sites to move to. They were thinking the possibility of two sites, but they are located less than 10 miles apart. They had two locations, one of which is not a lot less than what we have if they build a 480 foot tower. Tyrone was taking the information back to the coal company. We had a very good discussion of the site, and Dave Saffel is going to do more investigation of the site that we are looking at to include all sites in the area on a contour map to see what we might have from other sites in that area.



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- Have we received formal notification from Roane County regarding their tower so that they would be fulfilling their requirement for a grant application? – Roy McCallister passed this information on to RC Faulk. Jeff P had a request from Paw Paw, and Steve Vittoe had a request from Mingo County for a microwave grant. Dave Saffel encouraged all of these RIC chairs and anyone else that had information like this to immediately forward it to RC Faulk, who would forward it appropriately to David Neal (SWIC), and if desired, CC me as well so I could put it on my list to look at. Any requests like this should include as much information as possible like coordinates, etc.
- Microwave upgrades – Jeff P - Do we have a timetable for upgrades of microwave? This is going to have to come from RC it is believed, and we will reach out to him for an answer to be put out by the next meeting.

Important Technical Information

Channel ID Plan	3 FDMA No longer in use	4 FDMA	5 FDMA	6 TDMA	7 TDMA
Bandwidth	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz	12.5 kHz
Transmit Offset Sign	+	+	+	+	+
Transmit Offset MHz	5 MHz	5 MHz	9 MHz	5 MHz	5 MHz
Channel Spacing	12.5 kHz	6.25 kHz	6.25 kHz	6.25 kHz	6.25 kHz
Base Frequency	453.025 MHz	450MHz	400 MHz	450MHz	460MHz

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 (insures all adjacent sites are searched)

Hunt Option > Sampling Rate = 7 (number of adjacent sites)

Policy and Procedures Committee Report – Rodney Evans

- Did not meet.



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Training/Education/Outreach Committee Report – RC Faulk

- Discussed the development of the TA request.
- Roy McCallister handled the discussion and will present a list for final approval at the April meeting

Conference Committee Report – Jeff Perry

- Did not meet.

Planning Committee Report – Bobby Hoge

- Application update for Raleigh County.
- Application update for Brooke County.
- Brooke County will work with SIRN technicians on co-locating a county UHF fire repeater to the Weirton tower.
- Site Report
 - Gilbert – no report
 - Clay County – Mt Pisgah 38.446222,-81.0665
 - Hinton – still waiting on contracts
 - Belleville – no report
 - Weston – Dave Saffel looking for frequencies
 - Wallace – no report
 - Cabell County - Thanks for assistance with the fuel and going to install generator connections on buildings and site boss to also monitor fuel levels at county level.
 - Dingess – no report
 - Richwood – Checking to see if the Tunnel microwave can go there. Nicholas Co possible HSGP grant for RF site and installation of Microwave
 - Horsepen -- Waiting on answer from POCA Royalties about lease. Working with AEP on engineering and DOH on road
 - GARY -- Working with Crown Castle on lease
 - West Union -- Bringing the equipment up to the site tomorrow for it to be installed. They are waiting on one more frequency to be approved, Motorola wants all of the frequencies before they will come up and work on the system
 - WILEYVILLE (WETZEL CO) Commission has signed application, waiting on return to the PSC.
 - Princeton – Still working on leave with WVAVC.
 - Lancaster (Valley) – Filed application with the TAF for emergency consideration.



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- East Liverpool – no report
 - Confident (Putnam Co) 38 34 21.58, 81 49 15.21, 38.572661, -81.820892
 - CLOVER (Roane Co) 38 42 40.09, -81 16 51.92, 38.711136, -81.281089
- Any potential new sites in future, reach out to Dave Saffel who will do preliminary survey of any public safety frequencies

New & Emerging Technologies – Paul Bump

- Did not meet.
- FirstNet gave a presentation to the group.

RIC Region 1 Report – Roy McCallister

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

- Has not met and will meeting March 18 at 10 am virtually.

RIC Region 2 Report – Tom Hart

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

- Tony Novel reported they met February 10 via Zoon with 10 members.
- The Wallace site most equipment is on site.
- Hancock County the EMA director is going to look for a piece of real estate in the northern part of the county.
- Dave Saffel recommended it would be best if the property was actually located in Ohio so that the antenna could be pointed south.

RIC Region 3 Report – Jeff Polczynski

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

- Region 3 met February 17 with only three voting members with nine people overall.
- Fred Kinder provided information regarding the microwave upgrade.

RIC Region 4 Report – Fred Channel

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

- Did not meeting.



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- They have a virtual meeting scheduled March 23th.

RIC Region 5 Report – John Zilinski

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

- No report.

RIC Region 6 Report – Steve Vititoe

Cabell, Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo

- Last meeting was February 10, but brief getting ready for the first of two ice storms.
- Discussed the last two SIEC meetings with nothing scheduled now for the future.

Business Conducted

- No new business.
- No old business.

Meeting adjournment.

- **Motion:** **Dave Saffel**
- **Second:** **Tyrone Gore**
- **Motion:** **Passed at 14:13**

***Meeting minutes compiled from notes supplied from David Saffel and Bobby Hoge.*