

June 30, 2011

Proceedings:

The Quarterly KWIEC meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Jim Barnhart. Roll was called with the following members respond:

Members Present: Jim Barnhart, Brett McDonald Proxy for Terry Stephens, Allen Wells Proxy for Dan Mauer, Don Pendleton, Col Brad Bates, Mike Fields, Col Rodney Hayes, Shelby Lawson, Rodney Murphy, Pam Collins, Paul See Proxy for Michael Gribbin, and Wayne Wright.

Members calling in: Mitch Mitchell, Mike Harris.

Quorum Present: Yes

Last Quarter's meeting minutes were approved.

Chairperson's Report (Briefed by Chuck Miller):

- For this year's grant cycle the OEC and KWIEC requirements will continue to be followed.
- A new flowchart showing the new OEC guidance has been created.
- The annual public safety report is due and input is welcome.
- Brad Bates briefed that the FIWG has not had an opportunity to get together; he will try to arrange a conference call. Brad is checking into innovated ways other states are finding funding and asked that if anyone sees anything that they inform him.
- The 2010 Goals:
 1. P-25 has been endorsed as the state's standard which aligns to OEC's requirements.
 2. The Public Safety Broadband network is being worked by the Federal Government.
 3. The new KEWS network is up in the East and all traffic has been cut to the digital system. After Jeff accepts the new system, the KWIEC will be fully briefed with new capabilities.
 4. Derek does not have the resources to establish trained regional interoperability groups.
- Other important issues/Tasks:
 - The Louisville UASI status has been lost. This means a loss of a couple of million dollars per year in UASI Grants. Grant funding is also down at Homeland Security.
 - The KSP MOU was revised, updated, and is part of the 2011 SCIP.
 - The SWIC will provide the KWIEC with those resource requirements

Public Safety Working Group Report (Briefed by Drew Chandler):

- Drew stated that the group unfortunately was not able to meet as often hoped due to the flooding event, the National level Exercise, and other issues.
- The PSWG did have a call with Mission Critical which gave the PSWG an update on what they're doing in Madison County.
- The PSWG is working to get the numbers for the Regional Interoperability Groups, narrowbanding, etc. There's just not a good way to figure the numbers without a grass roots campaign and survey to find out what's in place.
- The PSWG is moving forward with the goals that the KWIEC and OEC set for us.

June 30, 2011

- Drew said that the PSWG accomplishes a lot behind the scenes, and doesn't believe that the group members get enough credit for the work being done. He invited members of the KWIEC to come to the PSWG meeting.

Shelby Lawson praised the PSWG stating that the open communications shared between the PSWG and Homeland Security allowed for immediate feedback and kept everyone on the same page in the grant process.

Dave Barker added that we still need to get partnership with the Counties.

Shelby Lawson advised that Mary is working on a county by county capability assessment for OEC. It won't be technical or detailed though.

Jeff Mitchell said that the data Mary gets should be entered into CASM and maintained.

Interoperability Exercise (Briefed by Col Hayes):

- Emergency Management of Military Affairs coordinated an exercise simulating a large earthquake in the Western Part of the State called the National Level Exercise (NLE).
- This exercise used Commonwealth Groups which is the collaboration of different state agencies working as a planning, analysis, and resource management groups. They report and track outages, establish a communications restoration plan, and coordinate the deployment of Mobile systems, satellite radios, the Ham community, and etcetera.
- The groups rely on the information being provided by the local responders at City, County, and Regional levels and then filling the requirements (communications outages; resource shortages; commodity shortages) with State, Federal, or commercial assets.
- The NLE taught us the effectiveness of using:
 - live video streams over the internet – providing real time information to decision makers™ at multiple sites and to the highest level was an extremely valuable capability
 - Airborne repeaters to restore partial communications from Frankfort to the Western part of the State – KEWS, Military Affairs, and others used network and the airborne repeater to coordinate and communicate with techs all over western Kentucky
 - getting Ham Operators involved in the exercise – Hams were able to report to the Local EOC or the City Operations Center and report what we might not be able to get otherwise.
 - commercial providers in KY like UPS which has trucks with satellite capability and TVA which has the ability to communicate across their long haul electrical cable
- Lessons Learned –
 - The Resource Management within the Commonwealth Groups needs some improvement
 - The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is too loose
 - Better exercise management is needed
 - Information flow and processes needs to be improved
 - The length of the exercise (4d) was too long for most agencies to commit to
 - Multiple exercises in different locations may result in increased participation
 - The Exercise plan will be looked at from a year's worth of events not just a single event

June 30, 2011

- There was tremendous participation in the communication exercise in April with thirteen agencies and seventeen mobile communication systems participating. Unfortunately neither Louisville/Jefferson County nor Fayette/Lexington County participated since they had other things going on.
- Some of the communications tested include state wide radio networks, broadband satellite, satellite radio, low bandwidth satellite, Air to Ground communications repeaters, interoperability with other States, and the use of Ham operators.

Other Comments:

- The Fusion Center communications was also tested and linked to the OEC
- Civil Air Patrol can photograph key infrastructure to determine safe routes
- a shared storage location and common language is being used for 511 maps
- This capability should be reported to the Legislators something for the future.
- Drew Chandler and Col Hayes shared examples of how this shared storage helped them deploy assets during flooding

Col Hayes thanked all agencies for their participation and contributions.

SCIP Discussion and Approval

All KWIEC members were provided with a copy of the 2011 SCIP updates for review earlier in the month. Chuck asked if there was any corrections, comments, or questions concerning the updates to the SCIP.

With there being none the KWIEC voted to approve the SCIP as written for the 2011 review cycle.

KOHS Grants (Briefed by Shelby Lawson):

- For the FY we took a fifty five percent cut in Homeland Security funding.
- KOHS has 5.1 Million dollars total to put out on the street.
- 25% of that total (about \$1.2 million) is mandated for the Law Enforcement programs.
- The programs that will be funded this year will be communications, infrastructure, MDC's and 911.
- UASI, OECGP, and other funding sources are gone.

2011 OEC Grant Guidance (Briefed by Jeff Mitchell):

Jeff Mitchell advised that this is an informational briefing and no standards or guidelines have changed. We are still following the KWIEC and OEC guidance.

- Last year the KWIEC voted to follow the OEC guidance and a flowchart was created to help agencies understand the process.
- Previously if you had a project which was approved by the KWIEC in a previous year, it was grandfathered in. This took time to verify and several agencies were found to be dishonest in their reports of KWIEC approvals.

June 30, 2011

- Following the OEC guidelines for this year the process was simplified. Voice analog or digital P-25 systems were authorized for funding. Funding for proprietary digital systems requires agencies to submit a justification for why that is unable to meet the OEC requirements.
- We had several agencies say they're going to buy a proprietary system but only use it in analog mode. Our question back was – 'Then why don't you just buy an analog system; it would cost less and you do not need a justification?' Several agencies followed this advice and saved money.

Open Discussion

Rodney Murphy asked - When we voted to support P25 on the Standard, we had a long discussion on the fact that they anyone with a heavy investment already in a non-P-25 system would be able to add radio's or a few repeaters to an existing System; this process will still allow that, right?

Jeff Mitchell - Yes, it just says you will need to write a Justification as to why.

Wayne Wright challenged someone to write a grant to see if it got flagged.

Rodney Murphy answered that he did for one of his Hospitals where they requested a proprietary digital system, and the PSWG shot them down. After having conversation between the PSWG and the Hospital, they actually preferred and went with an analog only system that saved them several thousands of dollars and it met all of their functional needs. Rodney stated that it was a good process, with a good outcome, and it stayed within the standards that the KWIEC set. There was a lot of communications, it was a good interactive process for us to get to the bottom of the issue and I was real pleased.

Another question was asked from the floor - 'If I turn a grant in on a non-P25 digital system and I have a compelling reason that every County around me is using other than P25 and I want to use the same standard so I can talk to all my surrounding counties who's decision is it going to be?'

For local agencies a recommendation will be made based on the guidance from the KWIEC and the OEC. Proprietary digital systems will require justification but the group will likely call the agency to work with them.

Shelby Lawson said that Homeland Security continues to honor recommendations made by the KWIEC.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business, Jim adjourned the meeting.