



Minutes for the KWIEC meeting conducted on March 27th, 2008

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These Meeting Minutes are not a "word-for-word" transcription of the event, and summaries and paraphrasing were used throughout this document. Any individual desiring an exact quotation for record may download the recorded copy of this meeting from the KWIEC website located at www.kwiec.ky.gov.

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Opening Remarks & Roll Call

The new Chairperson of the KWIEC, Commissioner Steve Dooley, called the meeting to order, introduced himself, and welcomed everyone to the KWIEC meeting. He asked that everyone go around the room and introduce themselves and their representing agencies which would serve as a roll call and first meeting introductions. The following KWIEC members or proxies identified themselves:

- Commissioner Steve Dooley Chairperson of the KWIEC
- Terry Lewis Local Fire Department
- Mike Rosenstein Council on Postsecondary Education
- Mary Pedersen Kentucky Office of Homeland Security
- Rodney Hayes Division of Emergency Management
- Ken Mitchell Office of 911 coordinator
- Rick Boggs Executive Director Infrastructure Services COT
- Brad Bates Department of Kentucky State Police
- Michael Clark Kentucky Educational Television
- Dan Mauer sitting in for Jon Clark Transportation Cabinet
- Marvin Terry Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
- Don Pendleton Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
- Mike Fields sitting in for Robert Milligan Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ashley Davis sitting in for Charles O'Neal Local EMS
- Rodney Murphy sitting in for Lonnie Lawson on the conference bridge CRD

With the voting members or their proxies identified Chuck indicated that a quorum was present and the Chairperson opened the meeting.

Old Business

Discussion/Approval of the last meeting minutes

Commissioner Dooley called for discussion on the last meeting's Minutes. Being that there was none, he called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dooley asked Chuck Miller to give the Chairperson's Report.



Chairperson's Report

(Briefed by Chuck Miller)

Chuck Miller started his briefing by explaining that since this was the first meeting of the KWIEC since the gubernatorial transition and there were several new members assigned to the Board, he wanted to give everyone a very brief background of the KWIEC, its structure and support system, mandates and goals, and the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) that affected the KWIEC.

Chuck said that after the background briefing, he would go into the KWIEC's accomplishments.

Background

The Kentucky Wireless Interoperability and Executive Committee (KWIEC) was established in 2003 by KRS 11.5161; further defined in KRS 11.5162, and responsibilities and structure are listed in KRS 11.5163.

Mandates -

- Establish and implement a statewide public safety interoperability plan
- Evaluate and recommend all wireless communications architecture, standards, and strategies
- Provide direction, stewardship, leadership, and general oversight of information technology and information resources
- Report annually on progress and activity by agencies of the commonwealth to comply with standards to achieve public safety communications interoperability
- Serve as the advisory body for all wireless communications strategies presented by agencies of the Commonwealth and local governments
- Makes recommendations to the chief information officer, the Governor's Office for Policy and Management, and the General Assembly
- Develop funding and support plans that provide for the maintenance of, and technological upgrades to the public safety shared infrastructure

Structure -

Twenty one (21) members legislated by KRS 11.5163 are assigned to the KWIEC, with fifteen assigned by position and eight assigned by gubernatorial posting.

Support -

The KWIEC is supported by a Dedicated Facilitator, two permanent working groups (the Architecture and Standards and the Public Safety) and any ad-Hoc working groups as needed. All group members are subject matter experts in wireless and Interoperability communications and are from a variety of agencies.



Accomplishments

Mandates -

- 1. Establish and Implement a Statewide Public Safety Interoperability Plan.
 - a. This effort is led by KWIEC member Mary Pedersen with additional support by subject matter experts from COT, KSP, SMA and others.
 - b. This is a living document and is an on-going effort and will be briefed by Mary Pedersen next.
- 2. Evaluate primary State and Local Wireless Public Safety Voice and Data Communications Project Plan.
 - a. Fifty-seven project plans were submitted for evaluation in 2007, five withdrawn by submitting agencies, fifty-one approved, one disapproved.
 - b. Nine projects have been submitted for evaluation in 2008, six plans have been approved, three are in evaluation by the ASWG
- 3. Develop Funding and Support Plans that provide for the maintenance and technological upgrades to the Public Safety Shared Infrastructure.
 - a. KEWS is currently undergoing a technological upgrade. Funding for the East (\$26.8 million) was approved and is being used.
 - b. \$18 million has been requested for the West and is in the current budget request.
 - c. This is an on-going project and will be briefed by Jeff Mitchell next.

Goals

In addition to the Mandates, the KWIEC adopts goals annually. The KWIEC had five major goals in 2007 and four of these goals were completed by the middle of the year. They completed goals were:

- 1. Completion of the Mobile Data Project
- 2. Completion of the Voice Mutual Aid and Interoperability Project
- 3. Pursuit of a strategic initiative for the exchange of wireless data among public safety agencies KYWINS Messenger
- 4. Participation in the SAFECOM Pilot Project

The fifth Goal was not completed and was carried forward into 2008.

5. Upgrade the Eastern half of the Kentucky Emergency Warning System, KEWS

With the KWIEC completing most of their goals by early 2007, it was decided to rearticulate these goals in mid 2007. The KWIEC Rearticulated Goals 2007 were:

- 1. Continue efforts to improve statewide Interoperability for public safety
- 2. Install all of the new Digital Microwave systems in the Eastern Segment of the Kentucky Emergency Warning System, KEWS
- 3. Increase public awareness and utilize outreach programs to promote Public Safety and Communications Interoperability effort.

Since it is now 2008, new goals need to be adopted. It was recommended that these previous goals be adopted for 2008 or changed as desired by the KWIEC. The recommended KWEIC



goals for 2008 were sent out to the KWIEC members via email several weeks prior to the meeting for consideration. They are:

- 1. Continue efforts to improve statewide Interoperability for public safety
- 2. Complete the upgrade of the KEWS Eastern Segment
- 3. Increase public awareness and utilize outreach programs to promote Public Safety and Communications Interoperability effort
- 4. Review, fine tune, and publish the long term Strategic plan for Communications interoperability for the Commonwealth

Chuck said that these goals would be brought up for discussion and a vote later in the meeting and concluded by asking if there were any questions from the floor concerning the Chairperson's report.

There were no questions so Chairman Dooley thanked Chuck and called on Mary to brief the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Communications Plan

(Briefed by Mary Pedersen)

The long term strategic plan is a work in progress. It is nearing a point where it can be considered complete but will always be a living document that changes as needed over the years.

Strategy

Kentucky will implement a strategy that requires identifying a baseline of public safety communications across the Commonwealth. We will concentrate on leveraging existing efforts to improve communications and interoperability and building a backbone that enhances interoperability statewide.

There are no major changes in the plan to date and it is available to each of the KWIEC members if needed. Mary did not want it to be published and available to the general public until everyone in the KWIEC had a chance to review it.

Initiatives

Kentucky has both near-term and long term initiatives. These are further defined as:

Near-Term Initiatives -

There are several near-term initiatives. They are:

- 1. Enhance the State Voice Mutual Aid system
- 2. Complete the KEWS Upgrade
- 3. Streamline 911 Dispatch Services
- 4. Implement strategic Technology Reserve



Long-Term Initiatives –

There are several long-term initiatives. They are:

- 1. Achieve close to 100% statewide coverage
- Identify baseline of statewide communications to include inventory of local communications assets
- 3. Expand coverage by improving and constructing infrastructure-inventory
- Deploy a Wi-Max or other high speed solution across the KEWS digital microwave network to replace the current IPMobileNet as Kentucky's primary public safety data network
- 5. IPMobileNet will be retained for use as a secondary network for metro areas and as the primary network for agencies outside the Wi-Max net.

PSIC Grant Status

Mary went on to give an update on the PSIC grant. Mary explained that Kentucky did very well in their submission and only needed to cut and paste a few items to make it easier for the reviewers.

Mary provided these dates as key milestones:

- Submitted State Strategy on December 3, 2007
- Received independent review results March 2008
- Submitted requested modification
- Final review by March 31, 2008
- Funds availability hopeful by April 2008

Most importantly, it looks like we have the funding but we have not received approval to spend it as yet. Mary said she is expecting to hear something soon and is staying on top of this. She also said she will update the KWIEC members at the next meeting.

KEWS Digital Upgrade

(Briefed by Jeff Mitchell)

Jeff started by saying that since we had some new members that he wanted to provide some background of the KWIEC.

KEWS is the Kentucky Emergency Warning System; it is Kentucky's Public Safety Infrastructure. We have 141 plus sites that need to be updated to a digital system with more bandwidth.

We have cut the State into two sections, East and West and ahe three phase project approach is being used that consists of

- 1. Engineering
- 2. Eastern Implementation



3. Western implementation

The KEWS Network supports agencies such as Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Education Television, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement, Department of Military Affairs, Kentucky Emergency Management, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Highways, Eastern Kentucky Power, the Forestry Service, the University of Kentucky, and Hundreds of Local first responder agencies like 911, Sheriff, Police and Fire departments. All of these agencies will directly benefit from this upgrade.

Currently Design of the Facility Upgrade, the Backbone System and Network is Complete. Facility upgrades to include.

- Tower Modifications
- New AC power
- New Ground Systems
- Critical Shelter Replacement
- Critical Generator Replacement
- New Antenna Systems Installation
- Removal of Old Antennas

Jeff went on to tell a story of a recent benefit that has already been seen.

The site located at New Bernheim Forest was physically isolated by a recent ice storm in early 2008. Commercial power failed but the new backup power systems came up and worked flawlessly. Absolutely no equipment failed and as a result no KEWS technicians were required to risk life and limb during the storm. This site was physically isolated but kept fully operational for days without commercial power. After the weather cleared, three techs worked for 16 hours using chainsaws to get to the site. When commercial power was restored on the third day, absolutely NO communications outage or equipment damage had occurred. This is the kind of success we are looking for on this upgrade.

Additional benefits after the upgrade include:

- a guaranteed 99.9996% RF link reliability rate across the network
- reduced user downtime by using the automated reroute capabilities of MPLS
- improved digital quality circuits to customers
- huge additional bandwidth capability
- remote monitoring and management of all equipment deployed in the new network
- new and detailed site records for all KEWS sites
- improved security
- upgraded grounding and power

Jeff stated that we were moving forward and that there were a lot of good things happening, with great opportunity for all and asked if anyone had any questions.



Michal Clark asked if the Funding has been approved. Commissioner Dooley informed the group that the funding was in the current budget and was looking good. He went on to say that he has met with Harris just a week earlier to discuss the project.

Dan Mauer asked Jeff what the bandwidth of the new system would be and Jeff told him it was an OC-3 Ring (equivalent to 155Mbps).

Open Discussion on Old Business

Chairman Dooley thanked Chuck, Mary, and Jeff for their Briefings and asked the members if they had any other old business.

Being that there was none he moved onto new business.

New Business

Chuck asked the KWIEC members to consider all of the RF networks available in the Commonwealth. Since the KWIEC is ultimately concerned with the interoperability of these systems Chuck asked the keepers of the major RF networks to come in and brief the KWIEC on their RF networks. Chuck went on to say that he had asked major state agencies to brief their wireless and interoperability networks by asking the question – "If the Commonwealth had a major disaster and the Governor needed to press your RF networks into service what would he have to work with?"

With that question in mind, Chairman Dooley asked Derrick Nesselrode of the Kentucky State Police to brief the Kentucky State Police UHF Radio System, the Mutual Aid UHF/UHF/800 Radio System update, and the Mobile Data system.

Briefings from Agencies supporting Statewide RF Networks

KSP's Operational Network (450 MHz)

(Briefed by Derek Nesselrode)

Derrick started with the KSP's Voice System overview:

 KSP has a statewide UHF P25 Digital Radio Communications System used for day to day operations



- Consists of 107 Fixed UHF Radio Tower Sites on the KEWS microwave system
- Configured as a Digital Multicast system for maximum mobile coverage and redundancy (from one to ten counties away)
- 1250 Mobile units systems with vehicle repeaters
- 57 Consolidated Dispatch positions

Statewide Voice Mutual Aid System (150MHz, 450MHz, and 800 MHz)

(Briefed by Derek Nesselrode)

Derrick went on to explain the UHF, VHF and 800 MHz Voice Mutual Aid radio infrastructure:

- uses nationally recognized frequencies
- three Mutual Aid Networks are available for use independently or can be patched together
- 150 MHz band, 450 MHz Band, 800 MHz Band are available
- there are Sixteen Mutual Aid Regions aligned with the KSP Posts to take advantage of the statewide dispatch capability already in place
- for an agency to participate in Mutual Aid program, they must fill out and Memorandum of Understanding
- The MOU is available at www.kwiec.ky.gov/interoperability

Derek went on to say that once an agency submits their signed MOU, they should check the website after ten working days to ensure that your agency has been added to the approval list. Once their name is on the list, they may then program their radios with the Mutual Aid frequencies desired.

Derek turned the floor over to Jerry Wright for briefing on the Mobile Data Network.

Statewide Mobile Data Network (800 MHz)

(Briefed by Jerry Wright)

Jerry stated by providing a brief background of the Mobile Data network by stating that the network started out when forty-two counties in the CRD area received Grant money to start the IPMobileNet network. It eventually became the de-facto state standard.

- there are over 160 sites in the Mobile Data network
- most sites are KEWS (75%), but some are KSP and KET
- Commercial sites are also used to augment areas where KEWS, KSP, and KET towers are not available
- the speed of the system is 19.2kbps which is not a lot, but still will get the job done when needed



- three Network controllers are used to support the system
- 175 agencies with 5000 plus users and modems are on the system

Jerry went on to say that many Mobile Data users are coming onto the KYWINS instant messaging system. Over 3000 users have signed up. He went on to say that the system is very helpful in storms and finding missing persons. It will not tie up Phone or voice line. He did say that they would like higher bandwidth in order to use larger applications.

Mary Pedersen made a comment – They had run Pilots with other partners with higher speed systems and were looking at systems like Wi-Max. They were impressed with the bandwidth of the newer systems and were commenting that it's a shame they had to turn it off.

Jerry's response - Partnerships have been great, they benefit, we benefit, and the money spent here is 10% compared to others.

Commissioner Dooley asked if there were any questions for Jerry and there being none, called for a Briefing on the Fish and Wildlife VHF Radio System from Mike Fields who was sitting in for Robert Milligan.

Fish and Wildlife

(Briefed by Mike Fields)

Mike started by stating that the Fish and Wildlife RF system is a conventional VHF radio system. It has statewide capabilities with central a 24/7 Dispatch operation center in Frankfort and supports one hundred forty one Field Officers.

Their assets consist of the following:

- 32 repeaters on KEWS sites
- 5w Kenwood TK 280&290 portable Radios
- 100 watt Kenwood Mobiles
- 100 watt Vehicle Repeaters
- 50 boats equipped with mobile radios

Mike went on to say that for them the VHF band is very important because of its propagation characteristics. They need to be able to communicate on and along the Ohio River and additional towers on the fringe areas are needed to help communications on the Ohio River.

Mike asked for questions and there being none, Chairman Dooley asked Fire Chief Bernie Andersen to give a briefing on the Division of Forestry's VHF Radio System.

Division of Forestry

(Briefed by Fire Chief Bernie Andersen)



Bernie told the KWIEC that they have three mutual aid frequencies and one fire compact frequency that has been around since the 1950's. There are also three Daniel Boone Weather Frequencies (five weather frequencies in total) for the State.

Their systems operate in the 150 MHz VHF band and they use both 12.5 kHz and 25 kHz narrow and wide-band frequencies. They are supported by a network of 46 VHF repeaters across the state.

Forestry is broken into nine districts and there are six tactical channels for each district & three USFS frequencies but they still have gaps in the Southern and Eastern areas of the state.

Their equipment summary is as follows:

- 387 HS1250 128 channel hand held radios
- 427 CDM 1250 64 channel mobile radios
- 46 repeaters

The issues we face are that we desperately need more repeaters and we are limited by lack of available frequencies. Bernie went on to say that they are considering a possible change from multicast system, with multiple frequencies in each district, to a simulcast system with one frequency in each district. They have some money to get repeaters but not enough funds for all the districts needed.

Bernie asked for any questions, and there being none Commissioner Dooley Moved on.

Department of Transportation

(Briefing not provided)

Commissioner Dooley asked Col Hayes to give his briefing for the Department of Military Affairs and Emergency Management.

Department of Military Affairs and State Emergency Management

(Briefed by Col Rodney Hayes)

Col. Hayes informed the committee that the Department of Military Affairs consists of the Kentucky National Guard and State Emergency Management. He went on to say that the J6/CIO is responsible for providing emergency communications for disaster response.

Their capabilities include voice, data, and video to our first responders as well as the onsite Incident Commander. These services are provided using several tools and systems:



These systems include:

Department of Military Affairs Radio Communications System (DMARC)

- Digital Narrowband Multicast Encrypted platform
- These sites are positioned around the thirteen State Emergency Management areas
- Interlinked through the KEWS microwave system to the dispatch consoles in Frankfort
- Users include Department of Military Affairs, State Emergency Management, Kentucky National Guard, WMD 41st CST, Civil Air Patrol, Fire Marshall's Office, Department of Natural Resources, Health Services, EM Directors, and 14 Regional HAZMAT Teams
- DMARCS equipment,
 - 53 VHF Quantar Repeaters
 - o 5 CRT Consoles
 - o 55 VHF Base stations
 - o 265 Portables
 - 50 Mobiles.

The Kentucky National Guard Mobile Command Vehicle

- 40' rig on a two hour ready roll
- equipped with Voice, Data, Video, and others including:
 - VSAT
 - IP phones
 - Laptops
 - VTC capabilities
 - Share server
 - Fax capabilities
 - Secure phone/fax
 - Tower camera
 - Air to ground video
 - 4 Sat TV receivers
 - o 2 DVD recorder/Player
 - Video Modulators
 - Radio components
 - VHF Quantar Repeater
 - 50 portable radios
 - o ACU 1000 link to 2 VHF, 2 UHF and 2 800 MHz mobile radios
 - Air to ground radio UHF/VHF
 - o HF radio PRC 150
 - SINCGARS mil radios for dispatch services
 - o 800 MHz IP MobileNet

Emergency Management Mobile Command Vehicle (EMMCV)

- equipped with Data and Video to include
 - VSAT



- IP phones and Laptops
- VTC capabilities
- Share server
- Fax capabilities
- Tower Camera
- Two Sat TV receivers
- DVD recorder/player
- Wireless Access Point
- HF Win-link
- Radio capabilities include:
 - VHF Kenwood Repeater
 - 20 VHF portable radios
 - Five UHF portable radios
 - Two 800 portable radios
 - ACU1000 link to two VHF radios
 - Two UHF and two 800MHz Mobiles
 - Air to ground radio
 - Two HF HAM Kenwood TS570
 - Three VHF/UHF HAM Dual Band
 - Two UHF mobiles
 - o One UHF mobile radio
 - Sat Radio Mitsubishi,
 - o 800 MHz IPMobileNet
 - CB Radio
- equipped with Antenna Coax Patch Panel and Camera TV
- Street side VHF and UHF Radios plus weather station
- Dish network TV
- Curbside HAM/MARS operations stations.

Joint Incident site communication capabilities (JISCC)

- equipment consist of Data and Video
 - VSAT
 - o 25 IP phones
 - 15 Laptops
 - VTC capabilities
 - Share server with two printer/fax/scanners
 - o Sat TV receiver
 - Wireless LAN.
- Radio equipment consist of:
 - o UHF Repeater
 - 25 UHF portable radios
 - o RIOS link to two 800MHz mobile radios
 - Air to ground radio

Mobile Communications Tower



- 110 foot cable driven mast
- VHF Quantar Repeater
- UHF Quantar Repeater
- Trailer mounted Shelter
- 12kw Diesel Generator

This takes several people to erect and the deployable communication system has 4 VHF Mobile Repeaters, 1 UHF Mobile Repeaters, 20 Iridium Satellite phone, 15 MSAT terminals (EM), 2 BGAN terminals (JISCC kits), ACUT and ACU1000, 2 ICRI one 5 channel and one 2 channel, 2 IMBITR radios 30-512 MHz, LOC equipment (NGB controlled), 300 BK VHF portable radios, 3 VHF Repeaters, 3 VHF Base stations, and 100 Iridium Satellite Phones (with no service).

DMA Issues

Col Hayes mentioned that there issues and recommended resolutions could be summarized in three major areas -

- Issue No ability to monitor DMARCS site failure.
 - o Solution, Implement a Fault Management Control System.
 - Concern, without this capability we can't monitor outages of radio sites. If this
 happens during an emergency our users would be without communications for a
 critical amount of time. The system would not only service our system but also
 the Interoperability and KSP system.
- Issue Some users have non P25 radios that won't work on our system.
 - o Solution Funding for State Fire Marshall Office new radios.
 - o Concern, No communication with EOC during an emergency event.
- Issue Interoperability Exercise Plan.
 - Solution, Plan and Execute multi-Jurisdiction communications Exercises.
 - Concern, State, Federal and Local jurisdictions require planners and C2 for exercised to enhance their ability to conduct interoperable comm. Operations.

Col Hayes asked if there were any comments or questions after which a brief conservation ensued about aligning all the different public safety regions (KSP, DMA, EM, ADD, DHS, etc.). It was mentioned that most major agencies divide the state in geographical areas than make management easiest for them and unless there was a compelling reason to attempt to align them, it would simply be noted and tabled until such time as it becomes a problem.

Other New Business

Chairman Dooley thanked all the agencies for participating in the KWIEC and for briefing their RF networks. With the briefings concluded, Chairman Dooley called for any other new business.



Several members remarked that DMA/EM had guite an arsenal of communications equipment at their disposal. This is not surprising since they have the emergency Management mission in the state.

No other new business was brought to the floor so the Chairman moved on to the Discussion and Vote concerning the KWIEC Goals for 2008.

Discussion of KWIEC Goals for 2008 and Vote

The goals previously briefed by Chuck were discussed and recommended for changes as shown. These changes were discussed and agreed on.

- 1. Continue efforts to improve statewide interoperability programs for public safety.
- 2. Complete the upgrade of the KEWS Eastern Segment
- 3. Increase stakeholder awareness and utilize outreach programs to promote public safety effort
- 4. Publish and begin implementation of the long term Strategic plan for communications interoperability for the Commonwealth

Chairman Dooley called for a vote as the revised KWIEC goals. They were unanimously accepted.

Open discussion

Michal Clark reminded the group that the analog TV channels would be turned off and all systems would be digital in less than one year. This is good news for the re-banding efforts. He also went on to say that there would be a \$40 coupon to purchase a digital to analog converter box for older TVs and that there had been and will continue to be much promotion to increase public awareness over the next year.

Chuck reminded members that the release of these analog TV channels opened up a portion of the 700 MHz frequency band. The Public Safety Working Group would have some interesting news by the time the next meeting rolled around and Bob Stephens had agreed to update the members at the next KWIEC meeting.

Mary Pedersen told the group that the KOHS grants cycle would be starting up soon and information could be found on the KOHS website.

Ken Mitchell added that the CMRS Grant cycle would also be starting up very soon and said that members could contact him or find more information on the CMRS website at www.CMRSboard.ky.gov.

A comment was put to the floor concerning the agencies differences in operational regions. For instance KSP has 16, Emergency Management has 13 or 14, Area Developments has 15, and

- 15 -



Forestry has 9, and so on. Do any of them match up, and why is there such a hodgepodge of districts and areas, and wouldn't it be better if some of them aligned to work together? Speculation was that every agency selected what was best for their particular needs, but the comment does provide food for thought.

Chuck asked if they would like links to their websites placed on the KWIEC website and both said that that would be a good idea. Chairman Dooley asked Chuck to add the links.

Adjournment

Upcoming events, next KWIEC meeting

Chairman Dooley thanked everyone for their time and said that the next KWIEC meeting would be in June 2008.

Closing Remarks

The Chairman asked for any further discussion or comments, and there being no further, thanked everyone for attending. With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.