



Minutes for the KWIEC meeting conducted on Jun 18th, 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.

{PowerPoint presentations are available for download from the KWIEC website at www.kwiec.ky.gov.}

Opening Remarks & Roll Call

The Chairperson of the KWIEC, Deputy Commissioner Jim Barnhart, called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the June 2008 KWIEC meeting. He asked Chuck to call roll.

The following KWIEC members identified themselves:

- Jim Barnhart - Chairperson of the KWIEC
- Col Rodney Hayes - Division of Emergency Management
- Ken Mitchell - Office of 911 coordinator
- Janet Lile (Proxy) - Executive Director Infrastructure Services COT
- Michael Clark - Kentucky Educational Television
- Dan Mauer - Transportation Cabinet
- Wayne Wright – Kentucky Sheriff's Association
- Don Pendleton - Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
- Col Robert Milligan - Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Charles O'Neal - Local EMS
- Marvin Terry - Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet - (conference bridge)
- Lonnie Lawson – CRD - (conference bridge)
- Mike Ward – Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police - (conference bridge)

Also in attendance were two members sitting on both the Architecture & Standards Working Group and 700MHz Public Safety Working Group:

- Derek Nesselrode
- Bob Stephens

A quorum was met so Chairman Jim Barnhart opened the meeting and turned the meeting over to Chuck Miller.

Old Business

Chuck thanked Mike Clark for the use of the KET facilities in Lexington and mentioned that he would try to schedule alternate meetings in a location other than Frankfort.

Chuck informed the KWIEC members that he was still waiting on the names of the new members (appointments) from the Governor's office. Chuck advised the members that as of this meeting he was told that the new appointments would be made soon.

Discussion/Approval of the last meeting minutes

Chuck asked if there was any discussion on the last meeting's Minutes which had been emailed out to members a week earlier to give everyone a chance to review them. Being that there was none; a motion to approve the Minutes of the last meeting was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Barnhart asked Chuck to give the Chairperson's Report.

Updates and Briefings

Chairperson's Report

(Briefed by Chuck Miller)

Chuck started by reminding members of the KWIEC mandates as discussed in the last meeting. He updated them as follows:

The Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan -

This plan is being spearheaded by KWIEC member – Mary Pedersen. She has received input and assistance from several subject matter experts from COT, KSP, KyEM, and others. She is nearing completion and hopes to have something by our next meeting.

Public Safety Voice and Data Communications Projects -

For calendar year 2008 we received and processed 20 requests for project assessments. This is a bit short of the average that we have previously received over the last several years.

Of the 20 received, six were received within the last week and a half. Those six are in evaluation by the Architecture & Standards Working Group. The remaining fourteen have been approved.

We are expecting to see several more of them over the next few weeks since both the CMRS and the KY Office Homeland Security grants are due.

Develop Funding and Support Plans for the maintenance and technological upgrades to the Public Safety Shared Infrastructure -

Everyone here is aware of the ongoing KEWS Digital upgrade for the East... The project was funded at 26.8 Million of which we have spent fourteen million to date. We have only spent about half of what we thought we would spend by now due to Harris problems in getting the system up and operational.

We have \$18 million approved to upgrade the Western portion of the state. We requested a cost to complete the West from Harris in March 2008 and are waiting on a reply to that request. As soon as we get something we will pass this on to you. We expect it to come in under our \$18 Million budget.

Update on Goals -

Chuck said that former Commissioner Dooley asked that he recommend a course of action for each of the Goals adopted by the KWIEC earlier that year. Chuck provided the following recommendations per goal.

1. Continue efforts to improve statewide interoperability programs for public safety.

Recommended Action Items - KWIEC

- *Create an ad-hoc working group to analyze and make recommendations for the eventual upgrade from the Mobile Data Network to a wireless broadband network*
- *Acquire funding through participating agencies and assign a Project Manager to implement a pilot project for a wireless broadband solution in selected areas*
- *Analyze the propagation of the existing Voice Mutual Aid network and create a plan to fill in major voids or gaps*

2. Complete the upgrade of the KEWS Eastern Segment.

Recommended Action Items – KEWS PM

- *Place test traffic onto the system as soon as reliability issues are resolved.*
- *Complete a 60 day performance evaluation on the network with test traffic.*
- *Roll all remaining traffic onto the system upon completion of the performance evaluation*
- *Complete the 60 day acceptance evaluation by March 2009*
- *Decommission the analog KEWS network by June 2009*

3. Increase stakeholder awareness and utilize outreach programs to promote public safety and the communications interoperability effort.

Recommended Action Items - KWIEC

- *Establish an ad-hoc working group to develop a long term program that exercise the various statewide voice communications networks with major statewide first responder agencies*

4. Publish and begin implementation of the long term Strategic plan for communications interoperability for the Commonwealth.

Recommended Action Items - KWIEC

- *Create an ad-hoc workgroup to finalize and publish this document by December 2008*

Chuck concluded the Chairperson's report and asked for questions.

PSIC Grant/ Update on the Strategic Communications Plan

{Mary Pedersen was unable to make the meeting. This update will be rescheduled to the next meeting.}

Derek mentioned that Mary and he have been working closely together and that he would cover this subject when he discussed his briefing. A few questions came from the floor -

Robert Milligan: How much is Kentucky going to receive from the grant?

Derek: I don't have the exact numbers.

Robert Milligan: Is this the grant from last year?

Derek: This is from the 700 MHz; the money comes down from the Federal government.

Robert Milligan: How much of that funding is being used to expand your UHF?

Derek: I haven't written that out yet. We will use a portion of the funding to develop UHF Mutual Aid UTAC Channels but a line item budget has yet to be developed.

Comment (?): What about the future of mobile data. Any broadband pilot projects.

Derek: We have a couple of pilot structures in the works; basically we want to be able to offer (where we can) broadband in some form or fashion. Broadband that would come back through COT, but we haven't approved a concept yet.

Interoperability Pilots and Planned Projects

(Briefed by Derek Nesselrode)

Derek told the KWIEC members that we will continue to concentrate on upgrades and augmentations to our existing statewide networks. The goal is to further increase communications coverage and of course interoperability capabilities.

Funding has not been released to Kentucky yet, but is expected to be released in the next month or two. As previously mentioned, we will follow the Statewide Communications Interoperability Communications plan as funding becomes available. (Note - Mary provided this plan to the KWIEC members only. It was not made available to the general public at the time of this meeting.)

Derek indicated that the intention was to do the following:

1. Improve the statewide Voice Mutual Aid communications system by filling in gaps to coverage areas and adding radios as needed
2. Enhance the statewide Mobile Data Network in the same manner
3. Perform propagation studies as needed to determine the best way to proceed
4. Evaluate one or more potential long-term replacements to these systems
5. Conduct Pilot Projects as required by the KWIEC
6. Other issues –
 - a. Mutual Aid – One fault channel, capacity, Mutual Aid to add channels UTAC
 - b. Look at gateway solution
 - c. Share resources.

Funding is still a problem and will be until the grant is released.

700MHz Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) report

(Briefed by Bob Stephens)

Bob Stevens introduced himself as co-chair of the 700 MHz working group of the KWIEC [Bob is also a member of the ASWG].

Bob quizzed the group to establish a baseline of communications knowledge and began his briefing based on that.

The public safety working group is chartered to foster cooperation, planning, and development of the public safety frequency spectrum as regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, including the 700MHz public safety band. The Group shall endeavor to bring about a seamless, coordinated, and integrated public safety communications network for the safety, effective, and efficient protection of life and property. We serve at the pleasure of the KWIEC.

Bob went on to introduce the leadership of the 700 MHz WG - Steve Crum which is the APCO frequency coordinator, and Derek Nesselrode and Bob Stephens serve as co-chairs of the public safety working group. Bob showed the KWIEC an antenna used from each of the three frequencies bands that are used by public safety in Kentucky (150 MHz, 450 MHz, and 800 MHz).

I want to talk about what's been going on with 700 and 800 MHz with regard to the FCC. It had been a little complicated. We started this process back on 2002, and back then we requested voice channels, voice, but they gave us a whole bunch of data channels. They were designed to be wideband and to create a big pipe using RF. The whole idea was that the FCC was going to award public safety a number of channels that could be put together that would carry data.

We were going to be able to take a 700MHz data channel and were going to be able to create a state wide mobile data network that would take us from the current network 19.2 Kbps to a

broadband network. Money speaks and the FCC decided last year they were going to take those channels from us and were going to sell these to somebody else to create a network for you. This was going to help you with the idea being that they we're going to take 10 MHz and then add another 10 MHz to give you 20 MHz Nationwide public safety broadband wireless network.

The FCC had an auction and sold off everything except frequency block D (no one would bid on D). They made almost 20 Billion dollars on those others blocks. But since no one bid on D the FCC decided to put it back to the state's and ask for comments. It's called a Report Order and we're right in the middle of responding to that.

We think that block D should (maybe not all) should go back to the states to execute any broadband program. We need that 700 MHz spectrum to create a [broadband] mobile data network. Bob explained that this would be like going from a 3G to a 4G device. Unfortunately all of the main vendors backed away since, I think they were concerned about entering into partnership with a public safety community. My opinion is, that we were all for a broadband network, however we wanted more involvement in the spectrum. We wanted to be involved with this program, one of the reasons we in Kentucky wanted to do this is that we own our microwaves [KEWS]. A lot of states like Indiana and Ohio have to buy this. Our connectivity is paid for but others have to actually pay the big phone companies to provide this connectivity for hundreds of towers. We have concerns about interoperability in other states. Our IT technology is interoperable. We're doing our best to try to explain RF to IT people.

We have about thirty days left to reply to the FCC on how we feel about what going to happen to this 10 MHz band. One problem is that we're in a position where no one wants to recommend the technology. I think what the FCC was hoping for was for someone to say here's this system that we can use, and you're up and running. An example of how the clock is running is to look at Louisville. The Department provided air-card and computer allows high speed broadband access in Louisville. It's already sitting there, and the question is - Do we lay down and let commercial interest do it, or does the commonwealth have involvement? Just like we do with KEWS - Does the commonwealth get involved in managing a system that's not only interoperability, but will provide us broadband coverage?

We have reenergized our efforts to write a plan. In April we finally got a new channel in a data base that is managed by the University of Denver. Having that new data base we can then go back and create a spreadsheet that shows (as an example) Louisville gets these new channels, Fayette county gets these channels, one county gets one channel, from the largest destructions to the top. I have now created that spreadsheet, and Steve Crumb will be looking at it very shortly to see how it works out State wide. This is voice only, no data.

We have started over again rewriting it and anticipate that were going to have plenty to go to the FCC by the first of September. We also need to speak to those agencies that are not here and need involvement from APCO and some of these other folks to get them involved. I will share with you the response from our next meeting with the FCC.

Bob concluded by saying that they needed the support of the KWIEC. If the KWIEC does not agree with the PSWG's recommendations, that's ok, but the KWIEC needs to take position on what should happen to those frequencies. Bob and Derik went to a national meeting in Austin, and a second one in Washington DC. They, like we, want us to deal with these frequencies.

Bob thanked everyone and concluded his briefing.

Open Discussion on Old Business

Chuck called for any discussion on of any other old business and being that there was none he moved onto new business.

New Business

There was no new business so the meeting was moved on to open discussion.

Open discussion

{The recording from the floor was dropping in and out. Where possible this information was reconstructed using notes.}

Chuck opened the meeting to the floor and asked if there were any issues that anyone would like to discuss.

Comment (?): I think that one thing that comes to mind over the last and this meeting is the dissemination of grant funds.

Rodney Hayes: I think what you're referring to is what percentage is being delegated to the local accounting jurisdiction, what is centralized for infrastructure, what is being used for standing and existing systems, and what is allocated to new technologies. I think that is of interest to me as a member of KWIEC and I think the rest of the members would agree.

Chuck Miller: I apologize; you are absolutely right. My intention was to have a detailed PSIC Grant briefing today, but Mary had another meeting she couldn't get out of. I will make sure it's on the next agenda.

Jim Barnhart: Chuck do you think you'll be able to send something out ahead of time that gives a break out? *[Note – the SCIP was sent out by Mary and provides the roadmap.]*

Comment (?): One of the things I wanted to give you as a take away, is about the time this committee was briefed on the wireless, there was an exceptions committee, I'll get Dan to hopefully brief us....

Chuck Miller: The next thing I would like to ask the voting members is - would you consider chairing a working group for one of the four goals? As the Project Manager for KEWS, I will continue to make sure that you are kept up to date on this project and goal #3 of course.

Chuck Miller: Also, please be sure to vote on the project assessments. For those that do, thank you very much. We also ask that you get them back within one week, but the sooner the better. The Architecture and Standard Working group, of which Bob and Derrick are also members, reviews every one of those project assessments before it gets to you. They look at it to make sure it makes sense from an engineering standpoint before we send it to you. If you can; please take a look at these assessments and make sure it doesn't impact your agency in any way, or let us know if you know a better way of doing something. We do need to know that it's ok from your agencies standpoint, so please, we need for you to get those votes back.

Ken Mitchell: I have an announcement about a couple of grant notes you mentioned earlier. Tomorrow is the deadline for receiving applications for Homeland Security Grants; they need to be turned in by 4:30. That's for this years round of Homeland Security Grants. I know they were in the lobby this afternoon collecting applications as I walked through. Next Friday 4:30 pm is the deadline for the CMRS boards 911 grant applications. You still have some time to put one of those together for 991 systems and information on that can be found on our web site. We welcome anyone to submit a grant on that. The deadline is the 27th.

Jim Barnhart: I got to thinking, Dan there using some stuff in Transportation, wireless, 3G router, I'll let Dan talk about it but it's got some pretty neat applications.

Dan Mauer: Yes, our traffic agency deals with traffic controller systems in the state. I guess you all have seen the great big silver cabinets on the side of the road. That controls all the traffic lights, timing and what-not's and the engineers back at Transportation collect all that data. This makes sure that when you're out on Nicholasville road, traffic light number one is in sync with two, three, and four. It's a pretty big deal if you're traveling down Nicholasville road.

Dan Mauer: For years and years these systems have run off of pipelines (just regular telephone lines) that the engineers have maintained. They had a hard time keeping track of the telephone company and which line was down. It was becoming troublesome to keep all that stuff up. They had written communication routines in the background and a bunch of modems. That technology was getting a bit cumbersome and about a year ago we were talking with COT about some wireless routers and the possibility using them.

Dan Mauer: So far the implementation of this has been successful. It has given the engineers immediately access to the traffic signaling systems, their collection of data is much faster. We have the first round of hardware in, and we are working on the second and third subsequently.

Pretty soon we will have replaced our infrastructure with these wireless routers and it's going to allow us to immediately access to the traffic signaling system to update timing information and to gather statistics back to central office. We also used them for variable message signs and camera's out on the roadway and we've got two large video networks in the State, Artigas in the Covington Cincinnati area, and Tri-mart in the Louisville area, here in the Lexington area I think they call it Batman for some strange acronym reason, and there is another two in the Bowling Green and the Paducah area alone I-24 and I-65 that runs up and down through the Bowling Green area.

Dan Mauer: Digi-routers as well, it's hard to run cable and wire out in the middle of these interstates and sometimes it's out in the middle of nowhere. KIH allows us to do that, we can tell AT&T that we want a T1 forty-two miles off the beaten path and out in the middle of nowhere, and they've got to do it. But these routers prevent them from having to place that infrastructure out in the middle of nowhere. It's cheaper and they work. It's been a great plus for us; we're looking forward to implementing more. We've got twenty five implemented right now with about another one fifty to two hundred scheduled this year.

Bob Stephens: What's the range on this?

Dan Mauer: It works basically like a cell phone, if you get a bar or two on your cell phone, these things can pick it up. It feeds off the data towers.

Jim Barnhart: We're also bringing that into the internal network, inside the firewall.

Dan Mauer: It's tunneled back into the Intranet, within the network, it's behind all the firewalls, and in essence it becomes part of the States intranet.

Jim Barnhart: You could bring one and do a demo.

Dan Mauer; I could do that.

Chuck Miller: There seems to be no further comments so I'd like to thank Bob and Derrick for their briefing, and Mike for letting us use his facilities; this is a very nice place. Also, Mike has graciously offered a tour of the KET production facilities. He'll be meeting with you directly after this meeting.

Chuck Miller: Finally if someone would like to sponsor the next meeting please drop me an e-mail. Jim, would you like to give the closing remarks?

Adjournment

Upcoming events, next KWIEC meeting

Chairman Barnhart thanked everyone for their time and said that the next KWIEC meeting still had to be scheduled but was targeted for September 2008. He asked that the group e-mail any questions or comments that they might have to Chuck.

Closing Remarks

The Chairman asked for any further discussion or comments.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.

KET Tour

Mike Clark provided a tour of the KET Production Studios in Lexington.