



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 6, 2023

10:00am

Remote Video Conference Call

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 819 7136 3630

Passcode: 770850

Dial In: 646 876 9923

Call to Order

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting order at 10:04 am.

Approval of Minutes

- February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by M. Foster.

- Approve the February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by J. Griffin.
 - In Favor: M. Collins, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Committee Membership Updates

- Previous committee members M. Torosian, B. Roberts, and C. Dunne informed us their schedules don't currently allow for regular attendance at Committee meetings. They will be invited as guests going forward, rather than voting members needed for quorum.
- The Committee has already discussed adding S. Brown as a member, and A. Chadis is interested in joining as well.

MOTION put forth by D. Frizzell.

- Support the addition of S. Brown and A. Chadis to the Interoperability Committee and request a NERAC council vote to appoint them.
- Seconded by R. Patterson.
 - In Favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.
- At the next NERAC Full Council meeting, Interoperability Committee Chair C. Ryan will propose appointing S. Brown and A. Chadis to the committee.

Budget Updates

- FFY20 - Grant End Date: June 30, 2023
 - Some FFY20 projects do not have POs issued yet.
- FFY21 - Grant End Date: July 31, 2023
 - FFY21 B.03 ECCOPA Radio Cache for \$168,660.60 is ready to be paid.
- FFY22 - Grant End Date: July 31, 2024

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson.

- Reallocate unencumbered and unallocated FFY20 Interop funding to pay the ECCOPA Radio Cache invoice, and reallocate equal amounts in FFY21 from B.03 ECCOPA Radio Cache back to those projects for an even swap.
- Seconded by M. Mansfield.
 - In Favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Project Updates

- *ECFCA UHF Receivers*
 - T. Dechene is working on getting the final specifications for procurement.
- *FD-5/15 Portable Radio Cache*
 - The backpacks are the remaining item, and their ETA is June 2023.
- *ECFCA Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios*
 - The ICIP was approved by the SIEC, but we do not have formal PJ approval from EOPSS yet.
 - MAPC is working on EHP review requests for each site.
- *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*
 - The PJ was submitted to EOPSS. The project does not need SIEC review.
- *FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders*
 - The ICIP was approved by the SIEC, but we do not have formal PJ approval from EOPSS yet.
 - MAPC is reviewing specifications to prepare for procurement in the meantime.
- *FD-6 Communications Upgrades*
 - Most of the work is done and most of the equipment costs are paid for.
 - Cyber Comm is waiting on the dual UHF/VHF GPW8000 receiver to arrive. After that is installed MAPC will pay final invoices including labor costs.
- *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - The ICIP was approved, but we have not received official EOPSS approval yet.
 - MAPC is compiling questions for the EHPs.
- *Littleton All-Band Console Upgrades*
 - Most of the work has been completed by Cyber Comm and MAPC is processing a partial invoice for the equipment that has been installed.
 - When the remaining Motorola items are delivered and installed, MAPC will pay for labor costs as well.
- *Metrofire North District Feasibility Study*
 - On February 22, 2023 a meeting was held with members of MAPC, the Metrofire Communications Committee, NERAC Interop Committee, and the consultant CDCG to discuss information presented in Tasks 2-3 and next steps for Task 4.
 - A draft of the final report will be submitted in time for the April Interop Committee meeting.
- *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*

- Some changes to the specifications were made for Phase 2.
- MAPC will move forward with any necessary amendments and procurement upon receiving updated specifications.
- *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - D. Spinosa heard back from some interested COMLs/COMTs.
 - More COMLs/COMTs need to be recruited.

Fire District 14 Equipment Disposal

- *Radio Consoles, Microphones, and Monitor Disposal*
 - There were some discrepancies between MAPC's official NERAC inventory and the inventory that Ashland provided, and difficulty finding 15+ year old records.
 - MAPC will likely have a revised vote to suggest to the Committee in April.

FFY23 Plan Development

- 8 interoperability related project requests were submitted prior to the meeting, which were shared with the Committee, for a total of \$844,043.34.
- MAPC was told to expect level funding overall for NERAC. In recent years, the Interop Committee has had an average of approximately \$405,000 at their discretion.
- The Committee reviewed the project requests submitted to determine which projects to present to the NERAC Full Council for inclusion in the FFY23 Plan.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson.

- Suggest the following Interoperability projects at the listed funding amounts to the Full Council for inclusion in the FFY23 Plan:
 - ECFCA GPS Clocks (A-List - \$25,000)
 - ECCOPA Cache Radio Transport & Storage Kits (A-List - \$3,700)
 - ECFCA Middleton - Topsfield Microwave (A-List - \$20,000)
 - ECFCA Expansion of UHF Wide Area Network (A-List - \$45,000 & B-List - \$465,000)
 - FD-6 Field Comm 60/20 Portable Cache Upgrade + Harnesses/Backpacks (A-List - \$70,000)
 - BAPERNS Simulcast Upgrade (A-List - \$100,000)
 - Lawrence Gen-Holt Hill MW Link Replacement (A-List - \$75,000)
 - Metrofire North Radio Common Platform (A-List - \$70,000)
- Seconded by M. Mansfield.
 - In Favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

New Business Unforeseen by the Chair

- The Committee would prefer a fully virtual meeting in April, but provisions allowing virtual meetings under Open Meeting Law currently expire March 31, 2023. They may be extended.

MOTION put forth by M. Mansfield.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by D. Frizzell.
 - In Favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa.

- Opposed: None.
- Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: April 11, 2023 ***

Location/Format TBD.

ATTENDEES-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department

Dave Frizzell: Metrofire

Mark Foster: Beverly Emergency Management*

Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

Chief Michael Mansfield: Andover Fire Rescue

Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union*

Chief Rich Patterson: Dracut Fire Department

Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center*

Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department*

ATTENDEES-OTHER

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department

Lauren Sacks: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Rosemary Volinski: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

ABSENT

Jon Brickett: Northeast EMS Inc.*

Chief Joe Targ: Westford Fire Department

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 2023 Meeting Agenda
- February 2022 Meeting Minutes
- FFY20, FFY21, and FFY22 Budget Updates
- FFY2023 Interop Project Request Summaries
- FFY2023 Project Request Forms:
 - ECFCA GPS Clocks
 - ECCOPA Cache Radio Transport & Storage Kits
 - ECFCA Middleton - Topsfield Microwave
 - ECFCA Expansion of UHF Wide Area Network
 - FD-6 Field Comm 60/20 Portable Cache Upgrade + Harnesses/Backpacks
 - BAPERN Simulcast Upgrade
 - Lawrence Gen-Holt Hill MW Link Replacement
 - Metrofire North Radio Common Platform