



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

May 13, 2025

9:30 am

*North Shore Regional 911 Center
18 Manning Avenue, Middleton, MA 01949*

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:36am.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - April 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin

- Approve the April 2025 Meeting Minutes.
 - Seconded by R. Patterson
 - In favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
 - The motion passed.
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- **Budget Updates**
 - Grant End Dates:
 - FFY21 – June 30th, 2025
 - FFY22 – July 31st, 2025
 - FFY23 – July 31st, 2025 – MAPC is requesting extension to summer 2026
 - FFY24 – June 30th, 2026
 - FFY25 – MAPC will be sending out preliminary project request form, but no timeline, funding amounts, or requirements known.
 - NERAC Full Council reviewed all projects and spend-down statuses, and is managing overall budget to support closeout.
 - **Project Updates**
 - *BAPERN Simulcast Upgrade*
 - Upgrade of legacy equipment on AW 3&4 which has reached end of life. The total cost of the project was expected to be up to \$-2million. NERAC's contribution would be \$100,000.
 - Work was already completed and mostly paid for by GBPC.
 - NERAC cannot fund this project.
 - Issues preventing NERAC from funding:
 - Projects need EOPSS/PJ and SIEC/ICIP approvals before work begins.
 - Grant funds can only support expenses that can't be covered by other sources.



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- Equipment was contracted for prior to NERAC's involvement and obtaining approvals, and there isn't enough procurement documentation for grant requirements.
- *ECFCA GPS Clocks*
 - Purchase of two GPS Clocks (frequency reference) and associated antenna/cabling to be installed at Long Hill and NSR911 to provide time synchronization for all aspects of the ECFCA radio system.
 - MAPC will work on clocks procurement first, then antennas later.
- *ECFCA UHF Wide Area Network Upgrades*
 - Procurement through PSE01 was unsuccessful. Contacted 3 vendors:
 - Green Mountain can't provide the items.
 - Industrial Communications can't provide the items under PSE01.
 - Tessco's Terms and Conditions can't be agreed to under the grant, and new processes aren't compatible with NERAC procurement and payment processes.
 - Options to proceed:
 - If prefer to work with Tessco, NERAC/MAPC cannot place or pay for the order.
 - Another entity would need to place it through account and pay invoice, within PSE01 terms.
 - NERAC could reimburse within approx. 60 days of proof of delivery and payment as long as procurement was properly documented.
 - D. Spinosa will look into whether Essex County Sherrif may be able to place order.
 - Or, MAPC can post IFB with bids due back in 2-3 weeks.
- *ECFCA VHF Wide Area Network Upgrades*
 - Under review for procurement, working to move forward ASAP.
- *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*
 - This project is the purchase and install of mobile recording units and wireless modems.
 - PO issued to Northeast Two Way Radio Corp. for remaining equipment and installation.
 - Antenna delivery expected this week, install can be done by end of May.
- *FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders*
 - NERAC portion is complete (was FFY22 H.06)
 - Keeping on agenda to monitor installation.
 - Timeline is July 1 for proof of concept.
- *FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF*
 - Networking hardware to transition FD-5/15 to from a two-site standalone to simulcast system.
 - SIEC is required, EHP is not required.
 - MAPC will move forward with seeking approvals and procurement.
- *FD-5/15 Wide Area VHF*
 - Base station radios and associated equipment for existing microwave sites in Amesbury, Haverhill, and Middleton to create a wide area command and control network for FD-5/15.



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- SIEC is required, EHP is not required.
 - MAPC will move forward with seeking approvals and procurement.
- *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - Project is complete except for a defective Motorola component that was sent back for replacement.
 - MAPC will pay for all other equipment/completed work.
- *Field Comm Portable Radio Caches*
 - 6 all-band portable radios each for Field Comms 20 & 60.
 - Accessories: speaker mics, charging banks, spare batteries, programming software/equipment, and chest harnesses.
 - PJ/ICIP were submitted for April SIEC which was cancelled.
 - ICIP was approved at May SIEC, waiting for official PJ approval.
 - Specs are with procurement for PSE01 RFQ, request from 3 vendors.
- *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - Phase 2, committee allocated total \$56,530 for as much equipment as possible (approx. 6 sites).
 - Requested quotes from ITC73 state contract vendors, due May 15.
- *Metrofire North District Radio Common Platform*
 - To upgrade Metrofire North District to IP based system.
 - PO issued and delivery ETA is June 6.
- *NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle*
 - Received EOPSS PJ approval to move forward with components that don't need SIEC approval.
 - Vehicle specs are finalized and with procurement team.
 - Technology specs are in progress.
 - MAPC will connect with D. Spinoso regarding radio specs.
- *Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study*
 - Hiring a consultant to conduct a radio feasibility study looking at line of site to eastern Essex County to determine feasibility of utilizing the Topsfield Rt.1 DPW water tank vs. construct new tower attached to DPW.
 - MAPC will connect with Chief Collins-Brown re: scope and timeline.
- The Committee discussed the following regarding spend-down:
 - ECFCA/NSR911 VHF Combiner Upgrade - won't close out in time.
 - Radio Programming Initiative - won't close out in time.
 - Reviewed all open projects to determine if there are parts of any that can move forward.
 - New Interop-related projects being considered by Full Council:
 - ECFCA Mini CRD
 - ECFCA Mobile Broadband
 - GBPC Switches
 - Tahoe Comms Vehicle
- **CMED Region 3 Update**
 - Funding has been gradually reduced over the past years and is no longer sustainable. The current contract ends June 30th and future is uncertain.
 - Options for Equipment Disposition:



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- NERAC equipment would come back to Interop (some may need to stay for critical infrastructure)
 - 6-7 GTRs (deployed but would become surplus)
 - All of the TCC comms equipment at hospital
 - Microwave equipment can stay at hospital
 - Baldpate transition to multi-disciplinary
 - GBPC will take care of maintenance on backhaul of microwave
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - Field Comm Portable Radio Caches project was approved.
 - Technical Assistance request for COML/COMT training in the coming year.
 - The Committee discussed the potential requirement that all future purchases must be all-band.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - None.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by J. Griffin.
 - In favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: June 10, 2025 ***
(Virtual, per April decision.)