



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Interoperability Committee Meeting

### Minutes

**December 9, 2025**

**9:30 am**

**Virtual via Zoom**

[Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 827 1888 0565**

**Passcode: 907703**

#### ▪ **Call to Order**

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM

#### ▪ **Approval of Minutes**

- October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

#### MOTION put forth by D. Frizzell

- Approve the October 2025 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by R. Patterson
  - In favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

#### ▪ **Committee Membership Updates**

- Chief Mansfield has submitted his resignation from the NERAC Interoperability Committee.
- Georgetown Fire Chief Matt McKay is interested in joining the Committee, supported by ECFCA board of directors.

#### MOTION put forth by T. Dechene

- Recommend that the NERAC Full Council appoint Chief McKay to the Interoperability Committee.
- Seconded by J. Griffin
  - In favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

#### ▪ **Budget Updates**

- FFY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
  - MAPC is working to complete as many projects as possible by FFY23 deadline, regardless of current funding year allocations (FFY24 projects that can be completed will be moved up).



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- Goal to have as many projects as possible approved and in process by end of January.
- FFY24 Grant End Date: June 30, 2026
  - MAPC has requested extension for all regions to July 31, 2027
- No updates on FFY25 funding release yet.
- C. Ryan noted that the Committee should discuss FFY26 pre-planning at the February meeting.
  
- **Project Updates**
  - *ECFCA / NSR911 VHF Combiner Upgrade*
    - VHF combiner for a tower located at NSR911 to integrate with the FD-5 Communications Center and allow for usage of multiple channels off the same antenna.
    - T. Dechene noted this project needs engineering to determine equipment.
    - L. Sacks noted this is large allocation with July deadline.
    - An EHP may be needed because an antenna will be swapped.
    - There is no estimated time to be able to begin yet, but it can be discussed at ECFCA.
  - *ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy*
    - Provide a secondary electrical circuit with backup 200 amp service to the communications equipment shelter at NSR911.
    - This will not need SIEC approval, but may need EHP approval if new holes or trenches for cabling will be needed.
    - MAPC is looking into EHP approval and scope of work from the first circuit procurement to use as templates.
  - *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.
    - Doesn't require SIEC approval.
    - The PJ has been drafted and EHP is in progress.
  - *ECFCA Mini CRD and ECFCA Mobile Broadband Kit*
    - Approved for FFY21/22 closeout but paused because they could not be completed in time.
    - Last summer, ECFCA agreed to cover startup and monthly costs (ex: Starlink and/or Cellular SIM) required for the functionality of the MiniCRD and Mobile Broadband Kit. Use plan to only activate the devices only when needed.
    - PJ was approved by EOPSS, doesn't need SIEC or EHP, so next step is procurement.
      - CRD is State Contract.
      - MBK may be State Contract now, or RFQ if not.
    - FirstNet requires an account to place the order, but MAPC is not eligible because we don't qualify as First Responders – ECFCA can assist.
  - *Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study*



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- 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 DPW water tank vs. construct new tower attached to DPW.
- PJ has been approved by EOPSS, procurement next.
- The Committee reviewed the drafted scope and discussed if/how it relates to *ECFCA MW Middleton-Topsfield* project – it was determined that there is not overlap and both projects can occur simultaneously.
- *ECFCA MW Middleton-Topsfield*
  - It was noted that the Structural Analysis and licensing were done, the installation component is all that remains.
  - Work can be done simultaneously with *Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study*.
- *ECFCA Pow Wow Fiber Connection*
  - Provide redundant backhaul for the ECFCA and BAPERN UHF and VHF simulcast systems, including 1000 feet of fiber and 2 Cisco 9300 Series switches for laterals to connect the BAPERN Tower and equipment shelter to the Amesbury Fire and Police radio antenna tower and equipment shelter.
  - T. Dechene and C. Ryan can assist with information for this project.
- *EMS Repeater and Multi-Discipline Co-Location*
  - Was FFY24 C.05. No funding left.
  - Replacement of an outdated Quantar repeater for Region III EMS interoperable communications channel and allow site co-location for CMED, BAPERN, NERAC microwave and the Public Safety agencies in the communities of Georgetown and Boxford and potentially FD-5/15 receivers.
  - Original allocation of \$50k = \$30k for GPW/GTRs (purchased over the summer) and \$20k for antenna (which wouldn't have closed out in time for FFY21/22).
  - The GPW/GTRs were purchased for ~\$41k, and the remaining ~\$9k was transferred out of that line item.

## MOTION put forth by T. Dechene

- Reallocate the following to support the EMS Repeater and Multi-Discipline Co-Location antenna purchase:
  - \$1,815.23 from FFY23 C.10 Radio Programming
  - \$12,533.77 from FFY23 C.11 Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios
  - \$5,651.00 from FFY24 C.08 Field Comm Radios
- Seconded by J. Griffin
  - In favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- *FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF*
  - Equipment to transition FD-5/15 from a two-site standalone to a simulcast system and establish a UHF command and control channel while retaining the current VHF mutual aid dispatch channel.



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- Approvals were received over the summer, but it wasn't done with the other CyberComm/Motorola projects at the time because it needed a funding transfer which delayed it and prevented it from being able to be included in those grant closeouts.
- Equipment has been ordered and requested ETA from vendor.
- *FD-6 Simulcast Receiver Upgrades*
  - Upgrade two receivers which reached end of life, add simulcast to three transmit sites, and replace the mobile radio which serves as the VHF tie with a base radio meant for this purpose.
  - ICIP was approved at the last SIEC meeting and MAPC is working on the EHP.
  - Quoted: \$74,548.07 = \$12,779.76 over allocation.

## MOTION put forth by T. Dechene

- Reallocate \$12,779.76 from FFY23 C.11 Wide Area Network VHF Consolette Radios to support the FD-6 Simulcast Receiver Upgrades project.
- Seconded by J. Griffin
  - In favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  - *MW Lawrence Gen – Holt Hill*
    - Replacement of the unlicensed legacy NERAC/BAPERN 4.9 GHz link with a licensed 11 GHz 100 mb link, including replacement of both antennas and radios with associated cabling and FCC coordination and licensing on both ends of the link.
    - R. Patterson and T. Dechene have been working to finalize equipment needs and obtain a quote for SIEC by the end of the week.
  - *NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle Upfitting*
    - The vehicle and radios were procured.
    - The upfitting and laptops are remaining.
    - D. Spinosa is waiting on delivery of the license plate and will determine the exact upfitting needs for us to develop a scope.
    - He sent information on the laptops needed, so MAPC is developing specs and looking into options for procurement.
  - *Wide Area Network VHF Consolette Radios (Beverly/Rockport)*
    - Purchase and installation of VHF consolette radios, antennas, and cabling in Beverly and Rockport to allow for a control point channel and separate wide area network.
    - Originally \$70,000 allocated for additional sites and different equipment, now just 2 sites and Kenwood equipment expected to come in much less.
      - Equipment quote was just ~\$6,000, plus install labor.
    - All approvals were received, but there were changes to specs for Kenwood equipment instead of Motorola, so updates were submitted to EOPSS and SIEC, which have now been approved.



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- Rockport stakeholders are ok with Kenwood, but have preferences on what vendor does the installation. MAPC will look into how to work with this within procurement requirements.
- MAPC is working with stakeholders to finalize procurement scope/specs.
  
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
  - NERAC ICIP/PJ for FD-6 Simulcast and Receiver Upgrades was approved.
  - Updated NERAC ICIP/PJ for Wide Area Network VHF Consolette Radios was approved.
  
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - NSR911 took on North Reading and is taking on Groveland
  - Topics for January agenda:
    - Consider hiring an install vendor for the FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders.
    - Consider replacing Cache radios, now that Salem is going encrypted and the existing radios are getting older.
  - Meetings will be virtual through March.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by J. Griffin.
  - In favor: M. Collins, T. Dechene, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

**\* Next Meeting: January 13, 2026 - VIRTUAL\***

## ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering\*

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department

Dave Frizzell: Metrofire

Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

Ryan Higgins: Fire District 15

Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union\*

Rich Patterson: Region 3 EMS

Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center\*

Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department\*

Matt Svatek: Fire District 6

## ATTENDEES - OTHER

Jen Collins-Brown: ECFCA

Karla Kahale: MAPC



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Sarah Malloy: EOPSS / OGR

Matt McKay: ECFCA

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

## **ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department

Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department

## **The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

- December 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda
- October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- FFY23 and FFY24 Interoperability Committee Budgets
- Drafted Scope of Work: Topsfield Public Safety Radio Relocation Assessment
- FFY23 Project Request Form: ECFCA Middleton - Topsfield Microwave