

WISCOM SUBCOMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 2018
9:00 AM

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
2400 WRIGHT STREET, MADISON, WI
ROOM 230

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting convened at 9:03 AM.
2. Quorum was established, 12/14 members present. In person attendees; Keith Kesler, Jennifer Lord, Jan Victorson, Brad Altman, Darren Chappuies, Margaret Zieke, David Zittlow, David Gribble, Joseph Baasch, Keith Hurlburt. Gervase Thompson and Gary McClelland attended via teleconference.
3. Minutes from the March 28, 2018 meeting were reviewed.
Motion was made to accept minutes by Ms. Zieke. Second by Mr. Chappuies. Unanimous approval.
4. Public Comment.
There was no public comment.
5. Old Business
 - A. Daily User Checklist Update
 - Josh Ripp stated that they will continue to work on this checklist, as most efforts of the OEC over the last six months were geared toward the RFP.
 - B. WISCOM System Update
 - Two servers that were running NMS were replaced due to hardware problems. The new servers are up and running. Although both servers are in the same location, within the next six months they will be geographically separated to provide improved redundancy.
 - The Juneau County installation is completed. Coverage testing will be completed in spring once the trees leaf out in spring 2019 with implementation to begin after coverage testing is completed.
 - The DOT Technicians are assuring the repeaters are installing the firmware Version 403 updates. The technicians are working in cooperation with the county owned systems.
 - C. Discussion regarding user fees for WISCOM for private EMS Agencies (from 3/28/18 Meeting Minutes)
 - Mr. Ripp stated that the Department of Military Affairs is in the process of setting up a billing process for WISCOM user fees. There were suggestions for amounts and timeframes, although this will need further future discussion before any decisions are made. The first billing will include “Daily User” entities that haven’t invested in system infrastructure, just programming radios to use the WISCOM system. There was further discussion about considering the rural fire departments and EMS agencies that may receive only three calls per month versus agencies that are daily users.

6. New Business

A. Naming of WISCOM Talk Groups Discussion

- Chair Kesler stated he has concerns that the talkgroup names are being created without being vetted through the WISCOM Subcommittee and he questioned if the Subcommittee should look at changing how the talk groups are being assigned and whether it should, or should not, come through the WISCOM Subcommittee. Mr. Ripp and Jim Westover currently review the nomenclatures. Mr. Ripp gave a brief history of talkgroup nomenclature. The 2017 EMS Communication Plan reflected a new hospital nomenclature which is compatible with radios.

B. List of Accepted Radios

- Mr. Ripp asked that the Subcommittee consider a date as to when specific radios will not be allowed on the system, to assure that the devices are being properly maintained. Other states similar to Wisconsin have not removed devices from their lists, although those states typically do not have the prevalence of radio manufacturers that Wisconsin presently has. Mr. Ripp stated that this whole topic will need further discussion before a decision can be made. It was reported that Dane County has mandated, beginning January 1, 2019, that all radios must be P25 phase 2 capable.

C. Talkgroups Air Medical Will Use

- Mr. Kesler reported that there had been internal discussion on how to solve the problem with air medical using MARC2. A group of communications staff had proposed that EMS-A and EMS-C be implemented as part of the EMS Communication Plan, which wasn't well received by the air medical community. The air medical services feel strongly about staying on MARC2 as they do not see any day to day problems and the amount of time it took to get this channel standardized in that industry. They also believe that the issue can be resolved by using MARC1. There was discussion regarding options to replace MARC2, and it was proposed to set a goal of having a plan in place by 2021 or 2023, which would allow time to have discussions with stakeholders, determine a new frequency, and be able to communicate and train all parties.
- A comment was made during a recent SIMCOM exercise in the northern side of the state, that they had difficulty communicating with the U.S. Coast Guard and there was a recommendation to investigate the option of standardizing a bank of channels and frequencies to be used with civilian agencies.
- Mr. Ripp will present a relative portion of the MINFOG to the air medical group as a starting point in discussions with them. Ms. Lord stated that the WI Department of Natural Resources is working on updating a similar document and offered to share their document with the group.
- Chair Kesler recommended the Subcommittee have a target with specific timeframes and goals, and the need to encourage users to move forward with interoperability initiatives.

D. The HSEMS Talk Group Designated Standard Policy

- Mr. Ripp requested that discussions begin on division of state regions, which should be easy for public safety to understand.
- Chair Kesler stated that it may be helpful for the LMR and WISCOM Subcommittees to work more closely together, or even merge, as their tasks and goals are so closely affiliated.
- There was further discussion regarding the HSEMS talk groups and it was recommended by Gene Oldenburg that, since there are various stakeholders that would be invested in this decision, it may be beneficial to meet with a representative of all entities to assist in creating a plan.

E. Update on ISSI Connections

- Mr. Ripp reported that the ISSI connections are progressing at various points statewide, with the most recent implementation in Douglas County (WI) and St. Lois County (MN). The goal is for the initiating dispatch center to be able to make the patch. Minnesota recently implemented a system software upgrade. They are close to having the operations completed and are working on protocols to start training.
- Brown County is continuing to work on their ISSI connection and making additions.
- Winnebago County is making upgrades to their system and have had some software issues.
- Waukesha and Milwaukee counties recently transitioned to OASIS (Organization of Affiliated Secure Interoperable RF Systems) and have the ISSI connection up along with the City of Milwaukee radio system. ISSI will replace some NIU boxes in the future.
- Dane County has ISSI connection, and since they have the City of Madison, the traffic will pass from the city to the county and back, with this process working well. There are some technological problems with talkgroups from WISCOM which are being worked through.

F. Update on Healthcare Coalition Use of WISCOM

- Mr. Ripp reported that most hospitals are on the WISCOM system with various regions having a Subject Matter Expert. The largest hurdle is the end of the useful life of computers, along with STARGATE configurations proving to be a slow process. Mr. Wittkamp stated he had received information that of the 147 hospitals on the system, the ten (10) that are working are STARGATE users.

G. Review of Users Information

- Heather Harris-Fatty reviewed spreadsheets that reflected WISCOM user information. Ms. Harris-Fatty is attempting to get all contact information along with validating radios to get a better idea of what is being used in the field. She requested that Subcommittee members review the tab in the spreadsheet specific to their area, and return to DMA with corrections.

H. WISCOM RFP Update

- Mr. Czaja read correspondence that had been received from the Department of Administration (DOA) which stated all RFPs that had not reached their due date have been cancelled with an option to restore at a future date. He stated the WISCOM RFP is one that had been cancelled and DOA has notified the vendors.

I. Legislative Interoperability Report Update

- As part of Wisconsin 2017 Act 59 DMA was required to file a report with the legislature and Governor's office covering the recommendations for changing the statutory authority of the IC, progress of the statewide public safety interoperable radio system, obstacles that hinder progress toward interoperability, and recommended actions to promote interoperability. Final edits are being made with the goal of getting IC approval before submission.

7. Next Meeting Date: TBD to coincide with next Interoperability Council Meeting.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Lord. Second by Mr. Baasch. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda Landon
DMA/OEC