Listening Session Stevens Point   July 31, 2006

Attendees & Agency:
Lorrie Krokstrom   Marshfield Police Dept
Gary Jepsen   Marshfield Police Dept
Tom Buchholz   Wood County EM
Tanya Molony   Dane Co Sheriff
Bill Davis   Motorola Inc
Carl Guse   WI State Patrol
Robert Haight   Marshfield Fire Rescue
Steve Steinhardt   Sheboygan Co EM
Udell Passehl   Taylor County Ambulance- Medford
Ron Bohn   Taylor County Ambulance-Medford
Gary Widder   Plover Police Dept
John Reed   Marathon Co Sheriff Dept
David Mason   Marathon Co Sheriff Dept
Gerald W Thorpe   Shawano Co Sheriff/NEWCOM
Paul Wittkamp   State DPH- EMS
SIEC/OJA Staff:
Gale Sorum, Johnnie Smith, Tom Ritchie, Neil Cameron, Mindy Allen, David Collins,
Carl Guse, Robbie Barton

Introduction of Council- Neil Cameron
SIEC Plan is statewide, does not necessarily address funding, and a working document,
challenges still remain.

Overview of Technical Plan- David Collins.

SIEC using SAFECOM definitions of Interoperability. Plan is designed to address short
and long term goals.
Short term- MARC Channels, inventory of radios, replacing or reprogramming
Long term- WPSCS Wisconsin Standards based shared system
        Whole plan based on SAFECOM continuum

Grant Funding Overview-Gale Sorum
-Award of grant funding just went out
-4 Criterions used: Reprogramming, Replacement, More repeaters in counties without
them, and more frequencies- help people move off MARC channels to free up the
frequency for general use.
-$5 million spent to reprogram 6500, replace 3500. $1.8 million spent for 20 MARC.

Comment: Gerald Thorpe- NEWCOM: MARC repeater purchased, need more money for
reprogramming, ? (unintelligible) early budget cycle.
        As remembered, in this discussion Gerald was expressing a want to somehow be
        able to determine (communicate) what other agencies and groups within the state
        were doing in terms of hardware purchases, pricing, and maintenance

agreements and so on. He expressed an opinion that the sixteen counties in NEWCOM were able to make significant savings and that if this process were to be available state wide we could even do better. He used Vendor net and references Jefferson County as areas where he had no information about.

Question: Marshfield Fire- How well is SIEC working with regional interoperability groups?
Answer: David Collins- very well, regional groups better prepared to make progress. A problem with defining regions remains- OJA, WEM, and State Patrol.

Comment- MABIS system is beneficial; perhaps SIEC should focus on getting the word out.

Question: Neil Cameron asked about technical plan's adequacy in the area of portable coverage.
      In structure- lower level
      95% of structure "at hip" no objections were raised.

Comment- A need for a trunking paging system was expressed,
Response: Gale - vendors are looking at paging on a local channel.
Follow up comment- Locals will not pay user fee for system (from local). Equipment needs to be affordable.

Question- New York is requiring legislatively that buildings of a certain square footage have WI-FI and include at least 1 channel for communications, would WI be able to do something similar?
Answer- Neil Cameron-This ? (unintelligible) possibly not under the purview of the SIEC.
"RF Tight buildings" remain a problem.

Comment- SIEC meetings are concentrated to heavily in southern part of the state.
Comment- Funding prior to June is a benefit.

Comment- Should try to attend DOJ Conference in October.

Comment- A concern was raised over the issue of tower sharing and the amount of red tape, it takes to get through to share a tower with the state. Individual suggested that the SIEC designate a committee or agency to oversee these issues and expedite projects.
Response: Dave Collins - he will look into the matter and discuss it at the secretary level.

Question- Is there going to be a training course for radios offered statewide?
Answer- Pierce County is currently working on this possibility of the state buying the copyright and distributing to locals. Currently, program is 149 per person per sitting and the program is at the beta testing stage.

Question- How often will mutual aid channels change in the future as this is expensive to do all this reprogramming?
Answer: Carl Guse- This is the first time we have done this and have tried to make grant funding available to ease the burden.

After a short break there were no additional comments or questions and the meeting was adjourned.