

Kansas SIEC
Regular Meeting
September 29, 2008

Minutes

The Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee met in regular session in the KDOT Executive Conference Room, 700 S.W. Harrison, in Topeka. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present. Kent Koehler, Jimmy Reed, Tyler Brewer, Deb Miller, Col. Chris Stratmann (Proxy / Gen. Bunting), Terry Maple, Bob McLemore, Kerry McCue, Labette County Sheriff William Blundell (Proxy / Richard Old).

Others present. Walt Way (Johnson County Communications), Michele Abbot-Becker (Marion County Communications), Mary Messamore (Reno County Communications), Dwight Purtle (Johnson County Communications), Oscar Thomasson (Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office) Lt. Scott Herrington (KHP), Capt. John Eichkorn (KHP/HLS), Mr. Bret Rowe (KHP/HLS), Mr. Ed Geer (KDOT).

Call to order. The regular meeting of the Kansas SIEC was called to order by Kent Koehler, Chairperson.

Minutes. The minutes of the July 14, 2008 regular meeting were reviewed. Jimmy Reed indicated that a topic discussed in the July 14th meeting was not recorded. Reed had requested a review of the PSIC grant guidance to see if SIEC related travel expenses could be reimbursed. Jason Moses will add the omitted information to the minutes. Deb Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Tyler Brewer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (**Action #08-19**)

Coordinator's Report. Jason Moses presented a report on current activities. Moses reported that all PSIC projects have been submitted and are ready for review and action later in the meeting. The Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant (IECGP) project has been approved by DHS and is awaiting authorization to draw funding. All seven regions chose to fund the proposed IECGP training and exercise project. The KDOT-Motorola CSA has been restored, allowing for additional P-25 site conversions. Moses will meet with the Kansas Board of EMS on October 2nd to further discuss the conventional 800 MHz EMS repeaters. Kent Koehler asked about the status of the MOTOBRIDGE SOP's. Moses indicated that due to an issue concerning channel naming, the SOP's have not been completed. If action is taken by the SIEC in this meeting, the SOP's will be completed in the near-term.

Channel Standards. Moses discussed standards for the National Interoperability Channels. Channel names had been designated by the FCC when the channels were assigned for interoperability use. Recently, at least two other standards for naming and

usage have been developed. As many agencies are beginning to adopt the use of the Interoperability Channels, it has become important to choose a standard for Kansas. A set of standards developed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) are currently being adopted throughout the nation, including the Department of Homeland Security. Moses presented a copy of the NPSTC naming standards to the committee. Included in the materials was suggested naming of the Kansas proprietary VHF Low-Band Interoperability Channels. Discussion followed on various related topics including ANSI certification of the standards. The committee discussed the Interoperability Channels being programmed into equipment being purchased through a number of grant projects. Deb Miller made a motion to adopt the NPSTC Interoperability Channel naming standards, including the proposed VHF Low-Band names, as the statewide standard for Kansas. Jimmy Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-20)**

Jimmy Reed made a motion to request the SAA to provide grant guidance that any mobile and portable radio equipment purchased through future HSGP or PSIC grant projects must contain the channel capacity to program the National Interoperability Channels and that the National Interoperability Channels will be programmed at the time of purchase. Deb Miller seconded. Motion carries unanimously. **(Action #08-21)**

Recess. The committee went into a short recess beginning at 11:10 hours. The meeting resumed at 11:22.

911 Related Issues. Mr. Walt Way, Director of Johnson County Emergency Communications, discussed the need to preserve the existing 911 funding mechanisms in Kansas. Mr. Way indicated that current Kansas statutes that allow for taxation of both wireline and/or wireless telephones to support 911 and communications system funding will sunset in 2010. On July 1, 2010, Kansas law will no longer authorize collection of the wireless and VoIP enhanced grant fees, and will cause a significant reduction in the amount of 911 tax revenue from wireline telephones. This statewide reduction in 911 revenue will have an adverse impact upon the ability of small, medium, and large counties to maintain, upgrade, and modernize their emergency communication systems over the next 10 years. Mr. Way discussed a survey of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) concerning the projected funding needs of PSAPS to maintain their 911 and communications systems. Mr. Way also discussed technologies that must be considered in the near future including Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), data sharing, text-messaging, and On-Star. Without sustained funding, PSAP's will not have sufficient funding available to support either their current systems or potential future needs to meet public expectations. Mr. Way, representing the Kansas Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), requested support of an initiative to extend the current legislation by a period of 10 years, allowing the continued taxation of wireline and wireless telephones. The initiative also includes clarification of funding uses and requests that funds being generated by both wireless and wireline taxes be expended using the same standards. SIEC members discussed potential impacts of losing any 911 funding. Deb Miller made a motion to issue a resolution in support of the

proposed 911 legislation recommended by the Kansas Chapter of APCO. Tyler Brewer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Resolution #08-01)**

PSIC Project Review. Representatives of each PSIC project presented their projects to the committee for approval.

Jason Moses presented a project including funds from the Southwest, Northwest, North Central, South Central, and the State. The proposed project would complete the MOTOBRIDGE Interoperability Gateway (39 sites) statewide by September 2010. Discussion followed. Tyler Brewer made a motion to approve the MOTOBRIDGE project. Terry Maple seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-22)**

Jason Moses presented the Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) project. The STR was a requirement of the PSIC Grant. This project would add one P-25 trunked site to both of the KDOT COW's. In addition to the trunked sites, both COW's would get 40 P-25 trunking capable portables. The STR would also provide a cache of 10 P-25 trunking capable portables to each of the Regional Incident Management Teams. The 70 radio cache would be coordinated through the Adjutant General's Department. Tyler Brewer made a motion to approve the STR project. Kerry McCue seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-23)**

Labette County Sheriff William Blundell presented the project for the Southeast Region. Sheriff Blundell indicated that their entire project involved subscriber units on the Statewide P-25 trunking system. The project would provide each PSAP, EOC, and Hospital with a fixed station and antenna. Additionally, mobile and portable subscriber units will be deployed to Law Enforcement, Fire / Rescue, EMS, Public Health, and Emergency Management personnel. Discussion followed. Tyler Brewer made a motion to approve the Southeast Kansas project. Bob McLemore seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-24)**

Jason Moses presented the project on behalf of the Northeast Region. Moses indicated that the Northeast project involved subscriber units on the Statewide P-25 trunking system. The project would provide each PSAP, EOC, and Hospital with a fixed station, antenna, and installation. Additionally, 15 mobile and 10 portable subscriber units will be provided for each of the 23 counties in the region. Six portable subscriber units will be provided to each of the 4 Tribal Governments in the Region. Discussion followed. Projects developed from any balance of regional funds will be submitted to the SIEC for approval. Tyler Brewer made a motion to approve the Northeast project. Kerry McCue seconded. Motion carries unanimously. **(Action #08-25)**

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Oscar Thomasson presented the project for the South Central Region. Sgt. Thomasson indicated that the South Central project includes the MOTOBRIDGE site conversions in Marion and McPherson Counties and fixed subscriber units on the Statewide P-25 trunking system for each primary PSAP and EOC in the 19 county region. The balance of funds will be allotted to each county using a formula-based breakdown. Each county would be given the opportunity to obtain mobile

and portable radio equipment operating in various frequency bands and modes. Equipment would be chosen from an approved equipment list developed by the South Central Communications Sub-Committee. Any equipment purchased would contain the National Interoperability Channels for shared channel interoperability and to provide access to the MOTOBRIDGE system. Additionally, any 700/800 MHz equipment chosen would have to interoperate with the statewide P-25 trunking system, the Sedgwick County Communications System, and the proposed Butler County P-25 system. Moses and KHP / SAA staff was concerned that analog only radio equipment may not meet the PSIC grant guidance, which calls for technologically advanced and spectrum efficient equipment. Much discussion followed on grant guidance and project management. South Central project leaders will work with the SAA to determine project compliance with the PSIC Grant guidance. Deb Miller made a motion to approve the South Central project on the condition that grant management and the approved equipment list have been approved by the SAA with the assistance of the Interoperable Communications Coordinator. Kerry McCue seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-26)**

Dwight Purtle of Johnson County Emergency Communications presented the project for the Kansas City Region. The Kansas City project would provide an interzone link between the Independence Missouri and the Johnson County P-25 radio systems. The link will allow users to roam between the two systems seamlessly. PSIC funds from Missouri are also being used to fund this project. The balance of the funds will be used to purchase fixed P-25 trunking stations for mixed Hospitals, EOC's, and PSAP's. P-25 trunking capable subscriber units are being purchased for Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management agencies throughout the 3 county region. Chris Stratmann made a motion to approve the Kansas City Project. Deb Miller seconded. Motion carries unanimously. **(Action #08-27)**

Strategic Planning Session. Moses discussed the need to conduct a strategic planning session in order to update the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan. This session would include input from the Communications Advisory Committee. Moses proposed holding the session in Salina during the first part of December. It was the consensus of the committee to schedule the planning session. KHP will assist with reserving the room and meals.

Adjourn. With no further business before the committee, Terry Maple made a motion to adjourn. Deb Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #08-28)**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason R. Moses
Interoperable Communications Coordinator
Kansas Adjutant General's Department
Office of Emergency Communications

APPROVED:

Kent Koehler, Chairperson