

# WASHINGTON, ALLEGANY, GARRETT INTEROPERABILITY NETWORK WORKGROUP

## Minutes

<b>Meeting/Project Name:</b>	<b>Washington, Allegany, Garrett Interoperability Network Workgroup</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 July 2010
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am - 12:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Allegany County Department of Public Safety Headquarters
<b>Meeting Facilitator:</b>	Kevin Lewis, Washington County Emergency Services

## Agenda

- ✿ Presentation
- ✿ IPICS Status Update
- ✿ WAGIN Ribbon Cutting
- ✿ Interoperability Coordination Workshop
- ✿ Next Steps

## Attendees

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Craig Fetzer	State Highway Administration	Mark Fullerton	State Highway Administration / Skyline
Terry Cain	State Highway Administration	Brad Frantz	Garrett County Public Safety
Roger Bennett	Allegany County Department of Public Safety	Virginia Smith	Garrett County Public Safety
Dick DeVore	Allegany County Department of Public Safety	Curt Andrich	Interoperability PMO - MD
Dave Chapman	ARINC	Kevin Lewis	Washington County Emergency Services
Robert Anderson	ARINC	Michele King	S&S Planning and Design

## Presentation: 700 Megahertz (MHz) Interoperability Channels

Mr. Charles Bryson of RCC Consultants, Inc. presented information on the 700 Megahertz Interoperability Channels to the Workgroup. Several notable aspects pertaining to the 700 MHz Interoperability Channels were presented:

- ✿ With the FCC establishment of 700 MHz interoperability frequencies, a greater level of interoperability than the 800 MHz is provided. Recommended policies for the 700 MHz were formulated by a non-FCC Task Force;
- ✿ 700 MHz will be nationwide utilizing - \$293, however the 700 MHz does require Digital P25;
- ✿ The FCC 700 MHz utilizes: Frequencies: 799-805; Channels: 769-775;
- ✿ The 700 MHz does have propagation issues including sensitivity to frequencies used in adjoining states; it is based on 3-watt handheld radios, and terrain issues. Terrain differences cause difficulties for signal reception. The 700 MHz does excellent in flat terrains, such as the Eastern Shore. However, in mountainous areas signals are lost, therefore single site repeaters may be needed;
- ✿ There are 32 frequencies with only 2 calling for the 700 MHz. The conventional multi-channel repeaters are: 4 law enforcement, 4 EMS, 4 tactical, 4 fire and 6 other and;
- ✿ The 700 MHz will continue to develop as funding becomes available.

Mr. Bryson indicated that a questionnaire will be sent to Mrs. Virginia Smith, which will be distributed via email.

## IPICS Status Update

Mr. Robert Anderson, ARINC, provided the Workgroup with an updated status on the IPICS implementation. The IPIC implementation status is:

- ✿ **Dans Rock** (County & SHA): The tower was not accessible, however Program Low Band Radio and Program MTR2000 were installed;
- ✿ **Eagle Rock**: MOU is needed; VHF Repeater and Low Band Radio were installed;
- ✿ **Garrett County**: Console connection is needed, however phones were connected;
- ✿ **Washington County**: Installation of the PC is needed; Console is connected.

Additional configurations are needed to the following Operation Centers who have connectivity to IPICS:

- ✿ **MEMA:** Console Testing
- ✿ **Waterloo State Police Barrack:** Console IDC Installation
- ✿ **Hanover SHA:** Console Testing
- ✿ Multicast Verification is needed for all sites

Training for emergency personnel in all three Counties is scheduled to be completed in August.

**Craig Fetzer Transition** – A SHA Committee has been formed for WAGIN’s IPICS leadership: Philip Lazarus, Assistant Division Chief; Mark Fullerton, Senior Network Engineer; and Mike Dobeck, Network Engineer. This Committee will be the system administrators with assistance from ARINC. Additionally, Tom Miller will be the Project Manager.

## WAGIN Ribbon Cutting

The WAGIN Ribbon Cutting will take place at 414 Hudson Avenue, Allegany County Communication Center - Constitution Park. The following dates, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, were provided as options depending upon the availability of Governor O’Malley for the Ribbon Cutting. Ray Lehr is currently coordinating with the Governor’s office and will provide a finalized date to the workgroup.

Dave Chapman, ARINC, will provide the script for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Roger Bennett, Allegany County Department of Public Safety, will provide the PA system, podium, chairs, tables and the tent. The Press Release will be completed by the Governor’s Office and ARINC. Also, each County will provide local personnel and local apparatus for the ceremony.

## Interoperability Coordination Workshop

S&S provided the Workgroup with a sample registration form and brochure. Modifications will be made based on Workgroup review.

- ✿ **Kevin Lewis** – executing the contract with Rocky Gap Lodge for lodging, meals and conference space;
- ✿ **ARINC** – contacting Rocky Gap Lodge and making arrangement for the reception on Sunday
- ✿ **Craig Fetzer** – obtaining Keynote speaker for Sunday’s reception and meeting facilitator
- ✿ **S&S** – distributing conference registration packets to potential attendees.

## Next Steps

- ✿ Phase II – MOA - Transferring \$300,000.00 to WAGIN Workgroup (Washington County); each County will be allocated \$100,000.00
- ✿ WAGIN Workgroup will need to determine additional infrastructure and equipment needs.
- ✿ Next WAGIN Meeting: **16 August 2010, 10:00 am** at the Allegany County Department of Public Safety on PPG Road.