

WASHINGTON, ALLEGANY, GARRETT INTEROPERABILITY NETWORK WORKGROUP

Minutes

Meeting:	Washington, Allegany, Garrett Interoperability Network Workgroup
Date of Meeting:	21 January 2011
Time:	10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Location:	Allegany County Department of Public Safety Headquarters
Meeting Facilitator:	Kevin Lewis, Washington County Emergency Services

Discussion Topics

- ✿ **Review ICW II Synopsis, specifically Next Steps**
- ✿ **Status Update**
- ✿ **UHF Infrastructure Project Update – Tom Miller**
- ✿ **State Project Update – Curt Andrich**
- ✿ **Policies and Operational Procedures Document**
- ✿ **Governance Ratification – Signatures**
- ✿ **Next Steps**

Attendees

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Curt Andrich	MD Interoperability Project Management Office	Brad Frantz	Garrett County Public Safety
Susan Lee	Allegany County Department of Public Safety	Virginia Smith	Garrett County Public Safety
Roger Bennett	Allegany County Department of Public Safety	Kevin Lewis	Washington County Emergency Services
Dick DeVore	Allegany County Department of Public Safety	Charlie Summers	Washington County Emergency Services
Phil Lazarus	SHA	Dave Chapman	ARINC
George Small	SHA	Tom Miller	Skyline
Terry Cain	SHA	Michele King	S&S Planning and Design

Review ICW II Synopsis, specifically Next Steps

Overall Comments & Next Steps established from the ICW II with Pennsylvania were reviewed.

- Joel Landis, Somerset County, PA submitted the following information via email:
 - At the present time Somerset, Allegany and Garrett Counties are only able to transmit and receive to our individual county units. All other radio traffic being transmitted is silent to the individual counties. If both Allegany and Garrett Counties were to either share a PL or use no PL Somerset County could communicate back and forth across the border. The common channels are identified below.

Garrett County, MD Fire 2 155.955 PL 186.2 / Somerset County Local Government 155.955 PL 88.5

Allegany County, MD Fire Ground 2 33.680 PL 82.5 / Somerset County Fire Operations 33.680 PL 192.8

- Kevin Lewis provided the Workgroup with an update on the current progress Washington County has made. Washington County recently secured interoperability consolettes with Jefferson, Fulton and Berkley Counties, which allows each jurisdiction to connect to the UHF digital system. Additionally, 800 MHz consolettes have been programmed for connection with Frederick and Loudoun Counties. Washington County also installed a consolette for the West Virginia Regional interoperability talk groups at the Elliott Parkway PSAP.

Additionally, an overall comment concerning the use of cell sites-single poles in Garrett County was discussed. Curt Andrich stated the disadvantages of the cell sites-single poles:

- The OpenSky system works differently from the current system;
- Capacity for 2 channels only and;
- 4-5 hours of backup power.

Dave Chapman acknowledged the cell sites-single poles are augmentation tower sites for an overall main tower site. Mr. Andrich indicated that he would obtain and provide the cell sites – single poles coverage as well as the UHF coverage in Pennsylvania. Brad Frantz informed the Workgroup that Garrett County only conducted a cursory review; an in-depth analysis was not completed.

Status Update

In regards to Garrett County's progress, a R56 inspection by Motorola was conducted 19 January 2011 on the Route 135 Tower Site to ensure the electrical grounding standard was up to code. To date, results from the inspection have not been provided. Phil Lazarus stated that SHA will be accepting the tower within 3 weeks. Once accepted, Phil Lazarus will install a 4.9 g link at the site. Weather permitting; the link should be installed by the end of February. Additional work is needed for the TAC-Stack radio procurement and antennas. He also stated that he will be handling the microwave link for this site.

Allegany County provided an updated on the Westernport and Barton project sites. Each new tower site has received the necessary MDE environmental permits and is ready for the next phase, construction. The Savage tower site also received the MDE environmental permits and the local permit will be processed next week.

Washington County is installing an interoperability console patch for connection with Allegany County.

UHF Infrastructure Project Update – Tom Miller

Tom Miller provided the Workgroup with a preliminary UHF Infrastructure Project Proposal. Six sites were identified:

- Grantsville MIEMMS
- Martins Mountain SHA
- Thayerville WVTM
- Keyzers Ridge SHA
- Town Hill DNR
- Route 135 SHA

Necessary equipment and estimated cost for each site was provided. The total proposed price for the preliminary UHF Infrastructure Project totaled \$281,340.00. Each jurisdiction reviewed the proposal to determine the scope of priority. Allegany County determined the Town Hill DNR site had priority over the Martins Mountain site. While Garrett County prioritization is as follows: Route 135 SHA, Grantsville MIEMMS, Thayerville WVTM and finally Keyzers Ridge SHA. The preliminary proposal included sites within both Allegany and Garrett Counties; however Tom Miller will include additional project information specific for Washington County in the completed proposal. Tom Miller will complete the UHF Infrastructure Project Proposal and provide it to Michele King by 28 January 2011. The completed Proposal will then be distributed to the Executive Committee; a conference call has been scheduled for 3 February 2011 at 10:00 am to determine where the funding will be utilized. During the interim, Kevin Lewis will consult with Washington County's procurement to determine the best course of action on grant expenditures and procurement procedures.

Additionally, Kevin Lewis commented on the WAGIN repeater located at Elliott Parkway. This repeater causes 5 TAC-Stack sites to be lost when enabled. Washington County needs the ability to control this repeater. Dave Chapman consulted with Rob Anderson about this issue and will work with Washington County to demonstrate the proper procedure for disabling this feature. The repeater mode is programmed in the IPICS system.

State Project Update – Curt Andrich

The State has contracted Motorola for the 700 MHz project. The Notice to Proceed was issued in December 2010 for Region 1A (Delaware to Baltimore). Currently the State and Motorola are conducting site visits at existing towers that will be utilized within Region 1A. It is projected that Region 1A will be completed within 24 months of the NTP. Work within the Western Region, Region 4, is expected to begin in four-five years. Mr. Andrich indicated that State interest in this project is only at street level, if additional coverage is needed, it will be the responsibility of the individual Counties to provide.

Policies and Operational Procedures Document

Dave Chapman will provide information from the IPCIS Training Manual for inclusion in the Policies and Operational Procedures Manual. However, with the operation policies still being required, it was decided that an Operation Manager was needed.

Governance Ratification – Signatures

An updated signed Governance Ratification was executed during the WAGIN Workgroup meeting. A signed copy was given to each jurisdiction.

Next Steps

- ✿ Tom Miller: Completed UHF Infrastructure Project Proposal due **28 January 2011**
- ✿ Executive Committee Conference Call : **3 February 2011 at 10:00 am**