

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June 16, 2011

RIEMA Headquarters

Cranston, RI

Attendees:

Chief J. David Smith, RIEMA

Gina Caruolo, RI Department of Corrections

Joe Poccia, RI Department of Environmental Management

Jeffrey Sevens, RI Department of Health

Joseph A. Bucci, RI Department of Transportation

Lt. T. Cullinan, East Providence Fire Department

Major Joe Raulinaitis, FDA, HHS

Ron Provost, Motorola

Joe McGarry, Providence Communications

Mike Walsh, RIEMA

Lt. Karen Pinch, RI State Police

Brian Glancy,

Anthony Zarlenga, New England Ambulance

Paul Laflamme, RIPTA

Chief J. David Smith called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Review and approval of last meeting's minutes.- There were no changes or corrections. Motion to approve minutes made by Joe Poccia; seconded by Jeff Stevens. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- RIPTA is applying again this year and one of their proposals is to support DOT to get onto the system full time. An effort is being made to identify other funding sources. According to Mr. Laflamme, RIPTA will be testing a sub-fleet of buses on the system. RIPTA will be fully operational on the system in February of 2013.
- Another of the goals of the ICC was to add three channels statewide for HPD to allow for a bigger pipe and better capacity.
- Grants Overview: Deadline for submission of grants is the end of this week (June 17th). In the previous grant cycle, there was money to put the beta site up at CCRI in Warwick and it is ready to go. Lt.

Pinch will be putting a meeting together with the appropriate people in reference to connecting with **RILETS**.

Funding of one million dollars that was proposed by Director Smith was agreed upon at the stake holder's meeting. Seven-hundred thousand dollars was drawn from the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) money, and \$300k from the LETP side. There is a mandatory 20% (\$1.7 million) to be spent on the LETP. Discretionary considerations are few. There is still money left over from previous grants. Of the \$1 million:

\$300K – is earmarked for law enforcement

\$450K – to be used to move the Burrillville site to the water tower in Harrisville

Also:

\$850 – remaining from other grants is to be combined and targeted towards building a site in Gloucester, Harmony or Smithfield.

In regards to the IECG grants, those grants have been extended until November 30, 2011. The balance in the 2008 grant is \$178,383; the balance in the 2009 grant is \$199,618. It is unclear if there will be any further extension for the 2008 grant money, but another six months may be possible for the 2009 grant monies. There also may be new money coming out of Washington in the near future.

The International Association of Emergency Managers will lobby Congress and is looking for examples of how SHSP money has been used from day to day. Jeff Stevens suggested that Director Smith contact the IAEM to share information.

Spreadsheet for projects (investment information and spending plans) will be presented at the next meeting for member's information and review. Included should be which communities have gone 'primary' and what the plans are for the next fiscal year.

Region 19 meeting in New Hampshire

Mr. McGarry and Mr. Glancy attended the Region 19 meeting last week in New Hampshire. "700" applications from New York had to be dealt with because they would interfere with Connecticut. As far as 800, there were no

new applications. Massachusetts submitted several applications to enhance their system in central Massachusetts. Those applications were discussed, along with how Massachusetts's system might interfere with Connecticut's system. A representative from Motorola was present at the meeting to answer questions and explain the engineering.

Mr. Zarwanski was again notified that members of RI's ICC members were still not on the invitation list to the Region 19 meetings. Mr. Glancy has emailed another list of RI ICC members to Mr. Zawanski. Mr. Glancy will follow up with Mr. Zarwanski.

Rhode Island is the only New England state that does not have an APCO coordinator. Gregory Riddle, Rich Murgon and two APCO coordinators will be asked for their support to get Rhode Island a state coordinator.

Project Updates

North Kingstown: to start or finish at the middle of July. Problem with ordering of the shelter which put the project six weeks behind. Two weeks into the ordering of the shelter, so should be only another four weeks. Generator is ready for delivery. Told shipper to hold for another month.

Middletown: purchase order has been finished and the tower has been ordered. Construction will begin soon. Hopefully July 1st will have the purchase order for the site itself. It will be in the fire department building. Running electricity to correct existing wiring problems.

East Providence: should have a quote within the week. Can't put it in the system until July 1st. Mike Walsh is meeting with Mr. Beliveau on Friday @ 9:30 at the site. Should be up and running around September 1st.

High Performance Data: Motorola still needs permission from State Police to connect the two systems together. Once permission is gained, can start installing the mobiles in the vehicles.

Woonsocket Police Department: in the process of installing mobile radios. Should be running on 800 by Monday (fully). Training piece has been made especially for them so their training officer can train their men.

Johnston: gave Johnston a UASI 5500 console that came from Cranston. They purchased the other console. As soon as the console is installed, an installation of radios will be done and Johnston will be running on 800.

Mr. Laflamme asked what was involved in going statewide with three channels, including the estimated costs on top of what RIPTA is implementing. It was explained that a grant is being requested to upgrade sites having only two radios to three. Mr. Laflamme also requested a meeting with Chief Smith, Mike Walsh and RIPTA's consultant to talk about the HPD implementation. RIPTA will need help from the state on site access, permits, zoning, etc.

Tiverton Police Department has 5500 in place (from North Providence). They are in the process of installation. Once done, they will receive the radios they have asked for.

Johnston and North Providence are on the system. Now that there are ten channels, the fire departments can be brought onto the system.

Blogs, scan groups, lists: should we – and how - do we reach out to them to counteract misinformation and misconceptions being disseminated by bloggers concerning RISON and interoperability capabilities. Suggested that key people on bloggers be invited to a forum to educate them, and help them to become advocates whereby they can demystify and disseminate better information on their blogs.

Update on Motorola Training Piece:

We are waiting for information from Sherrie Martin. Need quote to add additional "train the trainers." Suggested that each agency identify who will be the trainer and put a list together.

New Business:

Letter drafted by Gina Caruolo on sustaining the ICC: to whom is it going? Letter should be reviewed, edited, and distributed again to ICC members.

Dan Riley of the House Finance Committee is supportive of this committee and RISON and can be an advocate.

Performance and Accountability:

We are trying as best we can to explain why the ICC, and RISON as a project, is important. An international company has described our group here as being one of the best they have seen, and they are now attempting to document the reasons why we are among the best. This company wants to look at each agency's program-oriented budget to answer this question. An overview narrative on performance and accountability is being created. We hope to include the letter drafted by Gina Caruolo in that narrative.

Next meeting:

July 21st @ 9 a.m.

Moved to adjourn: Jeff Stevens. Seconded by Gina Caruolo. Unanimous consent to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.