

Kansas SIEC
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2010

Minutes

The Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee met in regular session in the TAG Conference Room, 2800 S.W. Topeka Blvd, in Topeka. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present. Kent Koehler, Jimmy Reed, Tyler Brewer, Chris Stratmann, Terry Maple, Kerry McCue, Bob McLemore, Cole Presley, Alison Mueller, and Ed Geer / proxy for Deb Miller.

Others present. Scott Ekberg (KS-OEC), and JL Ellis (KS-OEC), Scott Harrington (KHP), John Eichkorn (KHP), and Walt Way (JOCO).

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

Minutes. The minutes of the February 2nd and February 5th, 2010 meetings were reviewed. With no additions or corrections, Tyler Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jimmy Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(Action #10-06)

Next Generation 911. Mr. Walt Way, Chairman of the Federal E911 Grant Project Oversight Committee, briefed the SIEC regarding Next Generation 911. The briefing included the history of the NG911 initiative, national and state-level initiatives, and the status of Next Generation 911 plans in Kansas. Members discussed data types to be shared, potential use of existing infrastructures, and the need for cross coordination and education.

Project presentation. Mr. Scott Ekberg presented two projects to the committee for review. Jason Moses indicated that these projects were planned to be coordinated by the KS-OEC, and as such, was seeking SIEC endorsement prior to moving forward. If endorsed, these projects would be proposed to the Regional Homeland Security Councils for funding as statewide projects. The proposed projects had recently been presented to the Kansas Chapter of APCO and had obtained endorsements from that organization.

The first project presented was a Deployable Incident Communications Center. Ekberg indicated that although many deployable communications assets exist in Kansas, there is no such equipment to support the needs of an end-user in a communications center. The proposed project would create or provide support to a communications center during a disaster response or during a facility transition. The bulk of the project would provide a mobile multi-position radio console and IP telephone network. Tyler Brewer

made a motion to provide SIEC endorsement for the Deployable Incident Communications Center project. Alison Mueller seconded. Members discussed maintenance and deployment policies. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #10-07)**

Mr. Ekberg presented the second project consisting of a Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT). Although many function-based emergency response groups exist throughout Kansas, there is no such formal group for emergency response telecommunicators on a statewide basis. Formation of a TERT would provide a structured response by specially trained, locally employed, telecommunicators during a time of need. Mr. Ekberg also presented a draft copy of the TERT operations manual for review. Jason Moses indicated that there would be little financial burden at the regional level as most of the expense associated with such a team would focus on training. There are already training dollars available to provide the appropriate training to members. Tyler Brewer made a motion to provide SIEC endorsement of the formation of a Kansas TERT. Cole Presley seconded. Terry Maple suggested that the project also be coordinated with other groups such as the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR). Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #10-08)**

Digital Standards. Jason Moses addressed the committee concerning standards for the digital mode of operation of public-safety radio systems in Kansas. With the ongoing release of new communications equipment that utilizes a digital mode of operation, there have been many standards marketed. Many of these standards are proprietary to individual manufacturers and will not interoperate with equipment from another manufacturer. Moses discussed the APCO Project 25 (P-25) standard for digital radio operations. The P-25 standard is an “open standard” available to all manufacturers and was developed by public-safety for public-safety use. Mr. Moses indicated that many agencies that are seeking an upgrade to digital operations were being marketed various proprietary digital radio systems that would likely not interoperate while in the digital mode. With these situations potentially compounding an agencies ability to interoperate, Moses suggested that the SIEC formally adopt the P-25 public-safety standard for digital radio operations in Kansas. This formal adoption would provide greater focus for agencies and vendors seeking upgrades in the future. Much discussion followed. Kerry McCue made a motion to recognize and adopt APCO Project 25 as the public-safety standard for digital radio operations in Kansas. Tyler Brewer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #10-09)**

Narrowbanding. Jason Moses informed the committee that recent articles in various publications had been pointing public-safety agencies toward Homeland Security funds to pay for narrowbanding upgrades. He had recently been contacted by a couple of regional representatives inquiring if these are allowable projects. Moses asked the committee if they had a stance on the issue and, if so, what requirements must be met. It was the consensus of the committee that it should be left to the individual regions to consider narrowbanding projects. Discussion followed on equipment standards for future grant funded radio projects and the need ensure long-term operability and interoperability of the equipment. The committee also discussed the forward migration of this equipment to a digital mode of operation. Tyler Brewer made a motion that all future Kansas public-

safety radio equipment purchased through the Homeland Security Grant Program(s) must be capable or immediately upgradeable to the P-25 standard. Terry Maple seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #10-10)**

Adjourn. With no further business before the committee, Tyler Brewer made a motion to adjourn. Alison Mueller seconded. Motion Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned. **(Action #10-11)**

Respectfully submitted,



Jason R. Moses
Interoperable Communications Coordinator
Kansas Adjutant General's Department
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APPROVED: _____

Kent Koehler, Chairperson