

**Virginia OEMS
Communications Committee Meeting
1001 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23059
May 14, 2010
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Pokey Harris, Ken Crumpler, Richard Rubino, Emily Totten, Connie Purvis, Constance McGeorge, Mike Crockett, Paul Hoppes

Members attending by Teleconference: None.

OEMS Staff: Wanda Street, Michael Berg, Jim Nogle, Amanda Davis

Guests: Vic Buisset, Steve Ennis, Wayne Peer, Billy Altman, Bruce Edwards

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order:	The Committee Chair, Mrs. Pokey Harris, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
Approval of the Minutes dated November 12, 2009:	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was moved by Richard Rubino and seconded by Emily Totten. For the record, the February 12, 2010 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.</p> <p>Bruce Edwards explained that he approached the Board of Health and asked them to endorse a letter to be sent to the Governor for him to pass on to the FOIA Council to review how we currently meet. More effective and cost efficient meetings can be held by telephone conferencing. Bruce explained a way of meeting without actually meeting. If Pokey has an issue she wants the committee to be aware of, she can send out an email to everyone. Those that received the email can only respond back to Pokey but not reply to everyone else on the email list. If three or more people are engaged in a conversation, it is considered a meeting.</p> <p>Bruce is also encouraging all committees to have a public comment period on their agendas as well as unfinished business in lieu of old business. Only the chair can bring up unfinished business.</p>	The minutes were approved with no further discussion.
Committee Chair Report (Mrs. Pokey Harris) -	<p>The Chair spoke briefly about narrowbanding and stated that Paul Hoppes will be doing a presentation later in the meeting and Vic Buisset will cover the VDEM vehicle capabilities.</p> <p>Interoperable High Band Portable Radios Huge amounts of grant requests have been received from EMS agencies. They are starting to realize that they have to be narrowband compliant. Unfortunately, there are still many who aren't aware. While talking with Gary Brown, Pokey thought that this needed to be addressed possibly through the RSAF grant program, though not funding 100 percent of the costs. Pokey would like Amanda to make sure that narrowband radios could be covered under the \$1.5 million DHS grant. Amanda believes that the grant is written broad enough to cover the radios.</p>	

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	<p>Ken explained that all DERA patient transport vehicles that are licensed in the Commonwealth would be provided one VHF High Band Portable Radio with a charger. The radio would be preprogrammed with 155.205 and other VHF high band frequencies. The agencies would be responsible for maintenance.</p> <p>There was much discussion about radio system issues such as funding, licensing, etc.</p> <p>There are two issues to deal with: Interoperability and Narrowbanding.</p> <p>A motion was made to the committee proposing to support the grant for the purchase of high band radios with the understanding that some licensing issues need to be addressed.</p> <p>An addendum to the motion was made by the Chair stating that the committee will also look at addressing the narrowbanding issue with the grant funding that was specifically requested for interoperability.</p> <p>Connie Purvis stated that on May 28 a Fire Programs grant becomes available and localities are encouraged to apply. It is not only for fire departments.</p> <p>Pokey stated that when seeking grants, some of the localities are separating the EMD protocols/applications and the training. Encourage the agencies to bring them together as a system and not separate them.</p>	<p>A motion was made proposing to support the purchase of high band radios with the understanding that some licensing issues need to be addressed.</p> <p>Favor = 7 Oppose = 0</p> <p>An addendum to the above motion was made to address the narrowbanding issue with grant funding that was specifically requested for interoperability.</p> <p>Favor = 7 Oppose = 0</p>
<p>OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):</p>	<p>Louisa County had their EMD Reaccreditation. Ken was impressed with their training and QA/QI. It was well organized.</p> <p>Ken & Amanda will attend the spring APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference May 19-21 and Ken will teach a S.T.A.R.T. Triage for 911 class at 1 p.m. next Thursday.</p> <p>Ken is continuing to work with CICO on interoperability issues. The SIEC met on Wednesday and all of the meetings will be held at OEMS.</p> <p>FARC – Ken reviews all of the grant communications equipment requests that are submitted. He has to ensure they are narrowband compliant.</p>	
<p>Committee Member & Other OEMS Updates:</p>	<p>Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator’s Office (CICO) – Constance McGeorge</p> <p>Constance stated that obviously with a new Governor comes a new fresh start. Also have a new Homeland Security Advisor. With regards to grants, they have submitted an \$18 million DHS grant request for the state. They don’t know the status of the grant yet, but will inform everyone when notified. A State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) meeting was held on Wednesday and it went well. Still working to get the 2009 baseline survey completed. They received over 70 responses</p>	<p>Ken will forward the CICO survey to the Regional</p>

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	<p>and are still missing a large number of localities. Please encourage them to fill out the survey. Ken will forward the survey to the Regional Councils so they can encourage the localities to complete it.</p> <p>OEMS Regulation & Compliance – Michael Berg The public comment period for the proposed regulations is closed. There is a work session scheduled for June 8 for the Regulation and Policy committee to review the public comments submitted and make recommendations to OEMS. Michael asked the committee to review Section 760 (pages 63-66) of the EMS Regulations regarding communications. It is confusing the way it is currently written. He encourages your participation on June 8 and welcomes recommendations from the committee.</p> <p>Current Communications Issues – Paul Hoppes The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a notice concerning cell towers – WT Docket No. 10-88 – 2004 and 2006 Biennial Regulatory Reviews—Streamlining and Other Revisions of Parts 1 and 17 of the Commission’s Rules Governing Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures. It was released April 20, 2010 and is open for 60 days.</p> <p>The FCC has also released a White Paper Analyzing Public-Safety Broadband Costs (4/26/10). For the Seybold article, go to http://radioresource.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=5545. The white paper is titled “A Broadband Network Cost Model: The Basis for Public Funding Essential to bringing Nationwide Interoperable Communications to America’s First Responders.” To view the full white paper study or the above docket, visit www.fcc.gov.</p>	<p>Councils so they can encourage the localities to complete it.</p>
Unfinished Business:	None.	
New Business:	<p>a) Presentation from Paul Hoppes & Vic Buisset (VDEM) regarding FCC regulations and frequency issues: This PowerPoint came about because Constance had a RPAC-I meeting which discussed some of the frequency issues. Paul’s presentation is categorized by regions and gives an overview of the frequencies being used in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The statewide 155.205 frequency has 151 licensed jurisdictions using it and only 7 hospitals. The Hospital Emergency Ambulance Radio (HEAR) 155.340 has 133 licensed jurisdictions using it and approximately 40 hospitals. The 155.280 frequency has 41 jurisdictions using it and 11 hospitals. Paul would like to compare all the hospitals in the state to his frequency list to see the gaps.</p> <p>Vic discussed the Virginia Department Emergency Management (VDEM) Mobile Command Post Vehicles and all of the capabilities.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. The next meeting is August 13, 2010 at 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA.	