

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Richmond Marriott Short Pump
4240 Dominion Boulevard
August 3, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
John Korman , Chair	Mike Keefe , VDEM	Ken Crumpler	Dreama Chandler, GAB, Infrastructure Coordinator
Richard Rubino , Member-at-Large (Legal)		Wanda Street	Shawn Talmadge, OPSHS
Hershel Kreis , NENA		Sam Burnette	Tom Crabbs, OPSHS
Derrick Ruble , Tazewell County 911			
Lewis Cassada , VITA			
Melissa Wood , Fredericksburg PD			
Tracey McLaurin , LFEMS Reg. Council			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order & Introductions:	The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by the chair, John Korman. Mr. Korman thanked Richard Rubino for covering the meeting for him last quarter.	
Approval of the minutes dated May 4, 2018:	A motion was made to approve the May 4, 2018 minutes. Mr. Rubino made a friendly amendment to the minutes because the May minutes incorrectly stated that John Korman was present; however, he was not in attendance. The minutes were approved as amended.	The minutes were approved as amended.
Committee Chair Report (John Korman):	<p>Mr. Korman congratulated Melissa Wood on her new job at VITA. She will begin next week. Upon Gary Critzer's departure from the committee, his recommendation was that his seat be filled by a VHHA Representative. Charlotte Tyson is the VHHA representative on the Advisory Board and John will draft a letter to the Executive Committee requesting that VHHA have a seat on the committee and nominating Ms. Tyson to fill the seat.</p> <p>John welcomed Mr. Talmadge and Mr. Crabbs to the meeting. Ken recommended to John that the committee introduce themselves to the guests.</p> <p>Mr. Talmadge gave an overview the Homeland Security Team who's focus is on Critical Infrastructure Protection. They are growing and expanding the team with a couple more positions soon to become available. Mr. Talmadge also spoke of completing the COMLINC survey. If you have not completed it, please see either of them before leaving today. The next thing is technical assistance for a State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), which will happen in the next 12 months and expect an invite to join the team. There will be a SCIP workshop to publish the Communications strategy for Virginia. We will refresh the 2015 version to make sure that it</p>	John will draft a letter to the Executive Committee within 30 days requesting a VHHA seat on the committee.

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	<p>makes sense. There will also be an exercise in about 12 months to validate and test the SCIP. With lack of government funding streams, we are forced to go back to the basics. We have the ability to put interoperability frequencies into our radios, depending on which band you have in your vehicles. We have to leverage low-cost, no-cost solutions that are easy. As a state, we have to decide on solutions so that everyone in the first response community can understand their role and how to operate effectively together. Mr. Talmadge is concerned about budgets and radio caches.</p> <p>Mr. Crabbs stated that he has learned over the past three weeks that this is a stakeholder driven organization. He also learned that the interoperability continuum remains sound and is valid. He agrees that we need to get back to the basics and build from the ground up. There is a lot of sustainment in the future. The kickoff meeting is Tuesday for the COMLINC survey. You may join by telephone if you desire to attend. Derrick will be receiving an invitation as an R-PAC leader. We also have the broadband opportunities and mysteries to tackle as we move forward.</p> <p>Ken explained that the Office of EMS has a grant program called the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) and many types of communications equipment can be purchased with it, you don't have to be a rescue squad. A while back, some of the regulations were changed that if RSAF grant funding purchased radio equipment, it had to be programmed with IFOG interoperability channels relative to Fire and EMS. He wanted to make sure Mr. Talmadge and Mr. Crabbs were aware of that.</p> <p>The committee also discussed the STARs radio channels and its capabilities.</p> <p>Mr. Korman shared information with the APCO Board about what was discussed at the last two meetings to engage APCO/NENA on serving the 911 community better and getting information out to their general membership. The next APCO/NENA Conference is October 23-27 in Roanoke.</p> <p>Mr. Korman also shared that by January 31, 2019 the American Heart Association will require the use of instrumented directive feedback devices or manikins in all American Heart Association courses. All agencies which follow AHA protocols will have to upgrade their training materials as far as manikin use for demonstrations and exercises. This may be another RSAF grant funding opportunity.</p>	
<p>OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):</p>	<p>OEMS PSAP EMD Accreditation review/update – Ken Crumpler Sam Burnette, Ken's supervisor, has tasked Ken with updating the PSAP Accreditation standards. He read the email sent from Sam concerning the accreditation process. Ken, Derrick, Hershel and Sam will work together to answer the questions posed in the email. They will present their update at the November meeting for voting by the committee.</p>	

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	<p>Richard made a motion to form a task group to work on the PSAP EMD Accreditation update. The motion was seconded by Melissa Wood. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The task group will be called the PSAP EMD Accreditation Workgroup. This is more of an internal process for the Office of EMS for better maintenance and management of the program.</p> <p>Communications Committee membership review/update – Ken Crumpler Mr. Korman will reach out to the Advisory Board to fill VACO & VML seats on the committee. Melissa and Lewis will decide who will remain on the committee since Melissa will soon be working for VITA also.</p> <p>Mr. Talmadge also stated that it is okay for Derrick Ruble to continue on the committee as the State Interoperability Executive Committee/Coordinator’s Office (SIEC/CO) Representative. He also stated that as an R-PAC chair is as relevant as a paid position. It was suggested by Sam Burnette that a written document from his office is crafted stating this.</p> <p>Ken announced that he has accepted a position at the Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office as the Motor Cycle Safety Program Coordinator. His last day at OEMS is September 7, 2018; however, he will be at symposium teaching a class. It has been an honor serving on this committee. We have done a lot of great things, with over 50% of the 911 centers becoming EMD accredited. He has enjoyed his time at OEMS and is a passionate motorcyclist with scars to prove it (he calls them asphalt tattoos). Upon his departure, any questions or concerns will be directed to Sam Burnette who will take over his duties until the position is filled.</p> <p>VITA ISP Update – Lewis Cassada The VITA ISP staff and 911 group has moved from Chester to the 16th Floor at the Monroe Building downtown. The large Committee and Board meetings will be held in Chester for the remainder of the year. The Northrup Grumman/SAIC (high level VITA) takeover day is August 17. This is complicated and will be a big transition. Northrup Grumman is laying off 400 people on the 17th and they will be rehired on the 18th by SAIC.</p> <p>The big change with 911 is that there is traditionally a grant program, now they are calling it a funding program. Mr. Cassada explained the deployment schedules and other specifics of the new funding program. He also stated that the PSAP Education Program (PEP) grant funding amounts have doubled. Stephanie McGuffen will be staying with VITA and will become an Operations Manager. Melissa Wood will be replacing Sam Keys. VITA will also be selecting a candidate for the GIS Manager position.</p>	<p>Mr. Talmadge will create a written statement authorizing Derrick Ruble to fill this seat on the committee.</p>

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	<p>APCO Pro-CHRT Committee – Derrick Ruble Derrick reported that the City of Franklin will be submitting an RSAF Grant request for their EMD implementation. There are a few others as well. Pro-CHRT finalized their letter/report of the APCO conference. Pro-CHRT is doing well and moving forward.</p> <p>FirstNet – Shawn Talmadge Tom will be the statewide interoperability coordinator and the single point of contact for FirstNet. Virginia is the first state to opt-in. It is a nationwide solution designed by us. It is a federal network and AT&T is the contractor. It is an opportunity for 4G and 5G shortly. There are a number of Virginia municipalities already using FirstNet. Fairfax is using it and saving a ton of money. Their buses are even going on FirstNet push to talk and that is a \$30 million savings. Hampton Roads and the City of Richmond are going onto FirstNet. It is on statewide contract and he encourages everyone to look at it. He admits that there are some coverage issues. It is an opportunity for access to disaster response capabilities particularly in rural areas and with the use of drones. They are also looking at where to stage the assets; drones, cell phone towers on wheels, etc. If you have any concerns or questions, please let us know. We routinely meet with the regional representatives of FirstNet, so if there are any issues or questions you need answered let us know.</p> <p>FCC Updates – Richard Rubino There is a freeze on applications for the use of T-Band frequencies (470 to 512 MHz) due to the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 mandate. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has made some proposals to ease the freeze. This will be released for public comment if the FCC decides to move forward with it. Be on the lookout for more information on this if it affects your jurisdictions or constituents.</p> <p>As for FCC enforcement, Temple University and Ontario Christian School were cited for improper use of their land mobile stations.</p> <p>Also, do not forget to check your towers to ensure that they are marked and lighted for aviation safety. The FCC has been on a big push for this for almost 30 years after an incident in North Carolina.</p> <p>This was discussed at the last meeting about unlicensed operation, the FCC is also going after the property owner. The property owner is also liable.</p> <p>The last item is that Representative Collins out of New York has introduced legislation to prevent states from diverting 911 fees that are collected from customers on their phone bills. This may not</p>	

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	be a problem in Virginia, but it is definitely a problem in other states where they are able to set their own definition of what is covered for the cost of the 911 fee.	
New Business:	SWIC/SIEC Introduction & Presentation – Shawn Talmadge, Thomas Crabbs This was discussed after the introductions during the committee chair report.	
Unfinished Business:	None.	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m. 2018 Meeting Schedule: November Meeting in Norfolk (Date and exact location to be determined).	

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