

WISCOM Subcommittee Meeting

May 24, 2023
12:30 pm

Meeting held via TEAMS

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting Convened by Chairperson Kesler at 12:30 pm.
2. Roll call: Quorum was established with 13 of 22 members present.

Members present: Joseph Baasch, Darren Chappuies, Patrick Deethardt, Steven Fenske, Kirk Gunderson, Grant Hones, Keith Hurlbert, Keith Kesler, Christopher Lehner, Dan Miller, Logan Milton, Marshall Ogren, Chris Reynolds, Tim Slater, Jan Victorson, Logan Zinsli.

Members excused: Tim Halbach, Torre Peterson-Waldvogel (deployed), Dan Weber.. .
Members absent: Katherine Johnson, Tyler Tuttle, Ben Warrington.

3. Meeting Minutes:
Review and Approval of the January 25, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion to approve the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes as presented by Baasch, seconded by Lehner. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

5. Old Business:

- A. Questions received concerning WISCOM upgrade – Keith Kesler.

Funding will be needed for subscriber units on upgraded WISCOM. Education needed about potential vendors for subscriber radios that will work on upgraded WISCOM. We now have an EFJohnson system; subscriber radios are not vendor specific.

- B. WISCOM Outreach – Keith Kesler

North Central Fire Chiefs, an organization covering much of northern Wisconsin, had a recent meeting. The question of radio communications statewide came up. Spontaneous education on WISCOM and its potential uses was conducted. Illustrates the need for new and ongoing education throughout the state.

A senate public hearing on SB 218 was held yesterday at the Capitol. SB 218 is proposed legislation that would fund up to 80% of the cost of subscriber radios on the upgraded WISCOM system. Juneau, Douglas and Bayfield counties had individuals who testified in favor of the bill. Encouragement was given to the committee to look at reducing the local match required (currently 20%). The companion assembly bill is AB 219.

6. New Business:

A. WISCOM RFP Update – OEC Staff

Erik Viel was unable to attend the meeting.

B. L3Harris presentation

L3Harris made a presentation related to the development of the upgraded WISCOM system.

An informational meeting has been held in Wausau for current daily users. Information was also presented at SIMCOM Conference.

L3Harris will design the system for 95% mobile coverage statewide. Current daily user areas will be designed for 95% portable at the hip coverage. Extensive “leaf on” testing is being planned.

L3Harris is also designing the system for potential expansion and redundancy.

C. OEC Update – OEC Staff.

Meridith presented WISCOM system data. There has been an increase in “busys” (5 to 6 to 1000) but a decrease in push to talks (PTT). Consistently in the top WISCOM sites for airtime are Parkland (DG), Superior (DG) and Hayward (SW).

New users include;

NOHVIS

Bear Creek First Responders

Sauk Fire District

Patrol trails statewide

Outagamie County

D. UPDATE ON MEMBER TERMS – Keith Kesler

Subcommittee members whose terms will soon expire will receive an email from OEC. 03-25-2022 – Dan Weber and Kirk Gunderson.

05-27-2023 – Joseph Baasch, Keith Kesler, and Jan Victorson.

07-2023 – Keith Hurlbert, Tim Slater, and Tyler Tuttle.

Current subcommittee members do need to reapply. Include as agenda item for next meeting. Applications currently received will be forwarded to the IC for action.

E. FFP (Forest Fire Protection) Grant – Keith Kesler

Kesler talked with the DNR about WISCOM and radio grant requirements. P25 requirement has been added to the grant wording. Discussion.

Motion by Baasch, seconded by Gunderson that the state grants for communications equipment include the requirement to become active on the statewide system including application and assignment of subscriber ID. Motion carried.

F. WISCOM and LMR Subcommittees

Consensus that it is important for the LMR and WISCOM Subcommittees to continue as separate subcommittees but meet jointly periodically. In addition, Keith Hurlbert was assigned as the liaison to the LMR subcommittee to assure ongoing communications.

G. PUBLIC OFFICIALS TRAINING – Keith Kesler

The Wisconsin Public Records law and Ethics for Public Officials is mandatory online training for subcommittee members annually. Please take note and complete as soon as possible.

H. SCIP GOALS

A work group has been formed to begin development of tasks assigned to the WISCOM Subcommittee.

I. Future activities.

No specific activities identified.

7. Future Agenda items:

Please contact Keith Kesler (khkbrule@yahoo.com) with agenda items for the next meeting.

8. Next meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for July 26th, 12:30 meeting time. Location to be determined.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Joe Baasch, seconded by Sheriff Miller, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Victorson