



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes (Regular)

DATE/TIME: March 13, 2024 – 10:00AM

LOCATION: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)
4747 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Hts.

ATTENDING VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

NAME	Present	ASSOCIATION	ALTERNATE	Present
A/C Jim Health	X	Chairman		
Lisa Raffurty	X	Vice Chair		
Randy Kimbro	X	Southwest Radio COG	Tom Sullivan	
Brad Handke	X	City of Cleveland	Courtney Newman	
Anthony Luke	X	City of Cleveland	Brad Englehart	
Cmdr. Brian McEntee		City of Cleveland	Phil DaVila	X
Jacquelynn Costa	X	CECOMS	Nick Dolbin	
Mark Christie		Cuyahoga County EMA	Kevin Friis	X
Jill Smialek		Cuyahoga County PSJS	Nancy Kolcan	X
Chief Papesh	X	Fire	Chief Rega	
Chief Schepp		Fire	Chief Carcioppolo	X
VACANT		LE – Municipal	VACANT	
Capt. Leff	X	LE – Non-Municipal	Sgt. Keeper	
Lt. Pat Devlin	X	LE – Sheriff	VACANT	
Chief Elliott		MARCS User Group	Chief Carroll	X
Dillon Crouse	X	MARCS User Group	VACANT	
George Balasko	X	City of Parma	VACANT	
Chief Lasky		City of Parma	VACANT	
Nick DiCicco	X	Regional Dispatch	Emily Joseph	
Ron Barlow		Regional Dispatch	Kristina Eich	
Mike Dever		Public Works	Bryan Hitch	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lezlie White, Kyle Jamison, John Poret, Brad Englehart, Larry Tafe, Tom Sullivan, Jordan Fisher, Chris Minek, Dale Merchant, Chief Martin Stemple, Joe Patalon, Chris Weil, Matt Reinke, Steven Rega, Aaron Kyser, Christene Jones.

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AGENDA ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / QUORUM DETERMINATION

- Chairman Jim Heath called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- Chairperson Lisa Raffurty conducted roll call. A quorum was met.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- George Balasko motioned to approve the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes; seconded by Jacque Costa. Meeting minutes approved.

4. MAIN CCESAB MEETING REVIEW

- Chairman Jim Heath attended the Main CCESAB meeting on February 8, 2024. He reported there may be some grant money coming back to reallocate. The amount was not known at the time of the meeting.
- Any outstanding projects should be moved to the main board, so that it can be voted on.
- The next Main CCESAB meeting will be April 11, 2024.

5. RADIO REQUEST APPLICATION REVIEW

- Chairman Heath reported that the Bedford Police Department Radio request application was approved for 36 radios in July of 2023. There was no funding for the request at that time so it was not forwarded to the main board.
- Bedford Police Department submitted an updated request due to a change in the application and the time lapse since the July 2023 approval.
- Chief Stemple & Ptl. Fischer provided an overview of the request. Chief Stemple reported that Bedford PD received funding to fix reception issues in their building. Radio costs increased due to projected inflation.
- George Balasko motioned to approve the Bedford PD radio application for 36 radios at a cost of \$205,000. Jacque Costa seconded. The motion was approved.

6. SOLAR ECLIPSE PLANNING

- Kevin Friis reported that CCOEM is migrating to Microsoft Teams communication. When an incident is created, an email notification will be sent with a link to go into Microsoft Teams. This will be tested on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, 2024. Email notifications will not be sent during testing.
- The visitor numbers have decreased to approximately 130,000 – 200,000. All hotels are at capacity.
- Kyle Jamison (MARCS) advised MARCS users should operate as usual using normal/daily talkgroups during the event.
- There will be a virtual meeting on March 26th to go over final preparations for the solar eclipse.
- Matt Reinke (Cleveland O.E.M.) reported that Route 2 Westbound from Dead man's curve to Edgewater Park will be closed for the Solar Eclipse.

7. COUNTY INTEROP TEMPLATES UPDATES

- Interop Talk Groups for Large Scale Incidents – Kevin Friis gave an update on the interop talk groups. The goal of the talk groups is either as a back-up if one system fails for a region or if there is a large-scale incident. Hospital talk groups are pre-assigned.
- B. Handke Summarized the discussions around large scale incident interop. Not every radio in the county can be reprogrammed so the Cleveland system will dedicate 4 talkgroups on the system to use.
- J. Heath – Some want just one talkgroup, he prefers a primary & secondary. All agreed to drop the idea of east/west/geographical.
- M. Carroll mentioned adjacent counties are limited, all do not have XMTAC's & CUYCO's programmed.

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- K. Jamison stated technically only Cuyahoga County should have XMTAC and CUYCO talkgroups.
- B. Handke Some talkgroups may not be recorded and the simplex channels will not be heard in Dispatch.
- J. Heath In favor of adding 2 MARCS and Cleveland Regional Talkgroups with the notation “other alternates to consider” such as fire ground, simplex, etc.
- Zone 66 – Brad Handke reported that it has become very complex to get programming and it is delaying the process. George Balasko advised he will provide MARCS & Cleveland system admins with keys; all requests to add Zone 66 will go through him to ease the process.
- Dispatch Center Talk Group – Talk group designation that all dispatch centers can use to communicate. This will be discussed at the next PSAP meeting May 9th and brought back to this committee for the July meeting.

9. EXERCISES/DRILLS FOR COM-L PARTICIPATION

- Kevin Friis reported on several upcoming events:
LEPC Table-Top exercise with Cleveland Hazmat May 10th.
County O.E.M. is working with Cleveland E.M. on potential Table-Top exercise with the Board of Elections & the U.S. Postal Service, tentatively set for May 24th.
Biowatch will conduct a Functional exercise on August 7th.
Hopkins Airport Full-Scale exercise is September 23 - 25.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

- George Balasko was selected to be on the State Communications Interop Plan (SCIP) Committee. This group is tasked with updating the State interoperability plan.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

13. NEXT MEETING

- May 8, 2024. 10:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- George Balasko motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brad Handke seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.