



CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes (Regular)

DATE / TIME: July 8, 2026 – 10:00AM
LOCATION: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District – Meeting Room A
4747 E. 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights., Ohio 44125

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	X
Brad Handke	X	City of Cleveland	Courtney Newman	
Anthony Luke		City of Cleveland	Brad Englehart	
Cmdr. Schramm	X	City of Cleveland	Phil DaVila	
Jacquelynn Costa		CECOMS	Stephen Kasik	X
Mark Christie	X	Cuyahoga County EMA	Kevin Friis	
Jill Smialek		Cuyahoga County PSJS	Nancy Kolcan	X
Chief Papesh	X	Fire	Chief Rega	
Chief Ledwell		Fire	Chief Bender	X
Chief Dietz	X	LE – Municipal	VACANT	
Sgt. Keeper	X	LE – Non-Municipal	Lt. Brady	
Lt. Pat Devlin	X	LE – Sheriff	Sgt. Dave Perez	
Chief Elliott	X	MARCS User Group	Chief Carroll	
Dillon Crouse		MARCS User Group	Jesse Phan	
George Balasko	X	City of Parma	Capt. Nathan Savetski	
Chief Lasky		City of Parma	T.J. Martin	
Nick DiCicco	X	Regional Dispatch	VACANT	
Ron Barlow		Regional Dispatch	Kristina Eich	
Mike Dever		Public Works	VACANT	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bryan Kloss, Chief Rega, Sgt. Perez, Henry Tafe, Christene Jones, Craig Bollinger, Tom Sullivan, Matt Reinke

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AGENDA ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / QUORUM DETERMINATION

Chairman Jim Heath called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. Vice-Chairperson Lisa Raffurty conducted roll call. A quorum was met. George Balasko reported that Lt. Savetski has been promoted to Captain.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

George Balasko motioned to approve the May 13th meeting minutes. Chief Dietz seconded. The minutes were approved with the correction noting that Chief Dietz attended the May 13th meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. MAIN CCESAB MEETING REVIEW

Mark Christie reported that UASI funding wasn't approved yet; the Committee strategized about upcoming funding.

5. GRANTS UPDATE

Larry Tafe reported that 2026 UASI State Homeland and UAFC grant announcement was made. He stated that the committee has to beat the clock to meet the timing of the CCESAB process, which is projects get reviewed in committee and then they go to CCESAB. Larry also reported that a week or so after all the requests for project information were sent out, the 2026 announcement was made and that a project from the Communications Committee has not been received. Chairman Heath responded that the committee was going to discuss the project at today's meeting. Chairman Heath asked if the Committee can turn in the project late for future review. Vice-Chairperson Raffurty stated that at worse-case scenario, the project would wait for review until reallocated funds are available. Nick DiCicco stated that he did not see an issue with it because it benefits every PSAP in the county.

Chairman Heath asked Tafe for an update on the HAM radio project. Tafe reported that the project was funded by 2023 UASI reallocation and due to delayed delivery, the only items ordered were those that can be delivered before the grant ends on July 31st; remaining items will be funded by another grant. Larry also reported that there is no word as to when the 2025 FEMA grants will be approved. He stated that the government shut down did not help. Once these are approved the process can start moving forward with one less year of time to spend \$4.5 million dollars.

Chairman Heath discussed a project submission for the Starlink satellite redundancy. He wants to get the project in front of main CCESAB. Heath stated that T.J. Martin was originally involved in the project and, since his departure, he reached out to Nick DiCicco assist with the project application. Vice-Chairperson Lisa Raffurty stated that there would be 18-19 PSAP's funded.

The project will be for 19 permanent units at \$750 each and four mobile units at \$1,500 each; the mobile units are intended for the Cleveland and County EOC's, the Fire Chiefs Command vehicle and HAVOC-1. The total comes out to just under \$21,000. This is strictly for equipment; no installation.

Chairman Heath stated that he was concerned about the committee not getting the company they want for the project. He asked Larry Tafe if the committee must take the lowest bid. Larry Tafe responded that the committee must take the lowest bid that meets the specs of the project and the specs should include the capability required. Usage will be up to each PSAP, each will need to agree to use the equipment; recurring

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costs will also be each PSAP's responsibility. Vice-Chairman Lisa Raffurty stated that the majority of PSAPs are very interested.

Matthew Reinke, from Cleveland EMA commented that he did not know if they would be able to be included in the satellite project because he did not know how fast the new process is. He asked if the committee would be open to treating this like radios and EM could just apply next year. Chairman Heath responded that if there is funding left after the satellite project, Cleveland EMA would be able to request funding.

The committee passed the project for the full amount. Chairman Heath will submit it at the next main CCESAB meeting.

6. RADIO REQUEST APPLICATION REVIEW

Chairman Heath reported that no new radio request applications were received.

7. COUNTY INTEROP TEMPLATE

Brad Handke reported that there was nothing new.

8. EXERCISES/DRILLS FOR COM-L PARTICIPATION

Nick DiCicco reported that Franklin County is hosting the COM-L class August 4th through August 7th.

CCOEM is looking to reschedule the big exercise that was postponed in the summer from the disruption of federal funding. CCOEM is trying to get the conversation going with communities that expressed interest, possibly looking at winter timeframe to plan and implement.

Brian Kloss reported that there will be a full-scale exercise in Beachwood at Master Solutions on Cedar Road on July 22nd. August 11th is the NDMS full-scale exercise at Hopkins Airport. August 19th there will be a full-scale exercise at Burke Lakefront Airport which will be testing a plane crash in the water. Kevin Friis commented that he received an odd ask about a com-n class. He could not find anything about it.

Brian Kloss also reported that he has accepted a position as the Safety Services Manager for the City of Port Clinton. Today will be his last day with Cuyahoga County. Brian also reported that Omari from CCOEM is taking over to help put together a master spreadsheet of every single jurisdiction's radio talkgroups & channels and trying to identify what gaps exist.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Brad Handke reported that he has received a lot of requests for people that are confused as to what CCOEM is asking for. He asked if they were asking for the PSAPs to put in every zone that is in their radios on the spreadsheet; Brian Kloss responded yes. Brian stated the primary purpose of the spreadsheet is to identify who is missing the regional interops and the secondary is for EMA purposes so they can be reprogrammed to make sure that when EM is on scene assisting FD and PD, that they have all the appropriate channels.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. NEXT MEETING

September 9 – 10:00 A.M.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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George Balasko motioned to adjourn. Larry Tafe seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.