

Commonwealth of Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive
Committee (SIEC)

110 Shenandoah Ave NE, Roanoke, VA

October 29, 2024 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

1) Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at: 10:06am by: Terry Hall, Chair

2) Introductory Remarks

- a. Shawn Talmadge, VDEM State Coordinator, gave an introduction about himself and the impact the SWIC/SIEC had on the major storm in North Carolina and Virginia. Shawn gave an overview that included 136 Virginians were impacted directly from the storm. He included the importance of PSAP and the agencies that are able to operate seamlessly due to the group's leadership, roles and the work that is being done.
- b. Terry Hall, Chair introduced himself then opened up the floor for discussion.
- c. Region 4 update on Helene wide spread outages, Tazewell County having 80% capacity loss. Smyth County 1st hour of incident lost LMR system. Found communication issues outside of STARS and ComLinc. Smyth County lost approx. 40% of copper line. While everything worked out there were still issues that came up during this storm. Wanting to reevaluate and preform hot washes with local committee to move forward.
- d. Terry Hall and Shawn Talmadge continued into a conversation about grants. Mr. Talmadge discussed how the budgeting process works with grant funding. He discussed how VDEM goes to the federal level to achieve grant funding and then applies it back to the Commonwealth.
- e. VFCA- discussed the difference from 20 years ago today about the progress a success of communications for public safety.

- f. Multiple people joined in the conversation to give credit to the first responders, emergency services, and rescue resources from the flooding and tragedy that Southwest Virginia experienced in September of 2024.
- g. [unknown voice] Explained his perspective of the events from the storm Helene from Richmond; and how they sent out swift water teams and different rescue teams to aid in the effort to help the people of southwest Virginia.
- h. Gabe Elias, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) gave an overview of storm Helene. He proceeded to go over the environment successes, and lessons from the storm. He shared his gratitude for the statewide mutual aid that serves the regions in need.
- i. Terry Hall, Chair included his kudos to the multiple services that helped exceedingly in the efforts of the emergency services that provided for the storm Helene such as STARS and COMLINC.

3) Approval of Previous SIEC Minutes

- a. Production of September 19 minutes delayed by declaration of emergency and associated response/recovery. Will provide for next meeting.

4) SCIP Review and Adoption

- a. SWIC reviewed the SCIP and explained that this is a brief overview for this year.
- b. [unknown voice], asked for a language change to be made on page 9 to modernize the document to match the federal information.
- c. Terry Hall, Chair, asked for a motion to be made to pass the SCIP with the amendment. [?] made the motion, motion not seconded. Motion failed due to lack of second.
- d. Motion to approve SCIP as presented, Stephen Willoughby move to approve, Dana Schrad (VACP) Seconded to approve the SCIP as is.
- e. Motion Carried.

5) **Break** at 10:53am. Meeting Reconvened at 11:05am

6) VDEM 9-1-1 & Geospatial Services Bureau Update

- a. Dorothy Spears-Dean, Deputy State Coordinator, gave an update on the skill sets that the bureau offers VDEM and what they are able to offer statewide mutual aid. Dr. Spears-Dean continued to give an update on the NG9-1-1 technology and what is to come for Virginia.
- b. Mr. Talmadge left the meeting, VDEM Representative Mike Keefe Remained at the meeting.

7) State Updates

- a. VDEM – Focus on the last 30 days has been Helene; leaning heavily into Starlink.
- b. VDH – Still in process of upgrade for encrypted video with 50 more sites
- c. OEMS- Hopefully new director in January to begin to restructure.
- d. VDOT- No update at this time
- e. DMA- Ready to deploy kits for FEMA with exercises once a month.
- f. VITA – No update at this time
- g. VDOF – No update at this time
- h. VDFP – No update at this time
- i. VSP – Phase 5 ends Friday after 5 years; STARS cache deployed some radios and is going to be proactive to have a cache of radios for available in regions/divisions. Lessons learned: Verizon worked well for STARS; State police would like to have their own Cell on wheels to deploy when needed to obtain more assets. All STARS users will be able to talk on any mobiles and portables in the state.

8) Regional Updates

- a. RPAC-I Chairs Region 1 and Region 2 unable to attend.

- b. RPAC-I REGION 3 – the calls were not at the regional PSAP other localities were having calls were going to different PSAPS across the state. Searching for resolutions for the routing problems.
- c. Region 4 – all of the staff was involved with storm Helene. Has seen great response with everyone during this time
- d. Region 5 – Working with Orion, hired consultant to go over a document and send it out. The Port of Virginia has STARS and that has opened up. There is lots of efforts and energy there to create compatible equipment. Noted inadequate Fleet mapping across Hampton Roads. The Region 5 struggles are very similar to other regions. Moving forward we need to place an emphasis on fleet mapping. Our successes are working together.
- e. Region 6- creating a strong group meeting on a monthly cadence to continue to build attendance. Building the interoperability. Regional teams how can we get on common channels on a tactical level. Asked questions about common channels being used on a tactile level, and what are other regions facing such as struggles, success, resources, and assets.
- f. Region 7 – In the busy season, finished Marine Corps Marathon. We are going to push out new template for a new zone for regional interoperability. The days of handing out radios should be over. The NCR is been working with them twice a year. Encryption difficulty in Arlington.
- g. VA Communications Cache – Large scale events need support and comm technicians. Still operating through scenarios and exercise. Developing training and exercises. Helping to create the future for applications and what those opportunities may look like. Deployable trunking sites are available.
- h. DHS CISA – Volt Typhoon, preeminent cyber threat security to burrow into critical infrastructure. Ability to create a security for the emergency mode of communication. TA – Virginia approved for a

cyber-security tabletop. During Helene impact of fiber cut in Georgia. What are the effects of malware when all of us are connected. SAFECOM Survey went well with over 100 municipalities. Statistically valid. Deployable trunking, different scenarios being done by deploying simultaneously.

9) Association Updates

- a. VACP- Emerging Technologies Update
- b. VA APCO- Reaching out to the 13 localities that have been effected by Helene.
- c. VSFA- No update at this time
- d. Tribal- No update at this time
- e. VACALEA-No update at this time
- f. VML- No update at this time
- g. ARRL- No update at this time
- h. SCHE-No update at this time
- i. VAGEMSA-No update at this time
- j. VALGITE- Two annual meeting, next in the spring. Working on virtual meetings finalizing drafts. Sub groups creating to cross collaboration.
- k. VPFF- No update at this time.
- l. VMAC- No update at this time.
- m. VA NENA- No update at this time.
- n. VSA- 4.9GHZ FCC update.
- o. VSPA- No update at this time
- p. VFCA- Conference coming up in January
- q. VACO – No

10) **Lunch Break** 30min 12:04pm meeting Reconvened at 12:30pm

11) Carrier and FirstNet Authority Presentations

- a. FirstNet Authority: Gave a power point presentation with the specifics of the product and program for In-Building Coverage for Public Safety.
- b. AT&T/Firstnet:: Gave a power point presentation on the Response Operations Group, products, programs and hurricane Helene update.
- c. Verizon: Gave a power point hurricane Helene & Milton on the CRT and network.

12) STARS and COMLINC Discussion

- a. SIEC and Virginia State Police Communication Division
- b. Rich Schoonover, VSP - Completed upgrade and kept running, with adding sites that missed updates. Working with Region 6 to create a regional talk group between their PSAPs. With what they are able to put in at this time. Due to recent meetings, working on a region 4 PSAP talk group and deciding on which resources to use.
- c. Terry, Chair, Reached the milestone and everything is up and running. SIEC perspective on the ecosystem of this to plan for the future of COMLINC and what is envisioned.
- d. Bill DeCoste, VSP Shared new ideas and pilots and proof of concepts with Motorola and Harris.
- e. [unknown]: shared the interest of needing funding and using RPACs.
- f. Terry, Chair, Created a solution. By keeping this going as a dialogue to keep talking about this, to create more usage.

13) 2025 Emerging Technology Conference Discussion (Dates TBD)

- a. Terry Hall, Chair, thanked Dana for volunteering time and staff to create and begin the conference.

- b. Dana Schrad, VACP, discussed the finances on the project, the lessons that was learned after the fact on the more that they could do at the conference. With some advanced planning.
 - c. Terry Hall, Chair thanked all staff, volunteers, and VML as well. There wasn't much bad feedback. That there needs to be advanced planning to have a better outcome for everyone. Over all the decision to have another conference, the consensus was to move forward with scheduling.
 - d. Terry opened this conversation for discussion.
 - e. VALGITE sees a lack of Public Safety IT at other Conference and looks forward to the ETC.
 - f. Action item: Create the relationship with VITA.
 - g. Volunteer list for preparation of Emerging Technologies Conference: Bill, Brad VDH, Vanessa- VALGITE, Zach Beckner, Dorothy, Dana, Michelle Gowdy.
 - h. Michelle Wright to correspond with group for ETC:
 - i. Future Agenda Items:
 - Satellite internet
 - Merging opportunities for ESInet
 - Lessons learned from storms from IT and Communications
 - VITA: Purchasing Future Technologies. – What does the future look like for IT
 - Volt Typhoon
 - Community Interaction during Emergency's.
- 14) **Old Business** – None.
- 15) **New Business**- Training submitted for training in calendar year 2025, SCIP will go between 2nd and 3rd quarter.

- 16) **Items from the public**- None.
- 17) **Adjourn** at 2:05 pm by Terry Hall.

DRAFT