

Minutes of June 17, 2005 Meeting
Eastside Regional Public Safety Communications Meeting

Attendance:

Jeff Blake, Kirkland Fire	Greg Edwards, Kirkland PD
Walt Mauldin, Mercer Island	Mike Johnson, Bellevue
Lee Soptich, Eastside Fire & Rescue	Brenda Cooper, Kirkland
Rich Conrad, Mercer Island	Diane Carlson, Bellevue
Ron Zsigmondovics, Bothell Fire	Jane Christenson, Redmond
Rosemarie Ives, Redmond	Joel Kuhnhenh, Woodinville Fire
David Ramsay, Kirkland	Tracy Burrows, Kirkland
Dave Draveling, Issaquah PD	Steve Nuttall, Bellevue Fire
Alan Komenski, Bellevue	Tom Weathers, Northshore Fire
Mark Nelson, ADCOMM	Karen Reed

The Steering Committee approved the minutes of the May 20, 2005 meeting with the addition of the sentence “Bellevue reiterated the choice of a location other than Bellevue City Hall was not a deal breaker for the City.”

Mark Nelson stated that the Washington State Patrol was very interested in our project and that he would continue to coordinate with Glen Kramer at WSP. In addition, Stan Aston, Dave Ramsay, Jim Montgomery, Mark Nelson and Karen Reed will be meeting with the King County Sheriff on July 11th to update her on the progress of this initiative.

Karen Reed noted that the “Eastside” in “Eastside Regional Communications Initiative is not an accurate geographic description of the communities involved in the effort. After a brief discussion, the group concluded that it was probably best not to choose a geographic-based name, since the precise geographic range of the ultimate partners in this initiative was not yet determined. Participants at the meeting were encouraged to do some thinking about potential names of the initiative and to come to the next meeting with suggestions.

The group discussed the appropriate level of communication to the Fire, EMS, Police and Dispatch staff members of the individual agencies. Rosemarie Ives expressed the concern that prematurely sharing information about the details of the effort can create anxiety amongst dispatch staff members. Because of the evolving nature of the initiative, it is also important to emphasize that decisions made at this stage of the effort are preliminary. Rich Conrad shared his experience at Mercer Island where he found that it was very important to share as much information as possible with staff in order to maintain a sense of trust and inclusion. This was particularly true once the City concluded that change was going to occur. Change can be threatening, and the more information that can be shared, the less frightening it will be. The group concluded that the level of detail in the two communications reports to date was appropriate and that

subsequent communications should continue to include a statement of the timeline for the project.

The group reviewed the matrix comparing the Governance models for EPSCA, ValleyCom, and SnoPac. It was noted that while EPSCA does have a formal structure of weighted voting, the decisions are made by consensus. The agency has never actually taken a weighted vote on an issue. A correction to the matrix was made to reflect that the EPSCA description of cost allocations/subscriber cost should state that Fire and Police calls are charged equally. The discussion noted that the agencies have different approaches to the role of elected officials on the Board, the relationships between owners and subscribers, budget approval, and voting. Alan Komenski volunteered to research the governance models of other comparable agencies outside of the Puget Sound region.

The group discussed four “early decision issues” that would benefit the effort if they were resolved early in the process. These included: 1) whether the agency should provide records management services; 2) whether there should be both owners and subscribers to the agency, or just owners; 3) whether the dispatch staff should be specialized or cross-trained to serve all functions; and 4) whether the agency should include other functions such as 800 MHz ownership and operation and/or EOC. The group concluded that the appropriate sub-committees should study these issues and return to the steering committee with recommendations.

The steering committee broke into three smaller groups to discuss issues related to mission, operations, and governance and finance in the context of the Statement of Operating Values and Principles. The results of the small groups were reported out. In addition, each agency was given two weeks to complete the survey related to these issues and return it to Karen Reed.

The EPSCA board members agreed to present a synopsis of the progress to date at the next EPSCA Board Meeting.

Each of the sub-committees will meet before the next Steering Committee meeting. The July 15th Steering Committee meeting will include reports from the sub-committees and an agreement on the role and responsibilities of each of the sub-committees. After the July sub-committee meeting, it is anticipated that the sub-committees will work on their issues, with the full steering committee convening again in the fall.