Minutes from February meeting approved

**Phase 2 update** *Patti Engstrom Touchstone Consulting*

The Touchstone Team will build a user-friendly, electronic data management tool to compile and analyze Region 1’s communications interoperability data

- Touchstone’s support will provide the Region with the capacity to manage its data efficiently.

  Upon completion of this project, the Region will reach the following outcomes:
  - Regional stakeholders understand the information that exists and know how to access the information
  - There is improved efficiency of updating information across the region
  - Region 1 is able to query the data management tool for future regional efforts, including but not limited to a Regional Interoperability Field Operations Guide.

**Project Approach:**
- **March** - Compile and Analyze Existing Data
- **April** - Gather information to fill gaps
- **April** - Determine RPAC-I Requirements for the tool
- **May** - Build the tool
- **June** - Transition the tool to the host agency

**Initial user requirements:**
The Region 1 data management tool must be user-friendly, internet-based, and able to compile the Region’s communications interoperability data. Initial requirements include:

- Ability to further capture, add, and update one’s own data in the tool
- Unlimited number of users
- Secure log-in; ability to include sensitive data
- One super user with universal administrative privileges, otherwise editing rights restricted to one account per county.
- User-centric functionalities allow the sorting and viewing of information by various criteria (i.e. locality, subject matter/category, etc.)
- Can query the tool to create a TICP, IFOG, PSAP catalogue
- Ability to access data points for State and Federal plans and services in a central location, either through a document repository or hyperlinks.
- The tool is reusable for other regions across VA and the nation

**Next Steps:**
- Gather feedback on the schema and build prototype
- Validate user requirements
- Reach out to localities to gather missing data
Region 1 Narrow Band Initiative  
Director Phil Heins Hanover ECC  
Dave Warner VITA

- Filling out application request for narrowbanding
- Applications are due April 18th
- Hanover will administer the grant
- Rodney Gentry will be project manager
- Need RPAC endorsement for the grant
- 6 localities have reported their needs to Phil
  - Please get with Phil as soon as possible in reference to your jurisdictions needs

Discussion in reference to project
Motion by Gerry Fuss to endorse Narrowband project
Seconded by Lewis Archileti - all in favor - motion passed for RPAC to endorse the project

UASI Operations and Grants Update  
Chief Tommy Hicks New Kent Fire

- $250,000 for rebanding only
- Grant is for ambulance and EMS radios
- Localities that are not covered under UASI may be able to get radios through office of EMS
- More practical exercises for training of local and state assets
- Anyone that would like to attend UASI meetings with Tommy is welcome to attend

Paul Newton- Chesterfield

- Started August of 2010
- Hospital equipment is installed and working well
- There is over 130 ambulances in our region
- Working with the state health department to resolve logistics
- It is going to take 9 months to have radios rebranded
- We have to start now or Chesterfield will not meet the deadline
- We need to over communicate concerns to each other to make sure everyone is informed

Amanda Davis- Virginia Office of EMS

- EMS radio communications interoperability initiative- Virginia office of EMS
- 3 year time period to make purchase
- Suggested one spreadsheet for all of the regions from OCP, request from the Chris McIntosh.

State Interoperability Update- Walt Kaplan, Touchstone Consulting

- What is the region? What we decide we want it to be.
  - New Legislation waiting to be signed on the Governor’s desk that will change OCP to Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security (OVAHS) – makes Terrie Suit the Secretary of OVAHS, which means other agencies can fall under her domain
SIEC- 
- **Created the SIEC-CC** – designed to be a smaller, more agile group of stakeholders (7 Regional Chairs/VC, and reps from a variety of state agencies like VDEM, VITA, VGIN, VDOT, VDH, etc.).
- **The SIEC-CC will:**
  - Provide more interoperability direction, strategy, and guidance from the state-level
  - Define interoperability and how to achieve it at the grassroots level
    - For the past several years, the SCIP has been a 30,000 foot view
      1. It needs to include policies, initiatives and actions that can be measured
      2. The SIEC-CC will re-work the SCIP
  - Since 2011, the Commonwealth has spent $130-150M on interoperability alone – a lot of things were purchased, but much of it is sitting around/not being used
  - There appears to be no plan to link it all together or how to sustain it
  - Need to identify a common plan and direction and the SIEC-CC will be the group to set that direction and start crafting the plan
  - Need to identify how to leverage what exists so that everyone is on board and moving in the right direction
  - Will work with SIEC Subcommittees to get specific tasks done. The areas of focus are:
    1. Grants
    2. COMLINC (adoption, operationalization, evolution, sustainment)
    3. STARS
    4. Narrowbanding
    5. State level FOG
    6. Regional FOG
    7. Training and exercise plan
    8. COML training
    9. Broadband Strategy (rebanding)
    10. Alignment of state and local technology plans
    11. Alignment of SCIP and Ops models with local plans

**SIEC have met twice**
- Agreed that Virginia needs to develop its 700 MHz plan, vision, methodology for how to move ahead and stay tuned to the big picture at the state and national level
- SIEC-CC will meet with the Virginia ERIC members in order to share concerns about a 700 MHz overlay system
- Created an **SIEC-CC page on the FRCoP** (first responder community of practice)
- OVAHS/PMO created a graphic that shows the **timeline of grant lifecycle** (apply for grant, submit application, it moves here, x and y review it, in person presentations, etc.)
- OVAHS solicited feedback on **re-aligning the regional RPAC-I boundaries** – Decision is still with Terrie Suit
- **SHSGP grant applicants will be able to present to the SIEC-CC upon invite only.** The Grants Working Group (GWG) will be instructed to make recommendations to the SIEC-CC re: which applicants should present to the committee to allow for questions, clarifications, or greater detail.
- **Working on a definition for Interoperability** – The vision is that this definition will become the universally accepted definition in Virginia so that all agencies, localities can measure progress against it the same way.
March 10th – SCIP Workshop - Part 1 / March 22nd – Part 2
• DHS OEC brought facilitators down to meet with the SIEC-CC members to discuss Virginia’s future vision for interoperability
• Determined that future is hard to identify until a common definition of interoperability is clear – need something to measure progress against
• The group is working to create the definition, and in the meantime established problem statements/interop gaps/solutions/next steps/and performance measures for determining our progress toward the 2015 Vision

March 16 – SIEC meeting
• Updated the SIEC on all the governance changes
• Asked SIEC members to sign up to participate on SIEC Subcommittees – Operations, Policy, Info Sharing, (and the Grants Working Group – but not really recruiting for this one)

700 Mhz - Jim Weichman
• Narrowband
• Broadband
• Being looked at separately for review

Grants Lifecycle
• Project idea form>submitted through RPAC>Once approved by RPAC submitted to VDEM
  ° Grants working group reviews
  ° SIEC CC
  ° OVAHS
  ° Grants working group is going to invite certain submissions to present their idea form

Dates:
• Deadline is April 18th
• Expect awards in September
• Has historically been 5 million
• State level, planning, sustainability, training and how it will benefit the region
Subcommittees:

- **Operations**
  - COMLINC
  - STARS
  - Narrowbanding
  - 700 MHz plan
  - COML training plan
  - Training and exercises
    - **Operations chair**-Paul Newton
      Major Scott Moser
      Allen Davidson
      Jason Malloy
      Dan Kelly
      Greg Ozmar
      Lewis Archiletti
      Bear Carneal
      Rodney Gentry

- **Policy**
  - RPAC realignment
  - 2012 SCIP
  - Broadband strategy
    - **Policy Chair**-Pat Obannon from VACO
      Gerry Fuss
      John Kandris
      Ken Crumpler- Advisory Member

- **Info Sharing**
  - VIPER
  - CAD to CAD, Data Visualization and standardization
    - **Info sharing chair**-Jackie Crotts
      Denice Marrs
      Sam Keys
      Jim Weichman
      Mark Milazzo
      Rodney Gentry
      Denise Johnson

- **Grants working group**
  - Grants review and recommendations
    - **Grant working group**- Chair Jim Weichman
      Todd Pugh
      Steve Ferguson
Tommy Hicks
Denise Johnson
Denice Marrs
Amanda Davis- Advisory member

Discussion-

Sam Keys for Dave Warner

700Mhz broadband FCC definition is different
Call Dave with questions

RIOS- Denice Marrs
  o Did field testing and it failed.
  o Wants to know if any one is having problems
  o Chris McIntosh has been advised.
  o There has been failures every time it is used
  o If there are problems when testing document

Motion by Rodney Gentry seconded by everyone to adjourn @11:26

Next Meeting is June 3rd at 10:00 a.m. location to be announced