

**Public Safety Collaborative  
Minutes  
April 15, 2004**

1. Meeting was called to order at about 9:00 a.m. by Joye McElwee
2. Attendance listing is available at Attachment 1.
3. Summary of the meeting:
  - a. Joye opened the meeting. Approval of the previous meeting was delayed and Joye turned the floor over to Commissioner Coonrod to discuss the Law Enforcement Tax Initiative that failed in February and outline what is next.
    - 1) For a Law Enforcement Tax to pass, I'm convinced we have to have buy-in by the Chamber of Commerce and their support in selling it to voters. We also need the support of the city of Springfield. How do we get there? That is the question.
    - 2) I'll be getting eventually with Mayor Carlson and Jim Anderson to discuss this question. With the R-12 election, the CU Power Plant issue, and fall elections, it will probably be after the holidays before much can be done.
    - 3) I can't see us wasting all that time doing nothing. A technical review could be conducted in the meantime to learn what is needed from the Law Enforcement Tax. For example, small communities and law enforcement agencies could conduct a needs analysis and submit that information to us using a White Paper. We could funnel that information to the financial board for Greene County to analyze and submit that information to a task force or Chamber. That's my recommended approach and I hope the other Commissioners will support it. We need a community needs assessment, and this could be done by late fall.
    - 4) In the meantime, Jack Merritt's folks have had to take a 2 percent cut in pay, and there have been cutbacks in the Prosecutor's Office. The Courts have agreed to cut their budget as much as they can. The economy is getting better but it will not save the day at the current level. Nonetheless, we will get through this.
    - 5) As Becky Jungmann can tell you, we are about \$1.7M short in the 911 budget. The city of Springfield has absorbed most of that shortage. We are working on some legislation and remain baffled that we can't get legislation that would allow us to put a solution before voters here in Greene County. Councilwoman Wright reiterated the importance of having the ability to have local control in putting things before voters. She believes we

would have a much better success rate on these issues such as a 911 Cellular Tax than we have seen at from State-level referendums.

- b. Minutes approved from January meeting.
- c. Region D Communications Interoperability Planning:
  - 1) J.R. Webb explained the Communications Interoperability Agreement that he recently completed to provide Greene County organizations access to several State mutual aid communications channels. To use these VHF and UHF channels, 800 MHz users would need to have a separate mobile or handheld radio with them. Many of the counties in Region D are working together to formulate a regional interoperability agreement in the hopes of gaining funding to buy the radio equipment needed so they can put these interoperability channels in their mobile and portable radios.
  - 2) The Highway Patrol is putting the V-CALL interoperability channel in the high band radios in their vehicles.
  - 3) We have access to all the interoperability channels in both the VHF and UHF radio frequency bands through use of the four cross-band repeater units recently purchased for WMD preparedness. We cannot place them in base communications equipment to where they can be a permanently available within our 800 MHz system.
  - 4) Joye explained the cross-band repeater units to those present and how they can tie 800 MHz to UHF and VHF users together simultaneously on designated talk groups in the 800 MHz and a channel designated in for UHF and VHF. He used the April WMD Regional Exercise use of this equipment as examples as how the systems can be used. He also reviewed how the units could have assisted us in solving communications problems when our responders were working in Pierce City. There are four units: Police, Fire, Logan-Rogersville HAZMAT, and 911 Center. Not only can these units be used for linking various communications talk groups on the 800MHz Trunked Radio System to users with VHF and UHF, they can be used as standard communications on a standalone basis. You can use the 800 MHz radio for that purpose, the UHF for that purpose, or the VHF radio for that purpose. You can power the units from a car battery, cigarette lighter, or 120V electrical outlet.

- 5) Jack Merritt wanted to know if they had a special activity they were working that needed communications interoperability with those of UHF or VHF if they could use one of the cross-band repeaters for that purpose? Joye outlined that yes—it does not have to be a major emergency or disaster before these units can be deployed. He indicated he or J.R. would be willing to train personnel at the Sheriff's office. Note: Although one of these units will be located at the 911 Center, not everyone there will be capable of doing the training. In an urgent situation, we can locate someone who can do that training dynamically or talk someone through it over the phone. They are that simple to setup and operate.
- 6) Don Kocian will be attending a meeting in Branson in a couple weeks in support of that city who is looking to upgrade their communications system. They now operate on UHF and VHF. Hopefully they will move to an 800 or 700 Mhz TRS. Christian County is also looking at upgrading its communications system as well. Jack Merritt asked if the Branson effort would only be for Branson? Don indicated he has spoken to Branson in looking at their efforts in terms of regional communications as funding would be easier in terms of grant funding. Jack expressed concern about the Branson terrain. It will be a challenge, but is doable. If they both could move to an 800 or 700 TRS and we could get the funding to link them and Joplin to our system, most of SW Missouri would have a quality communications interoperability package in place.
- 7) Joye explained that a low-band VHF radio that can be dynamically used in conjunction with the cross-band repeaters for interface with mobile and base Highway Patrol standard equipment is available and will be provided to the Springfield PD for use in their mobile command vehicle which carries their cross-band repeater. After we purchased the unit, we discovered we can work with most Highway Patrol units as they use VHF high band (150.xxxMHz) handhelds that operate back to their vehicles where they interface and link back to other units or base stations using the patrol car mobile VHF low band radios (42.0 MHz). It can be installed permanently in the PD mobile command vehicle so that Highway Patrol personnel have it available when working from within that vehicle.
- 8) Joye thanked Roger Brogue for the many days of work helping build the codeplug data for programming the cross-band repeater 800 MHz units.

- 9) Don Kocian outlined that St. John's is now on the system with 36 radios, Cox with 16, including 2 aboard air care units. Don also addressed how modifications and programming of radios would need to occur for us to be interoperable with Joplin's 800 TRS. We are compatible but the code keys are not alike.
- 10) J.R. Webb addressed how SMSU is programming its 800 TRS radios, which are not compatible with our 800 TRS with NPSPAC mutual aid channels. Using those channels, our 800 TRS users can talk with SMSU and vice versa. It is an interim fix until SMSU gets the funding to replace its equipment with equipment that is compatible or a system that is compatible. Joye discussed grant issues with SMSU yesterday.

d. Communications Interoperability Grant:

e. WMD Grants:

- 1) For the first time, the city of Springfield and Greene County will be receiving WMD Grants. The feds have stated that all jurisdictions must be eligible to participate. This means water districts, fire districts, cities, and counties must have access. Over 1,200 jurisdictions exist in Missouri. Until WMD funds have been specifically targeted to regional WMD response teams, of which there are 28 in the State of Missouri. In addition, competitive WMD grant funds will be offered to Law Enforcement agencies. Those will be sent directly to them and I will not have any involvement. The city and county have determined that their WMD grants will be managed through me. I will keep you informed as we progress with the grant process.
- 2) Jack Merritt asked if their turn around for the Law Enforcement competitive grants would be the same as those for the city and county? Joye informed him that he believed that would be the case since all of the grants have had quick turnaround requirements. There is over \$9, 550,000M dedicated solely to law enforcement. The Missouri Sheriff's Association and Police Chief's Association are working with SEMA to purchase night vision equipment and more individual protection equipment (PPE) for officers. This equipment will be distributed by the MSA and PCA to departments. Emergency Management is not included in that loop so we do not know what has actually been purchased, delivered, etc.
- 3) The city and county grants will be for jurisdictions over 3,000. Cities receive \$5.61 per capita, counties \$2.63. Rick Williams, Republic asked how they determined the census of communities?

Joye said he did not know for sure and he should contact SEMA at 573-526-9245 and ask. What other jurisdictions or organizations competing for competitive grants will receive is unknown.

- 4) We understand grants being offered beginning in late 2005 may require a 25-50 percent match. Also being tied to grant access is a requirement that jurisdictions validate for the feds that it has implemented the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and is using it. How this is to actually occur is not clear. The NIMS document inches thick and very detailed. There are 13 mandatory areas of specification, including mutual aid agreements.
  - 5) The WMD equipment we have been purchasing and continue to purchase are the things we need daily for response and not only when terrorist come to town.
  - 6) Expect a lot of change in the way we do emergency/disaster response and management. Homeland Security is driving us to make many changes. Anticipate everyone will have to be certified in the positions they will fill during emergencies and disasters. That applies to everyone!!
  - 7) Before long every exercise we conduct we will have to document every problem in a certain structure and provide it to the Office of Homeland Security who will track these problems until fixed.
4. The next PSC meeting is planned for July 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Office of Emergency Management EOC. Also mark October 21, 2004 for other PSC meetings, same time and location as the April meeting.

Respectively Submitted,

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Attendance Listing

Joye G. McElwee

Attachment 1

**Attendance Listing  
Public Safety Collaborative  
April 15, 2004**

Don Kocian	City Utilities
Roger Brogue	City Utilities
Bill Deal	City Utilities
Jay Huff	Springfield Police Department
Joel Maxwell	Greene County Sheriff's Department
Joye McElwee	Office of Emergency Management, Springfield-Greene County
Jack Merritt	Greene County Sheriff's Department
Shelia Wright	Springfield Councilwoman
Steve Eggers	Springfield-Branson Regional Airport Fire
Richard Williams	Republic EMA
Darrell Decker	Greene County Commission
Becky Jungmann	911 Communications
J. R. Webb	911 Communications
Dave Coonrod	Greene County Commission
Jeff Reinold	Greene County Budget Officer
Capt. Jim Barber	Greene County Sheriff's Department
Vernon Watson	Republic Police Dept.