

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Minutes of December 10, 2011

Present at the December 10, 2011 meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Johnson County EM & ARES
Carolyn Wells (Treasurer)	N0CJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Larry Widener	KA0YJE	American Red Cross KCMO
Sharon Dikes	No Call	
Glen Dikes	KD0GIE	KUMC/Wyandotte Co. RACES
Phil Keary	KD0OYT	KCHEART
Ed Menard	KD7QOR	Leavenworth Co. ARES
Mike Bellinger (Secretary)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Ron Rodvelt	KC0QIG	Northland ARES
Doug Wilson	W0DAW	Children's Mercy Hospital
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth Co. ARES
Brian Pintenich	KD0BNQ	Johnson County ARES
Susan Backs	KC0JCR	Leavenworth Co. ARES/KCHEART
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Northland ARES
Kent Dickinson (Member at Large)	K0WEW	Army MARS
Ed Rust	KD0BKH	Wyandotte Co. RACES
Sandy Rust	KD0BZI	Wyandotte Co. RACES
Joe Krout	W0PWJ	Wyandotte Co. RACES/SATERN
Marshall McClure	N0HXT	Army MARS
James Bair	N0AJI	Jackson County ARES
Warren Okeson	KD0PAO	Heart to Heart
Jerry Chamberlain	WA0JRJ	Community Blood Bank

President Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were done. The group reviewed meeting minutes from October 8, 2011. There were no additions or corrections.

Elections

The Nominations Committee (Susan Backs, Ed Rust, and Rick Smith) brought forth the nominations. The suggested slate is to retain Matt May as President, Brian Short as Vice President, and Carolyn Wells changing positions from Treasurer to Secretary. Kent Dickinson has changed from Member at Large to Treasurer and Mike Bellinger has changed from Secretary to Member at Large. Larry Widener will remain as Membership Secretary. The nominations were ratified by the members present and will be effective as of January 1, 2012.

MECC SET

All draft AAR/IPs have been turned in to their respective states. The Regional AAR/IP was also submitted to the region and to the states. This continues to be a valuable exercise for the HAMs and the regional Emergency Managers and will be done in 2012 as well.

HAM Classes 2012

February 11th and 18th at Johnson County Admin Building
June 9th and 16th at Centerpoint Medical Center

APRS Install and Training

Precision Mapping 9 is now out and as been successfully loaded with UIView. The new version seems to work well with Windows 7. Brian Short has the information and the files if anyone is interested in obtaining the newest version.

MEMC Report

The MEMC met on December 8, 2011. The National Weather Service (NWS) will be scaling back their weather spotter training in 2012. Because of budget constraints, Andy Bailey will only be able to give one presentation per county in the metro area each year and one presentation in the rural counties every other year. If you want a presentation in your county, look on the NWS website for Andy's calendar.

The NWS will also be taking down the Doppler radar at Pleasant Hill to replace it with a double Doppler system. This will occur on January 30 – February 12. Ground spotters will be very important during this time. NWS will also be changing their warning criteria based on the experiences from the Joplin tornado. More to come on that front.

KCHEART

The first meeting went well. There were 72 people in attendance and the minutes are available on the KCHEART yahoo group's site. Matt will be sending out a comprehensive email to everyone outlining actions items and next steps.

We are currently working to switch out the power supplies from all of the hospital radios. More than half of the power supplies on the Missouri side have been replaced and the damaged ones repaired. Jerry Gorrell and Phil Keary have been working to repair the power supplies and swapping them out. Glen Dikes will help coordinate the repairs on the Kansas side.

The hospitals will be going to tactical calls on APRS. They will be as intuitive as they can be with the agreement of the hospitals. The responsible person's call sign and email will still be in the beacon to keep it all legal. Hospitals will also be working to organize radio clubs and obtaining a club call sign.

Matt is finalizing the assignments for the radio operators supporting the hospitals. We will also begin putting together training videos with the help of the NWS Training Center. We will be starting monthly nets, although we are still working on the logistics of those nets.

Exercises

There is a functional exercise leading up to the All Star game that is scheduled for sometime in late March or early April. Planning is just starting and it is unsure if there will be an amateur radio operator component to the exercise.

Amber Waves is a National Level Exercise that is scheduled for the fourth week in September. More details will be shared at upcoming meetings. Carolyn will be sitting on the exercise committee and will try to include amateur radio in the exercise.

The group agreed to have the MECC SET exercise again this year. It is still sponsored by the MEMC and is on the regional exercise calendar. We will continue with the national date, the first weekend in October (October 6, 2012).

Web Sites

There are a couple of web sites that need to get added to the list:

Kansas Training Web Site

<https://ks.train.org>

KCHEART yahoo group site

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kcheart/>

Larry's List mailing list

LarrysList@list.k0jpr.net

<http://list.k0jpr.net/mailman/listinfo/larryslist>

City Watch Notification System

The City Watch system is available through the RHSCC Hospital Committee for use by the MECC members. Brian will build a notification group for this body and it will be tested before each meeting. Brian will send out an email to everyone requesting the information needed to build the group (if you wish to get text messages you will need to provide the domain name of your cellular carrier, call 611 from your cell phone to ask what that is).

Goals for Next Year

The MECC Goals for 2011 were reviewed and discussed. All of the goals were kept, but some of them are active and some were considered completed but will require monitoring and updating.

Active:

1. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing system for communications volunteers. – Matt gave an explanation of resource typing. We are going to add a column on the roster for groups to indicate how many members they have and how many are NIMS compliant. Some of the groups have reviewed the document put together by Brian and Dennis Smeltzer, but no one other than Johnson County ARES and ECS have operationalized the document.
2. Development of a frequency coordination template. – These templates are now available on an excel spreadsheet. They will be updated as needed. The most recent copy is available on the MECC Yahoo Group Files site. The 8800 version is 2 meter and 70 centimeter only, the 8900 also includes the 6 meter frequencies.
3. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level. – This is an ongoing process, although great strides have been made.
4. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC member organization contacts. – The secondary contacts are listed on some, and Larry has made a place for the tertiary contacts on the roster. However, most organizations have not filled this out.
5. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – This has not been done and needs to carry over to next year.
6. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – This has not been done and will carry over to next year.

Monitoring:

1. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training. – While all jurisdictions in the MARC region have access to WebEOC, not all communications groups have access. We will continue to monitor the usage.

2. Participation in notification systems. – As discussed above, the notification system is available for all groups to use.
3. Education of new HAMS. – Many groups have classes for new HAMS and some videos are available as well.

General Comments

It was mentioned that there needed to be a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the MECC to coordinate information with other public information officers if there was an event. Establishing this position will be added as a goal for the group for this year. If anyone is interested they are to let Matt know.

MARS is changing. They will no longer be able to use the military IT system as their backbone to support their use of Winlink. They will have to go to an all over the air method of communication instead of using Winlink.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ
Secretary