

## Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Minutes of February 11, 2012

Present at the February 11, 2012 meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Johnson County EM & ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Larry Widener (Membership Sec)	KA0YJE	American Red Cross KCMO
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth Co. ARES
Susan Backs	KC0JCR	Leavenworth Co. ARES/KCHEART
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Ed Rust	KD0BKH	Wyandotte Co. RACES
Sandy Rust	KD0BZI	Wyandotte Co. RACES
James Bair	N0AJI	Jackson County ARES
Warren Okeson	KD0PAO	Heart to Heart
Bob Shaumeyer	KC0TZX	KCHEART/Jackson County ARES
Ed Robarge	KA0DJR	Leavenworth County ARES/KCHEART
Dennis Smeltzer	KC0QBU	Johnson County ARES
Richard Fretwell	W0KRF	Jackson County ARES
Steve Hoeger	KC0YSY	Truman Medical Center/KCHEART
Dennis Carpenter	KA0SXY	Northland ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County EM

President Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were done. Matt gave a brief explanation of the new Johnson County EOC that will be fully operational by the end of February.

The group reviewed meeting minutes from December 10, 2011. There was one addition to the minutes. Under elections, Larry Widener was added at the re-elected Membership Secretary. There was one correction to the minutes, the dates for the HAM Class in June at Centerpoint are June 9 and 16.

### 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. – Dennis Smeltzer talked about how it was implemented for his Johnson County ECS group. He stated there were a few people who dropped off the roster as a result of the FEMA class requirements, but they were not active members. They also changed the criteria by adding weather spotting education and testing. Larry Eker talked about how they implemented background checks for their group in Wyandotte County. It was proposed by Larry Eker then moved and seconded that Matt send out a formal letter to the regional Emergency Managers stating the MECC has adopted the resource typing document. The motion was pass unanimously.
2. Development of a frequency coordination template. – Matt will make sure the most recent copy is available on the MECC Yahoo Group Files site.
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. It was pointed out that several MECC members in attendance routinely attend the regional Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee monthly meeting.

4. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC member organization contacts. – Larry passed around the current list that now has a place for the tertiary contacts on the roster.
5. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – This has not been done and needs to be worked on this year.
6. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – This has not been done and will carry over to next year.
7. Establish a PIO position for MECC to coordinate with other groups. (NEW) – James Bair stated ARRL has a CD available on PIO duties and responsibilities if anyone is interested.

#### Monitoring:

1. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training. – This is on hold for now as there are major changes being made to WebEOC in the region. Matt talked about the NWS criteria for severe weather that are reported through WebEOC. He will post this to the yahoo groups.
2. Participation in notification systems. – Carolyn discussed City Watch and how it is used in the region. If your group is interested in using this system, please contact Carolyn or Matt. We will do a demonstration of this system at the next meeting.
3. Education of new HAMs. – Many groups have classes for new HAMs and some videos are available as well. Please advise this group if you or your group are offering licensing, mode specific or any other ham radio related training in the region.

#### **MECC SET**

It is time to form the planning committee for the 2012 MECC Set Exercise on October 6, 2012. We will be using a common scenario this year for the region. If your group would like to participate, please send an email to Matt which also indicates who the representative to the planning committee will be for your group. Once the planning committee is set, Matt will send out a Doodle to determine a date and time to meet.

There was also a brief discussion about the improvements identified from last year's exercise. Some of those have been included in the goals for the group. We will make sure to include the evaluation for these improvements in this year's exercise.

#### **EDUCATION**

##### Technician Classes 2012

February 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Johnson County Admin Building

June 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence

##### HAM 101 Class

March 3, 2012 at Johnson County Admin Building

##### General Class

Still TBD, but it will probably be late March or early April in Johnson County

##### NIMS, EMCOMM, IS-704

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## **MEMC Report**

The MEMC met on February 9, 2012. Safety City will now become Prepare Metro KC and it will be presented in a different way. It will be taken to smaller venues such as Grandview Founder Days, KC Zoo, and T-Bones Heroes Days. Mike O'Neal from Platte County is the point person for this.

MERS ( the repeater used by emergency managers and NWS to coordinate activities) is changing and will soon be narrow-banded. Because many users of the repeater are accessing it from older VHF equipment there will a significant expense for them to make the conversion. Therefore, the MEMC is planning to develop a talk group on the regional P25, 7/800 MHz public safety radio system to replace the function of the current repeater. Authorized users of the system will need a 7/800 MHz P-25 compliant radio to transmit. However, the VHF frequency 154.13 will become transmit only and will retransmit the P25 talk group traffic to continue to provide information to users of the older equipment and others such as the many hams who monitor this channel.

## **KCHEART**

The next meeting is February 25, 2012 from 0900-1200 at the National Weather Service Training Center near KCI. This is an open meeting for all interested parties looking to support the project and its mission.

We have come up with a list of around 9 training videos that we want to make for the KCHEART group. These will be no more than 10 minutes each so they can be posted on You-Tube. We have found someone to help us do this, so the first several should be completed in a few weeks.

Matt and Carolyn have visited almost every hospital in the metro area and MO Region A. We verified the equipment set-up, pushed in the new templates to the radios, and reprogrammed the TNC's. There has also been some theft of equipment, especially TNCs. The hospitals have replaced them, but there were suggestions made on how to secure the equipment. We have two hospitals not currently connected because of construction, Carroll County Hospital and Olathe Medical Center.

## **Exercises**

The full scale exercise for the All Star game is scheduled for April 25, 2012 at Kaufmann Stadium. The regional hospitals will also be participating and there has been talk of including HAMs in the notification process, even though loss of communications is not part of the exercise. More to come.

Amber Waves is a National Level Exercise that is scheduled for September 24-27, 2012. 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 hospitals will only be participating one day, not sure which day that will be.

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

This is the current list of web sites that may be of interest:

[www.mecckc.org](http://www.mecckc.org)

[www.hamclass.org](http://www.hamclass.org)

<https://ks.train.org>

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

[LarrysList@list.k0jpr.net](mailto:LarrysList@list.k0jpr.net)

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

[www.kcHamRadio.com](http://www.kcHamRadio.com)

[www.marc.org](http://www.marc.org)

[www.preparemetrokc.org](http://www.preparemetrokc.org)

## Other Business

James Bair stated there is a need to set aside two simplex frequencies for digi modes that can be used during an emergency, a 2M frequency and a 440 frequency. Brian suggested James get with Bill Gery (KA2FNK) to come up with a plan. Matt appointed this an Ad Hoc work group with James as the chair. Jeremy (KD0EAV) from Northland ARES was also recommended to participate in this group.

March 13 will be the Statewide (Kansas and Missouri) tornado drill (at 1:30pm) as part of Severe Weather Awareness week. Mike Bellinger asked if SKYWARN will be activated as part of this activity. Matt will find out. Matt also advised that Johnson County plans to activate their outdoor warning sirens on that day in addition to the regular test day on the first Wednesday of the month.

Matt and Dennis talked about using amateur radio operators to observe the sirens in Johnson County. This is a great exercise for the HAMS and provides invaluable information to the EM office. They both recommended that other jurisdictions develop a process for this type of activity.

Bob Summers (K0BXF) is in poor health. He is currently in a nursing home in KCK and will moving to assisted living with his wife next week. Because of his health, he is no longer able to fulfill his duties as KS Section Emergency Coordinator for ARES. Ron Cowan- KBØDTI, Kansas Section Manager is currently looking for a replacement.

It was discussed and agreed on that the next meeting, to be held April 14<sup>th</sup>, will be held at the Leavenworth Co EOC at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut in Leavenworth Kansas. This is contingent on the agreement of Chuck Magaha, Emergency Manager.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ  
Secretary