



**OHIO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting conducted on TEAMS**

### Call to Order:

The 86<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee and the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting **after Executive Order 2019-23D was signed**, was called to order at 10:04 AM on January 27, 2021 by Assistant Director Karen Huey from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Sheriff Simpson was not able to attend and was excused. Assistant Director Huey welcomed everyone and then turned the meeting over to Rick Schmahl – Administrator of the Ohio SIEC, Director Ohio MARCS, and Ohio SWIC to administer the meeting. This meeting was conducted using Microsoft TEAMS. At one point, 127 (One Hundred Twenty-Seven) persons signed into the virtual meeting. Of these, 29 were appointees to the SIEC.

### Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Rick asked that all review the Minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. There being no additions or corrections, George Balasko moved to approve the Minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting. Chief Scott Skeldon seconded the motion. The Motion Carried.

### MARCS Update:

Administrator Schmahl discussed the security issues on the system. Gave an overview of the recent Allen County case. Spoke on the ongoing efforts with the Ohio Prosecutors Association in developing proposed legislation to specifically address the issues we have been facing. Brunswick Hills Police Chief Tim Sopkovich gave an overview on the issue they were working on.

### DiagnostX

DiagnostX devices were discussed. Jim Sullivan of MARCS reported that MARCS has continued the deployment of the DiagnostX devices across the State. The areas involved that were covered in the deployments should have received a report recently pointing out the radios that may need attention. It appears we are averaging about 5% radios needing attention at the end of the deployments.

### SIEC Creation – Executive Order 2019-23D:

Director Schmahl reported he is working on contacting the Ohio County Commissioners Association and the Ohio National Guard to nominate a person for the SIEC. Also discussed the effort to coordinate communication with the numerous Federal and State military units.

## SIEC Website:

Rick has recently updated the link with the Executive Order and the new SIEC Roster. Will continue to work on updates. Sign-up form for SIEC e-mail is on the Contacts page. Please continue to use this sign-up for adding and removing contacts. This has proven to be a helpful tool in keeping the email addresses current.

Two letters have been added to the MARCS website addressing the End of Life radios, (EOL), and Radio Authentication (RA). Both letters are addressing changes to improve security to the system overall. If there are ANY questions, please call the MARCS staff.

## Private Use:

Some movement with this issue. New information was provided that MARCS has now refinanced the towers and can again take on co-locations. The MARCS infrastructure is in the process of being refinanced. When completed, this will clear the way for both private and Federal users to come onto MARCS. Will address several outstanding issues.

## MARCS Operations:

Dick Miller reported that MARCS has been busy since the last meeting October. The following towers are either on or about to be turned on.

1. Millersport. This tower was built with a partnership with the Fairfield County Commissioners and the Walnut Township Trustees. This tower will add coverage to the Northern part of Fairfield County as well as parts of Licking and Perry Counties. Operational
2. Jesse Owens State Park. This tower was built with a partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. At this new State Park, this tower will provide needed coverage in several parts of the new park. Operational February 1, 2021.

Two towers are currently being worked on with the Williams County Commissioners and the Guernsey County Commissioners. The one in Williams County will be located on County property and will enhance coverage in the Bryan, Ohio area. The one in Guernsey County is being developed in the Quaker City area. Both are being made possible by multi agency partnerships.

Recent developments in the State Capitol Budget have added several proposed towers to be added. Bowling Green is adding a tower on the Southwest side of Bowling Green in Wood County. The City of Bowling Green is leading this project. Lewisburg is building a tower on the South side of Lewisburg in Preble County. This project is being directed by the Village of Lewisburg. The Richland County Commissioners are building a tower in the Lucas, Ohio area. The Wayne County Commissioners are building a tower in the area of Fredericksburg.

Partnerships are underway with Franklin County, several agencies in Medina County, several agencies in Ottawa County, and a few agencies in Lorain County.

## Regional Interoperability / Homeland Security Feeder Groups:

### Region 1:

Captain Brad Brubaker of the Putnam County Sheriffs Office gave the report. No meetings have been held. Did advise they are reaching out to schedule a meeting.

### Region 2:

George Balasko reported. No Region 2 meetings have been held. General report on Cuyahoga County and the activity there. Update on the Brunswick Hills issue mentioned earlier. Director Schmahl covered the recent outing with the Lake County zone controller.

### Region 3:

Captain Greg Stephens reported on recent activity. A virtual meeting was held on December 17<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Teams. Had over 30 participants.

### Region 4:

Johnna Sells reported. Updated everyone on the upcoming partnership with MARCS. Will be developing a 7 site 30 channel simulcast. Better coverage and capacity will be obtained.

### Region 5:

Major Darryl Anderson gave the Region 5 report. Meeting was held yesterday via Zoom. Darryl thanked Mike Szabo for hosting the meeting. 36 participants from all over Region 5 attended. All but 2 counties were represented. Spoke to a console issue. Also gave an update on Carroll County and the Fire Marshal Grant. Medina County Fire went live on November 1, with the help of the Fire Marshal Grant.

### Region 6:

Paul Kindell reported the January meeting was cancelled. Replacement of the tower in Clermont County was recently accomplished. MOU for the region being developed to address issues when there is a need. March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 is the next meeting.

### Region 7:

Lt. Dustin Robison gave the report. Reported a new tower in the Hocking County area with FirstNet.

### Region 8:

Rob Harrington reported on the effort to connect West Virginia. No meeting has been set.

## Grant Announcements and Status Updates:

### Sima Merick – Ohio EMA

Sima was called away and Geoffrey Martin gave an update on the Homeland Security Grants. FY17, FY18, FY19, and FY20 are open. Working to get a clarification from FEMA on the China issue. FY21 H.S. Grants will be rolled out by FEMA in the near future. Still waiting on direction from FEMA.

### Marshal Kevin Reardon – Ohio Fire Marshal

Ashley Campbell reported on the grant. 3 million dollars is in the budget for the next fiscal year, FY21. Had over 9 million in requests. Marshal Reardon is using some of the money as seed money for the Counties where they are pursuing regional efforts. No update from anyone on the AFG grants.

## Old Business:

### DHS/CISA – Jim Jarvis

Jim reported on the development of the Statewide After-Action Report. (AAR) Bob Bill and his committee will look at the draft and get it finished so it can be added to the SIEC website. They are developing the new COM-L virtual presentations. We are approved for a COM-L and a COM-T class when the classes are finalized. COM-L and AuxComm are both being reworked as virtual. COM-T will still need to be a hands-on class. Jim reported on the NIFOG 2.0 is under internal review and will be out for comment soon. Director Schmahl reported on the success during the recent election with the Secretary of State's Office.

Jim reported the Statewide Communications Interoperable Plan will now be used to direct strategic offerings. Spoke of the need to update the SCIP. Director Schmahl reported on the upcoming update. Requested anyone interested in participating should contact Director Schmahl by email.

### SOP Committee:

Bob Bill reported. Committee did come together recently on the FCC 4.9 GHz spectrum. Lots of issues and involvement on behalf of Ohio. Many comments from attendees on the issue.

Bob has set up a meeting for the review of the AAR Template. This is just going to be a template if you want to use it. Comments and explanations of the template was given.

### COM-L Committee:

Dick Miller reported on INTD Class in Cuyahoga County. Had two great classes. Thanks to Nick DiCiccio and to the instructors for making this work so well.

Discussion on COM-T and COM-L request for Ohio. Changes allowing for virtual COM-L will be considered.

Comments on task books and process for approval. One pending task book from Cuyahoga County.

### MARCS Steering Committee:

MARCS Steering Committee was discussed. Rick reported the meeting was recently held in December and the minutes are on the MARCS website. Three MARCS procedures were updated and approved. Next meeting is set for December 2021 but other meetings can be scheduled as necessary.

### Local Government Sub-Committee:

Director Schmahl and Dick Miller gave an update on the recent Local Government Sub-Committee meeting. This group is still active and Mr. Vedra sits on the MARCS Steering Committee. Any local users are welcome to attend. Next meeting is being planned.

### FirstNet / NPSBN:

Mike Newburn and others gave the update. Ready for the Beta Test of the PTT feature with MARCS. Will involve a big city, medium city, and small city for the test. Three Ohio agencies were part of a webinar with FirstNet. Kettering Health, Meigs County, and Cuyahoga County EMA were thanked for their participation.

### APCO:

Matt Franke gave the report on APCO International. Lots of changes due to the COVID Pandemic. New ways of doing things. Talked about a new APCO committee involving military spouses. Gave update on APCO position on the 4.9 GHz spectrum. Reported the next Ohio APCO/NENA meeting is currently scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please check the Ohio APCO website as the date gets closer. Encouraged everyone to use the APCO Intl. website for updates and announcements.

### Ohio Homeland Security

Janille Stearmer gave the update. Lots going on in many different areas. Updated on changes that are occurring at HS. Webinars offered on several topics, please consider participating. Asked everyone to be aware of any suspicious activity involving Communications. HS is looking for five regional coordinators for School Safety Center. These positions will help with planning and exercising plans for School Security.

## CISA Region 5:

Jim Jarvis spoke on the upcoming SCIP update. Also addressed COM-L and COM-T opportunities. Mr. Jarvis gave an overview of the recent incident in Nashville, TN.

## NG 9-1-1:

Rob Jackson, 911 Office gave report. RFP is out and is awaiting Legislative action to issue the Contract. ORC 128 delayed with COVID. Updates to this legislation has been approved and forwarded to Legislative Service Commission for drafting the changes. The next ESINet Meeting will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 11AM.

Thanked the Department of Commerce for their assistance in handling the 911 Grants. Lots of projects are ongoing. Round 1 and Round 2 have been awarded.

## New Business:

Lydia Frey of the Ohio State Highway Patrol has announced her retirement. Lydia has been very instrumental in APCO/NENA and has been a resource for many across Ohio. Thanks to Lydia for her commitment to interoperable communications.

## Good of the Order:

ODH thanked MARCS staff for their help during the recent events.

Rick expressed his continued support on the TEAMS meeting. Very large turnout and very few issues. Seems to be well received. Today's attendance topped 120 attendees. Thanks to everyone for their participation.

**Upcoming SIEC meeting dates for 2021. Dates will be April 28<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. All meetings will begin at 10:00 AM. Have confirmed with Ohio EMA to schedule 2021 meetings.**

## Adjournment:

There being no further business, George Balasko moved to adjourn. Paul Kindell seconded the motion and the Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Miller, Secretary  
Ohio Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee

## 2021 SIEC MEETINGS

April 28<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**The Mission of the Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee is to provide guidance and strategic direction for Public Safety-first responders in their communications initiatives, for the purpose of continuous improvement in reliable, mission critical communications interoperability**