



# BUTLER REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM 800 MHz ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2023

**LOCATION**      Butler County EOC

Meeting called to order by Chief J. Jones at 1:35 pm

BOARD MEMBERS					
Communications Representatives	Sheriff's Office	Capt. M. Franke	P	Commissioners	Ms. J. Boyko      A
	Fire Chief's Assn.	Chief M. Mercer	P	Chiefs of Police Assn.	Chief J. Jones      P
	Engineer's	Mr. S. Bressler	A		
	West Chester	Director D. Dick	P	Butler County	Lt. T. Langmeyer      P
	Hamilton	Capt. T. Chenoweth	A	Oxford	Chief J. Detherage      E
	Middletown	Major E. Crank	A	Fairfield	Manager J. Meyer      P
	Trenton	Lt. D. Rosenfelder	P	Monroe	Mgr. M. McKinney      P

<b>ACTING BOARD</b>	N/A
<b>MEMBERS</b>	
<b>APPROVAL OF</b>	Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on: 1 <sup>st</sup> . Mgr. Meyer 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Lt Rosenfelder
<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>PASSED</b>

## BRICS SYSTEM UPDATES

- Capt. Franke / Dir. K. Carpenter
  - KC-usage is on par with 2022. '21 & '22 were pretty even but still down from 2019 levels. May stay that way.
  - Brian Stiens-1 radio out to depot, no carry over from 2022. 3-4 week turn-around time from depot.
  - BS-Financials; bills have been sent out, a little over \$162,000 for maintenance and the rest is for accessories, batteries, etc. (Total \$165,634)
  - BS-battery purchases continued to be a problem, 50 on back order since last year expected to ship by June. Impact batteries expected to arrive in April and another requisition has been created for more.
  - BS-Law PM; about half are scheduled. Anticipate the rest being scheduled in next month or two. Working in school radios as well.
  - KC-Kim is scheduling Law PM, will be contacting the rest soon.
  - KC-XT radios; Morgan Twp. Fire is moving to Apex, radios have been programmed and training to be scheduled. New Miami Fire opted for Kenwood last month. College Corner is working on getting Apex radios, nothing finalized yet.
  - KC-Infrastructure; about half of towers updated to LED lighting, will continue to do 2-3 towers a year until completed. HVAC upgrades starting, two sites have all new HVAC ordered and hoping to do another 3 by the end of the year for a total of 5 this year.
  - KC-Working with Hamilton County for a direct connection (Microwave Interconnect) for their system to the Butler County system for their new dispatch facility. Should not cost us anything nor create a burden or load.
  - KC-Tower Top Amp replacement; is starting, (BS-starting next week) will be a cycle over a few years. Not anticipated to impact coverage, if it is going to or there will be a brief outage at a tower, we will send that out to everybody.
  - JJ-Asked if there are questions for KC and asked about HamCo microwave project. KC explained current microwave system and importance of the upgrade project.

## **SECRETARY UPDATES**

- Rick Weiskittel, Secretary
  - RW-introduced Paul Weddle, taking over secretary duties. Discussion among committee members.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **PSAP, Dir. D. Dick**
  - DD-PSAP Committee met, discussion topic of customized or focused consoles for dispatch centers. Info pushed out to PSAP's. Some PSAP's have different talk groups already. No concerns expressed about having disparate programming templates in consoles. Was brought up that 9Com has crowded consoles, others do not. From the BRICS standpoint; how to submit requests, what would process look like. Biggest push is to have LEERN on console to monitor. MF-LEERN would help. Having LEERN probably something we could do. If it we can get it on the network, it would be available to dispatch centers.  
DD-Also discussed ACB. Spoke with Hamilton County after meeting, they can do ACB over our system that is a judgement call of the dispatcher if they believe the info will affect Butler County agencies. 9Com brought up that some broadcasts are not what would be expected in an ACB, HamCo agreed (hold up alarm at non-financial institution came across ACB but active shooter near county border did not). Having LEERN would bridge gap in what does and does not come across from HamCo ACB.  
MF-Ed and Paul inventoried resources at tower sites, will look at LEERN.  
MF-Console templates fall under the category of portable templates. Discussion of common talk groups among agencies and not causing confusion among outside agencies.  
MF-Discussed ACB history with HamCo and continuing to work through that.  
DD-Process for agencies with requests for resources on consoles?  
MF-We will be reaching out, will discuss at next PSAP meeting.  
DD-Brief discussion of EMA assets (no EMA personnel present). Important for PSAP's to know what assets are and where they are. Assets have been getting moved around, will try to get a more formal notification and information to PSAP's and agencies of where things are.  
MF-Hard to load info into CAD & build run cards if you don't know where things are. Need a better system.
- **LE, Chief Jones**
  - JJ-Questions about ACB, can discuss under Old Business  
DD-Reached out about consoles, was a topic at Police Chief's meeting
- **FIRE, Chief Mercer**
  - MM-Chief Eichelberger will be taking over for Chief Mercer on board and for Subscriber Funding & Strategic Planning. General discussion followed.  
JJ-Thanked Mercer for service.
- **PLAIN TALK,**
  - N/A
- **SUBSCRIBER FUNDING/ STRATEGIC PLANNING, Chief Mercer**
  - N/A
- **HOSPITAL/HEMS, Ryan Burke**
  - MF-Getting things back up and going. Some pending issues, no new progress yet.  
Rick Miller-ODH reached out, Atrium needs training. EMS not answering on 09 01-Hos. Educated ODH, Atrium has new personnel.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- JJ-G4 update. MF-BRICS staff had been trained on PM process, will rotate in with Fire PM schedule.  
JJ-ACB. MF-Continuing to work on, continue to have discussion to learn what it is and what goes into it. Discussion of educating users and listening to appropriate talk groups for LE Info or FD Info. JJ-Is it being used more. MF-Being used more, still some confusion of what info to have to use it. Discussion of Preble County incident. Discussion of what triggers use of ACB.

- JJ-Drones. MF-Geoff Robinson was point on that. Nothing new since last meeting.  
DD-HamCo or Warren County at same stage, given Robinson contact info. Discussion of collaboration.  
JJ-Other Old Business  
MF-Interoperability; discussed ACB previously, discussed countywide assets, common naming and overlaps of unique assets. Discussion of NIMS language training and being used less. Discussion of like and similar talk groups, national standards.  
JJ-Should Plain Talk committee be revitalized? MF-Plain Talk acts as appeals committee when Fire and Law want to use the same word for different meanings. BRICS and other members with interest are contributing.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- MF-Request for school radios to be included in ACB for weather. Could be added to list, will it accomplish what we want? Looking at it and meeting with schools to discuss possibilities. No commitment yet to do anything, still doing technical research.  
JM-Possible to have weather ACB on consoles for Law, Fire and Schools all at once.  
MF-DD-JJ Discussion of ACB for weather in county and schools. Sound one, sound all discussion. Discussion of recent tornado event. Discussion of weather notifications and improved weather service coverage and information. Discussion of PSAP notifications for weather.  
KC-BRICS is testing APX Next radios. State is testing as well, radios not approved use yet. Waiting for state to approve to open up to everybody. Discussion of APX Next model and state concerns with cyber security.  
DR-Discussions with agencies to move to APX Next?  
MF-Next is in addition to APX radios. Discussion of users that make sense.  
JM-E-buttons on law vs fire. Fire stays on tactical, law reverts back to main. Why?  
JJ-Law tactical not monitored?  
MF-MM-JM-DR-RM-Discussion of why e-buttons function in a particular way for fire versus law. Assisting fire agencies alarm to incident not their dispatch center. Discussion of law using fire model for e-buttons.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- N/A
- The next meeting is May 25, 2023

**Adjournment** - Motion by DD, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MM to close the meeting at 2:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paul R. Weddle*

Secretary