



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**



Communications Committee Meeting Minutes (Regular)

DATE / TIME: March 11, 2026 – 10:00AM
LOCATION: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District – Meeting Room A
 4747 E. 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights., Ohio 44125

VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	Present	ASSOCIATION	ALTERNATE	Present
A/C Jim Health	X	Chairman		
Lisa Raffurty	X	Vice Chair		
Randy Kimbro		Southwest Radio COG	Tom Sullivan	X
Brad Handke	X	City of Cleveland	Courtney Newman	
Anthony Luke		City of Cleveland	Brad Englehart	
Cmdr. Schramm		City of Cleveland	Phil DaVila	
Jacquelynn Costa	X	CECOMS	Stephen Kasik	
Mark Christie		Cuyahoga County EMA	Kevin Friis	X
Jill Smialek		Cuyahoga County PSJS	Nancy Kolcan	X
Chief Papesh		Fire	Chief Rega	
Chief Ledwell	X	Fire	Chief Bender	
Chief Dietz	X	LE – Municipal	VACANT	
Sgt. Keeper		LE – Non-Municipal	Lt. Brady	
Lt. Pat Devlin		LE – Sheriff	Sgt. Dave Perez	
Chief Elliott		MARCS User Group	Chief Carroll	
Dillon Crouse	X	MARCS User Group	Jesse Phan	
George Balasko	X	City of Parma	Lt. Nathan Savetski	
Chief Lasky		City of Parma	T.J. Martin	X
Nick DiCicco		Regional Dispatch	VACANT	
Ron Barlow		Regional Dispatch	Kristina Eich	
Mike Dever		Public Works	VACANT	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Jamison, Carol Haddon, Matt Reinke, Henry Tafe, Kyle Jamison, Christene Jones

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AGENDA ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / QUORUM DETERMINATION

- Chairman Jim Heath called the meeting to order at 10:12 A.M. Vice-Chairperson Lisa Raffurty conducted roll call. A quorum was met.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- T.J. Martin motioned to approve the January 14th meeting minutes. Jacquelynn Costa seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

4. MAIN CCESAB MEETING REVIEW

- Kevin Friis reported that the Ham Radio project for the two EOCs was approved by CCESAB. He is working on specs with the Ham radio group. Chairman Heath asked Larry Tafe if it would be easy getting bids for the project. Larry Tafe responded that he is currently getting quotes for the project. He also reported that all projects for the reallocation money have been submitted to OEMA. OEMA voted right away and approved the projects. He is working on four of the five approved projects. Larry Tafe stated that because of the shutdown, he assumes OEMA determined that all the projects will be in general scope so it would not be an issue with FEMA approving them.

5. GRANTS UPDATE

- Larry Tafe reported that the purchase order for Tri-C Radios is currently with Cleveland Communications. He stated that in a short time Tri-C will have 29 Harris brand portable radios.

6. RADIO REQUEST APPLICATION REVIEW

- No new radio request applications were received.

7. COUNTY INTEROP TEMPLATE

- Kevin Friis reported that it was brought to his attention that there were some zones missing from the old template. He stated that, thanks to the group history and knowledge, he was reminded that they were removed on purpose in 2023. He also reported that he has a zone M34, which is from the ODH template for hospitals and health departments. This zone will be worth adding especially since ODH does not let the hospitals program anything other than the ODH template into their grant funded readings.
- Kyle Jamison stated that every ODH template has a set of local zones. There is an ODH template, but local zones can be done too.
- Brad Hanke reminded the group that the interop template is not meant to add every talkgroup in the County. It is not a mandate but it is cost free and it provides the important talkgroups such as the Regionals & MTACs.

8. EXERCISES/DRILLS FOR COM-L PARTICIPATION

- Kevin Friis reported that there will be a NDMS Forward Movement of Patients Exercise on August 11th. It is the first time that the 2014 Forward Movement Patients plan will be tested. He stated that the National Disaster Medical System is us receiving patients through the VA and DOD, from a disaster area or a war zone to local hospitals within the region. VA staffs the reception area and does the triaging at the airport. We are just responsible for helping coordinate ambulance transfer and patient tracking.
- Cleveland is commissioning the USS Cleveland Navy ship. The commissioning will take place in Cleveland May 9th – May 16th, the ceremony will be on the 16th.

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- Zach Bryan concert is scheduled for May 9, this will beat the attendance record for every other event at Browns Stadium.
- Kevin Friis also reported that there will be an activation for the primary election on May 5th which is also a massive web exercise. The school that will be used for the exercise is not a polling location.
- Matthew Reinke reported that there will be a “No Kings 3.0” protest on March 28th. 30,000 people are expected. He stated that the EOC will probably be requesting mutual aid.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- T.J. Martin reported that in attempting to get Starlink for the PSAPS and EMAs, the Starlink representative was not returning phone calls or answering emails. He was able to contact someone at Cradlepoint. Although Cradlepoint has a solution, it would almost provide us with double redundancy. PSAPs could use cellular which has less latency than Starlink. He was finally able to contact a Starlink representative, they informed him that the county would need to pay for everything, including subscriptions for each PSAP. He advised them the county is just looking for to cover the capital expenditure, not monthly fees. T.J. Martin stated that Starlink does not know how to break the pricing model down. A Starlink supplier was contacted, they and a rep. from Cradlepoint are working on drawing everything out. Once complete, we may have them come in and present it to this group. T.J. Martin stated that this will be vetted first. The solution sounds like a double redundancy which would be good for the PSAPs.
- Chairman Heath said that the committee should bring them in and that it should be kept as a project moving forward.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

- Matt Reinke reported that on March 12th there will be a demonstration at the Cleveland EOC. The company is called Mutual Link. He saw them at the National Homeland Security Conference.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None.

12. NEXT MEETING

- May 13th – 10:00 A.M.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- T.J. Martin motioned to adjourn. George Balasko seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.