



Office of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Steven Fronk
Director

March 31, 2010

To All Communications Interoperability Stakeholders in Southeast Wisconsin:

This is my brief introduction as the newly appointed Regional State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Coordinator for Southeast Wisconsin. I will be working out of the City of Milwaukee's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, which is serving as the fiscal agent for the OJA grant that is funding my position.

Last year I retired after a thirty-two year career in municipal law enforcement with the Village of West Milwaukee Police Department that included serving over seventeen years as Chief of Police. During my service, I was deeply involved in interoperability issues relating to Milwaukee County's 800 MHz radio system. Coming from a small agency, I appreciate the importance of cooperative efforts in the public safety arena.

As the regional interoperability coordinator, one of my first tasks is to form a regional interoperability council consistent with the charter adopted by the State Interoperability Council. This council will consist of three members from each of the eight counties in the southeast region, (Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha). The council will be headed by a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson elected by the membership.

This charter, along with numerous other documents is available from the Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative website located at <http://interop.wi.gov/>. I have included as a reference an illustration of shared governance model at the end of this letter.

I am looking forward to meeting with the numerous public safety associations in each of the eight counties to form the regional council and to fulfill the mission of our charter. Communication is the cornerstone to the delivery of the highest level of service that our citizens deserve and expect.

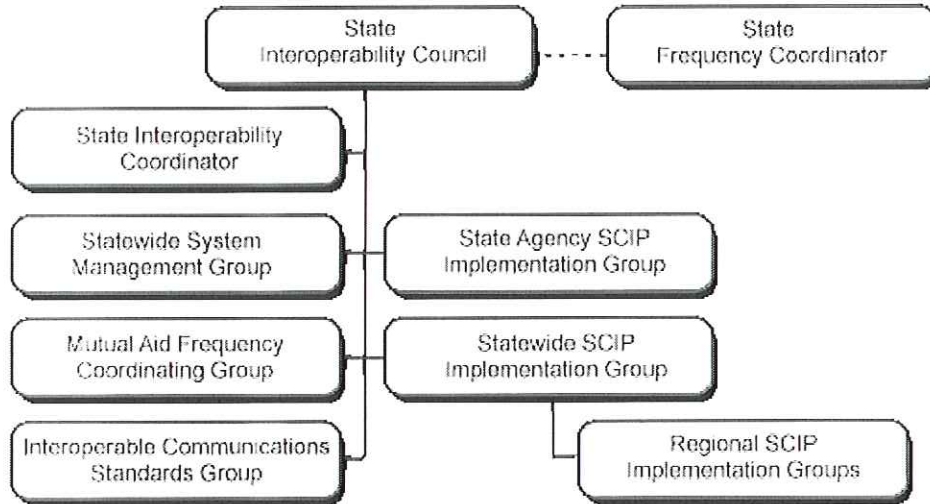
Please feel free to contact me at any time as I welcome all input in this cooperative and challenging endeavor.

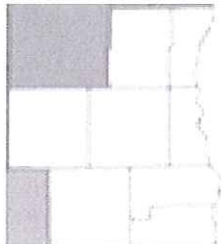

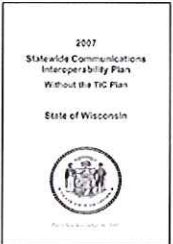

Gene Oldenburg

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Southeast Wisconsin Region

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Wisconsin's Interoperability Initiative: Shared Governance





May 2010

Regional SCIP Implementation Coordinator for Southeast Wisconsin

- › Based in City of Milwaukee's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- › Fully funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.
- › 32 year career with the West Milwaukee Police Department, Police Chief for over 17 years.
- › Past president, Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executives Assn. (MCLEEA)
- › Past board member, Milwaukee/Waukesha County Suburban Mutual Assistance Response Teams (SMART).
- › Active in the Milwaukee County 800 MHz trunked radio system
 - Assisted in forming of the first users' group
 - Helped draft law enforcement inter-agency communications guidelines.

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Why I'm Here...

- ▶ Form a regional council to implement the goals, objectives and policies reflected in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)
- ▶ Ensure that regional interoperability activities move the State closer to statewide interoperable public safety communications.

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What Do I Need from You?

A representative who :

- ▶ Is interested in improving interoperable communications
- ▶ Is able to represent the interests of their membership while working toward a common regional perspective
- ▶ Is able to attend the periodic meetings of the regional interoperability council

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So What is Interoperability?

Broadest definition

- ▶ The ability of a system or component to function effectively with other systems or components.

Communications interoperability

- ▶ the capability of first responders from different agencies to communicate during emergencies.

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Interoperability = Communications

- ▶ Effectively communicated information can help save lives during an incident. The ability of personnel from different disciplines, jurisdictions, organizations, and agencies to work together during an incident depends on their being able to communicate with each other
- ▶ During and after Hurricane Katrina, communications systems failed, severely hampering response operations.
 - *"We lost our communications system, and when you are not able to communicate, you can't coordinate your response. You never think that you will lose your entire infrastructure."*
- ▶ Communications problems are not limited to systems being destroyed or not functioning. Similar problems arise when agencies cannot exchange needed information because of incompatible systems.

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Wisconsin's Interoperability Vision

“To create a communications infrastructure that will allow emergency responders to communicate with whom and when they need to communicate. To accomplish this, Wisconsin will create a secure system of systems, including both existing and newly installed, tied to a single backbone which will route communications. This system of systems will have the capacity to provide special characteristics to meet the needs of the public safety community.”

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Dimensions of Interoperability

- › In broad terms, interoperability is the ability of response personnel to interact and work well together. Technological solutions such as compatible radio equipment are important, but they are only one part of interoperable communications.
- › **Governance**—Bringing together the people from across the jurisdiction who can make decisions and plan.
- › **Technology**—Using technological solutions (systems and equipment) to create linkages between participating agencies and jurisdictions.
- › **Plans and Procedures**—Developing strategies for carrying out communications policy and detailed tasks to carry out those strategies.
- › **Training and Exercises**—Ensuring that interoperable communication is taught, practiced, and tested as part of a comprehensive training and exercise program.
- › **Regular Usage**—Incorporating the use of interoperable equipment and procedures into daily response and exercises.

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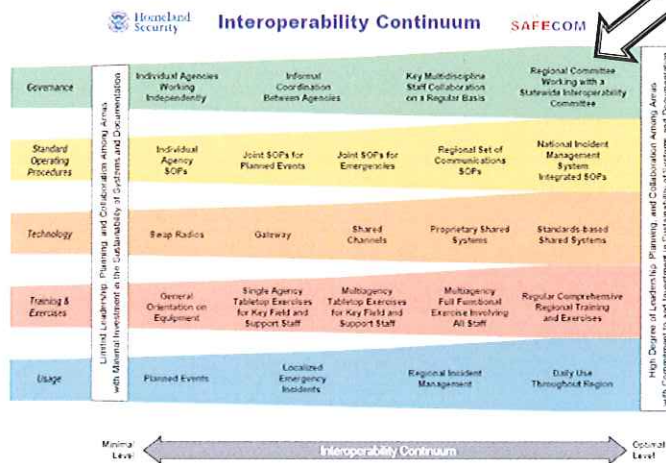
Why Do We Need Governance?

“...It does not benefit the end user to have a technically advanced system installed if no one knows how or when to use it in an emergency”.

“Technology - it really takes extraordinary public safety people to make it work”, Doug Onhalzer, Public Safety IT Magazine, January 2010.

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Interoperability Continuum



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WISCONSIN INTEROPERABILITY
CREATING SEAMLESS STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with options: Home, WISCOM, About, What We Do, Resources, Contact Us. The main content area features a 'Gov't Notice' section with text regarding the implementation of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan (SICP). Below the text is a flowchart titled 'Your Role in Implementing the Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan' with boxes for 'State Interoperable Council', 'State Interoperable Council', 'Local Interoperable Council', 'Local Interoperable Council', 'Local Interoperable Council', and 'Local Interoperable Council'. A large arrow points to the flowchart.

<http://interop.wi.gov/>

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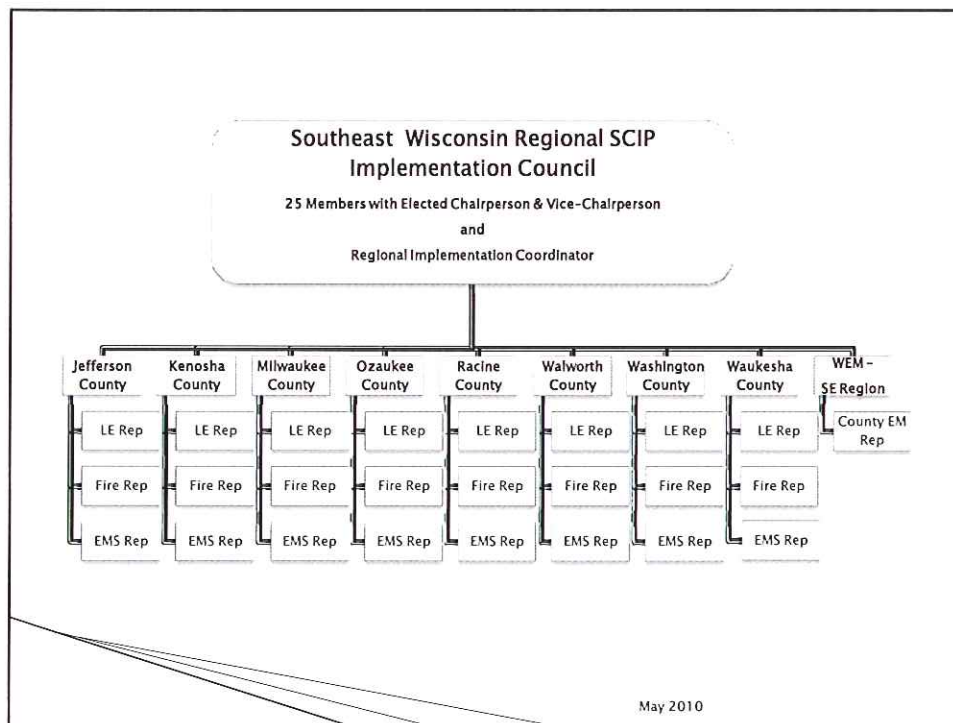
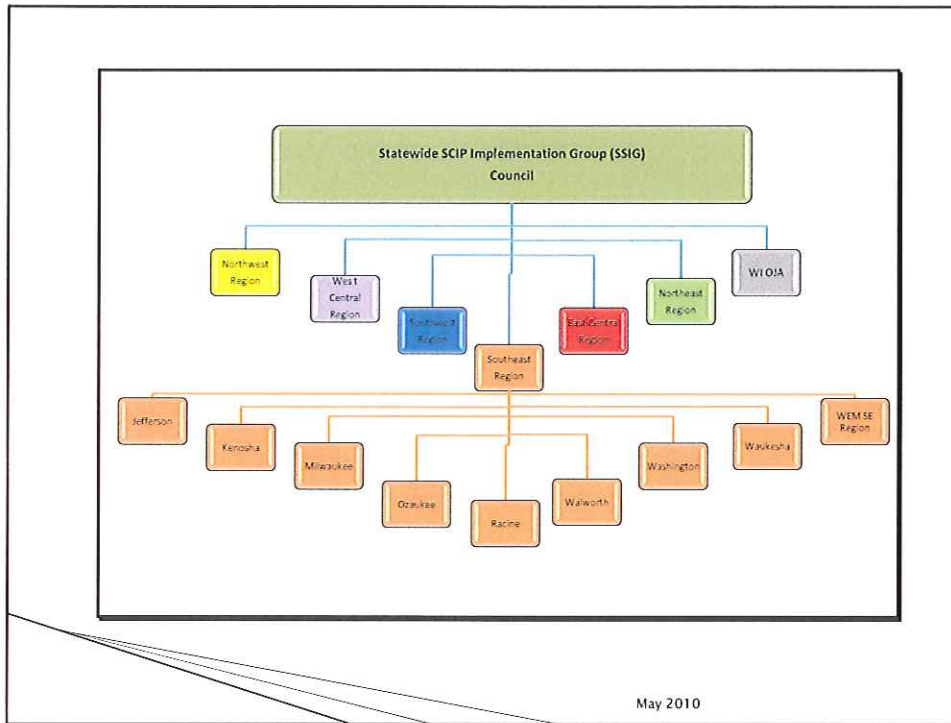
Six Regional SCIP Implementation Councils in Wisconsin

The map shows Wisconsin divided into six regions, each shaded with a different color. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the regions: Southeast Region (lightest shade), East Central Region, West Central Region, Central Region, North Central Region, and Northwest Region (darkest shade). A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.

Legend

- Southeast Region
- East Central Region
- West Central Region
- Central Region
- North Central Region
- Northwest Region

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Regional SCIP Implementation Council Mission is:

- › Lead local and regional planning for and implementation of SCIP implementation efforts.
- › Coordinate grant applications for OJA funding opportunities to assist regional implementation efforts.
- › Assist the Regional Coordinator in the successful migration to narrow banding of radio communications in the region.
- › Conduct at least one meeting of public safety officials and policy-makers in the region to communicate progress in regional SCIP implementation efforts, identify local concerns and potential resolutions, and provide opportunities for great local participation in regional interoperability activities.

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Questions?...Contact me at:

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