

**Approved 5/14/18
EXHIBIT C**

MINUTES

**JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

**Monday, April 16, 2018
10:00 A.M.**

**Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) 9501 Camp Robinson
North Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee Members Present: Senators Bill Sample, Co-chair: Jimmy Hickey, Jr., **Representatives** Stephen Meeks, Co-chair: Karilyn Brown, Jim Dotson, Andy Mayberry, **Alternates** Roger D. Lynch, Carlton Wing

Other Legislators Present: Representatives Scott Baltz, Fredrick Love, Reginald Murdock, Aaron Pilkington, Brandt Smith

Call to Order

Representative Meeks called the meeting to order and thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Arkansas Department Emergency Management (ADEM)

A.J. Gary, Director ADEM introduced himself, and gave a brief background on his path to ADEM which included law enforcement, the military and work in the private sector.

He informed the committee of the following responsibilities of ADEM:

- ADEM works with virtually every agency in the state of Arkansas
- ADEM runs the state emergency operation center for disaster response and coordination which includes:
 - public assistance (state and federal)
 - state and federal programs for infrastructure
 - liaison during disaster between local, state and FEMA
- ADEM receives all hazard incident reports from around the state are received through their twenty-four hour duty station
- ADEM is the designated agency to receive two tier reports for hazardous material
- ADEM distributes Act 833 funds to local fire departments
- ADEM coordinates with all 911 centers across the state
- ADEM engages with law enforcement on issues regarding homeland security
- ADEM is divided into several divisions
 1. Preparedness: planning, training and exercise
 2. Response and recovery: emergency operations, twenty-four hour ARCC, disaster recovery
 3. Administration: budget, finance and accounting
 4. Federal surplus property: pushes out property the federal government doesn't need
 5. Communications: information technology and communications

Mr. Gary noted the following concerns of ADEM:

- local level preparedness
- cyber security, weather, terrorism, school attacks, active shooters, violent intruders monitors
- self-reliant communities and individuals
- home owners insurance
- levees that have not been maintained
- tornado notification
- the high turnover rate

Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN)/FirstNet

Penny Rubow, Director, AWIN

- **Issues included in the discussion:**
- Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) is the statewide public safety radio system, there are approximately 33,000 first responders that use the system
- mission critical and public safety communication systems have to support push to talk communication
 1. Ideally it should support one handed push to talk
 2. The ability to have group calls
 3. The ability to talk device to device
- recommendation that legislators should speak with first responders to find out if their devices are meeting their needs
- with the governor's funds they were able to start an upgrade to the system in 2014, the project wrapped up in 2017
- the Microwave Backcall needs to be upgraded, some of it is twenty years old
- system reliability is checked every week and stays at 99.93%
- FirstNet is an effort to provide enough broadband to keep the public site highly competitive, it's a nationwide network that allows first responders to share video and anything you can put into data. AT&T won the bid for that a year ago, they were able to quickly open their network for first responders who have priority in the network

Arkansas Geological Survey and Earthquakes Preparedness

Scott Ausbrooks, Assistant State Geologist

Issues included in the discussion:

- the survey is an agency that provides information, informing citizens and industry on the geology of the state
- there are 15 geologists that work on water, oil, gas and surface mapping
- an overview of what an earthquake is and the kinds of earthquakes that can occur, Arkansas averages two dozen earthquakes a year, there were seventy-five earthquakes in Arkansas last year and there have been eighteen so far this year
- the New Madrid zone which is the most hazardous zone in Arkansas is similar to California's the only difference is frequency, Arkansas is overdue for a 6.0 plus earthquake
- Arkansas Seismic Network is monitoring earthquakes with the use of a seismometer, seismic stations and seismogram there are six seismometers located in Arkansas state parks and three on private property

- the network has lowered the detection threshold in this region from a magnitude 2.5 to 1.5 making it easier and faster to detect an earthquake
- Arkansas is one of a very few states to have a statewide network, the network has been in operation since 2010 and has detected thousands of earthquakes, there are six temporary stations to augment the network
- Arkansas does not have a seismologist, Oklahoma and Kansas share theirs with Arkansas
- the Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) runs the regional network which covers most of New Madrid
- Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has an emergency response component as well as a state geologist. CUSEC covers the eight states surrounding New Madrid; their main focus is the education, outreach, monitoring response to major seismic events in the area
- preparedness activities include publication outreach for various agencies, groups and schools
- Geological Survey has been training their staff in incident management and half of them are certified in hand radio
- getting Arkansans to understand that earthquakes can occur here and they should be prepared is a challenge

Minutes of October 25, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Representative Meeks made a motion to approve the minutes and without objection the minutes were adopted.
[See Exhibit C]

Other Business

Representative Meeks pondered if within ten to fifteen years would employers require their employees to have a chip installed in them or be forced to wear other tracking devices. He would like to get ahead of this technology and requested that the committee put some thought into the issue so that legislation could possibly be introduced in the next session.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.