

PERCS meeting in Victoria 2012 02 04 – 2012 02 05

PEP is now officially changed to **EMBC** (Emergency Management BC)

Our region (NE) was represented at the meeting by Graig (VE7EAP), Hugh (VE7EQV), and Gerald (VE7GLS). The attendees included station managers, RERRs and their assistants, NGOs such as the Salvation Army, RAC/ARES, IC, and local government representatives.

During the round-table self introductions, the participants stated the successes and challenges that they were having. After hearing from the highly populated areas, Graig took the opportunity to state that we had an entirely different set of challenges many of which we shared with the NW region. He reminded them that our region covers 36% of the province and most of it is sparsely populated. Later, the NW reps said they appreciated us expressing our commonality and standing with them. Together we represent 2/3 of the province.

The huge amount of work done throughout the NE region on the VHF network was an eye-opener for many.

Although we are not the only ones working with SAR, our trailer and our work with SAR are recognized to be ground-breaking and an example to others. One SAR group is using our trailer as a model for a vehicle for use as their search base.

Radio Station Manager Course: Please contact Debbie at the EMBC office or VE7EAP if you are interested in taking this course. If there is sufficient interest, we would like to hold one in the Peace region.

Comprehensive Management Plan is being developed by EMBC. It will cover flood, quake, fire, etc. and will have annexes for specific plans including Amateur Radio. We will then modify our regional plan accordingly.

Committees

Governance: (VE7EAP is a committee member) Their defined objectives are to develop a PERCS mission statement, organizational structure, and criminal record check policy.

Exercise development: (VE7EAP is a committee member) They are tasked with developing exercise templates for small, medium, and large exercises. They will be working with the JI (Justice Institute).

Resource Inventory: Develop a standard format and collect the radio hardware (such as our trailer) and people resources that are available throughout the province. This does not include your privately owned equipment.

Administration Portal: Develop secure electronic access to the data that we need to do our jobs as EMBC staff and volunteer Amateur Radio managers (RERR & MAC).

Training: Establish training requirement and recommendations. They will be selecting from the existing JI and RAC/ARES offerings and identifying any changes or new courses that may be needed. Note that the ARES training manuals are currently being revised and that 3 BC Amateurs are on that committee. (They were all at the meeting)

Other

We are testing a Rogers wireless access point in our communication trailer. This is a new product that will be introduced to the public in the near future. We may have an opportunity to participate with SFU in a satellite based emergency communication research project. This would give us high speed data communications into our emergency radio communication trailer from any remote location in northern BC or farther north. Details are not known at this time.

Note

PERCS has a written agreement with RAC/ARES. Within BC, Amateur Radio emergency response is tasked through EMBC/PERCS and a task number is issued. Outside BC, volunteers are coordinated by RAC/ARES. You are encouraged to join ARES if you want to volunteer outside the province **but** if you volunteer through ARES, you are **not** protected by the benefits such as volunteer expense reimbursement and WCB insurance that are provided exclusively by EMBC!

BC Amateur Radio web sites of interest:

VA7MPG va7mpg.ca
VE7DXD <http://members.shaw.ca/brasskey>