

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

August 4, 2026

The monthly WCEC meeting was called to order at about 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were only 14 members and guests present at the meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Cathy, KC8DJJ, seconded by JR, KD8PYH. Motion carried. There were extra copies of July 4, 2026 minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read, Bill, N8JXO, made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, seconded by George, KE8CAF. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said transmitter doesn't seem to drop off as much when the weather is hot, but it starts transmitting some noise. Ken said we have lost a St Marys remote receiver when the tornado went through St Marys and destroyed the tower at the Kings Ridge tower site. Ken said he removed all of the WCEC equipment from the building. If they rebuild the tower he may put the equipment back at the site. Ken said he still needs to get down to the Rockport site and get a power supply put on the remote receiver, and also go to the Williamstown tower and check on that remote receiver. Ken said that Mike, WV8PWR, was getting into the repeater pretty good while he was in Elizabeth, so the Wirt County remote receiver must be working okay.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org website is working okay, but he needs to get the ARES Bulletins from Ken, WA8LLM, and get them posted on the site. There will be some information put on the website as soon as Cathy, KC8DJJ, gets the licensing information to Bill.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the communications trailer is still at her house.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he has checked the 443.175 MHz repeater, and it seems to be working just fine. He still needs to install a UHF antenna at his house so he can start putting the new 443.175 MHz split site repeater together.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that we still need to keep our equipment list up-to-date as a resource. An ARES Form can be found on the website of www.wc8ec.org

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone who hasn't completed the NIMS, ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and any other NIMS communications courses, they should try to get them completed. A link to the training site can be found on the www.wc8ec.org website. Ken said that if you finish any of the courses, he would like to have a copy of the certificates to put in the WCEC Records.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. Cathy, KC8DJJ, said the Belpre Hamfest will be September 19th. Those hours can be added to your activity list. Bill, N8JXO, said there is a form on the www.wc8ec.org website to help you keep track of your hours. It was also mentioned the Huntington Hamfest will be Saturday, August 8th. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to have their friends and relatives register their Kroger card. Ken said he deposited a check from Kroger last month.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he still needs to repair the door on the transmitter building at the Hendershot Farm tower site that has been damaged by the weather.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't done anything with the ARDEN system this past month. He still needs to change out node at the Broad Street water tank site. Ken said he needs to get the ARDEN Node and antenna taken off the tower at the St Marys King Ridge site where the tower has been destroyed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Basic Electronic Class is still on hold until we can find a place to hold the classes.

Max, KC8JHI, gave a report on the GMRS repeaters in the area. Most of the repeaters are in service except the St Marys 462.700 MHz repeater, which was on the tower that got destroyed. He gave a report on the St Mary tower site. The tower is being turned over to the Pleasants County government. He talked about some new repeaters being installed in the state. Max said there will be a MOV GMRS cookout on September 21st at the Lubeck Park, which is behind the Lubeck fire station. A lengthy discussion followed.

George, KE8CAF, gave a report on the Orr Farm tower site. Nothing has been done yet, but it is still in the planning stages. A short discussion followed.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, gave a report on changes being made by the W5YI VE Testing organization. She has been putting together information on how anyone who wants to take a test will have to register ahead of time. Bill, N8JXO, will be putting information and a link on the www.wc8ec.org website.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there is a new Emergency Services Director at the 911 Center. Ken said the director is wanting an upgraded copy of the WCEC, ARES, and RACES Emergency Operations Plans so he can put them in the County Emergency Operation Plan. Ken said he hasn't talked to him yet about holding the WCEC meeting at the 911 Center.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he still needs to go to the Williamstown tower site and check it out. He would still like to install another section of Rohn RG-45 tower on the tower. He needs to check out the remote receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater.

JR, KD8PYH, said he is ready to put up a tower at his house on Man of War Road when we get everything together.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't heard anything about the 900 MHz Meshtastic system lately. He hasn't done anything with the equipment he has for the system. A short discussion followed.

Since Dave, N8WZ, wasn't at the meeting, so there was no report on the association between vending machine company and WCEC.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he still hasn't made it back down to the 4-H Camp to work on repairing the guy wires the maintenance person accidentally pulled off of the tower. He said he is wanting to put in three new anchors and guy wires to make the tower more stable.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Broadway Church of Nazarene is in the process of building a 60 foot by 100 foot shelter where we usually set up a canopy for their events. They may not be needing our canopies any more.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't heard anything from the officials of the Chic-Fil-A Cross County races yet.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Mineral Wells VFD will be holding their Pig Roast on September 12th. They will be using one of the WCEC 24 by 40 foot canopies.

Bill, N8JXO, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by JR, KD8PYH. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Pam Lott KE8RSZ/Unit 293, Max Barker KC8JHI, Kelly McGill KF8CCI, JR Morton KD8PYH/Unit 296, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 288, Sean Brady KD8ODS, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282. Dave Epler KJ4OML/Unit 277, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283