

**Northeast Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 25, 2009**  
**9:00 a.m., Grand Superior Lodge, Two Harbors**

**Proceedings:**

Chair Marcus Bruning called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Attendees who signed in are as follows:

1. Brad Barber, Federal Engineering
2. Brian Snyder, DSC Communications
3. Bruce Hegrenes, St. Louis County Communications
4. Carey Johnson, Lake County Sheriff's Office
5. Chris Lentz, Motorola
6. Dewayne Kvande, Rogers Two Way
7. Dewey Johnson, St. Louis County 911
8. Erik Jankila, Hibbing Fire Department
9. Jeff Anderson, Kanabec County Sheriff's Office
10. Jeremy Vogel, Rogers Two Way Radio
11. Jim Fregin, Federal Engineering
12. Joel Stevens, Kanabec County Sheriff's Office
13. John Bowen, Crow Wing County Emergency Management
14. John Strongitharm, Duluth Fire Department
15. Ken Johnson, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office
16. Marcus Bruning, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office
17. Mark Falk, Cook County Sheriff's Office
18. Mark Smith, DSC Communications
19. Mark Stansberry, North Memorial Ambulance
20. Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Reservation/DPS/EM
21. Nell Hoey, Itasca County Sheriff's Office
22. Pat Coughlin, Minnesota DNR
23. Pat Lee, Arrowhead EMS
24. Randy Fisher, Cass County Sheriff's Office
25. Rey Freeman, GeoComm
26. Robin Roeser, Duluth Police Department
27. Scott Camps, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office
28. Scott Turner, Aitkin County Sheriff's Office
29. Sharon Schafter, Carlton County Sheriff's Office
30. Steve VanKekerix, Lake County Sheriff's Office
31. Tim Lee, Mn/DOT Electronic Communications
32. Tim Thomas, Itasca County Sheriff's Office
33. Tom Hannon, Consultant/State Radio Board
34. Tom Justin, DPS/DECN
35. Tom Ralidak, Minnesota State Patrol
36. Tony Pogorels, Hibbing Fire Department
37. Ron Whitehead, DPS

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**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions are made by those in attendance.

**II. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Tim Thomas makes a motion to accept last month's minutes as submitted. Mark Falk seconds the motion. The motion carries.

*Departure from Agenda*

- **BUDGET MATTERS:** In Pat Medure's absence, a memo is available and was e-mailed to all on the mailing list proposing that the 2010 budget stay a clone of last year's budget. Tom Hannon explains to the group that other regions have done the same, as expenses are being held down. A motion is made by Mark Falk to recommend that the proposed budget be adopted by the RRB. John Strongitharm seconds the motion. The motion carries.
- **SPECIAL REQUEST - RON WHITEHEAD:** Ron is present requesting approval of a limited participation to implement radio control stations in Lake County, St. Louis County, and Carlton County. There will be five for St. Louis County (they have two PSAPs and one will go for the EOC in Duluth); Lake County and Carlton County would each receive two for their PSAPs, and one for their EOCs. Marcus adds that it would help during the Hell's Angels' rally. A motion is made to recommend approval of a limited participation to implement these 11 stations in these counties by Scott Turner. Randy Fisher seconds the motion. The motion carries.
- **CASS COUNTY - MIGRATING TO ARMER:** Tom Hannon explains that assessments are being done and coming in and that they need approval and eventually will go to the State. He states that once the assessments are adopted by the county boards, they then get brought to the RAC for recommendation of approval by the RRB; when the RRB is satisfied that the assessment is appropriate, they adopt it. It is then a part of the regional plan. He states that from there, it is passed to the SRB, where it goes through the OTC for inclusion in the State plan. A process needs to be in place for the approval of these assessments. Tom states that a priority process is in place for counties that have elected to migrate to ARMER and who are adjacent to counties of development. Whether an agency migrates to ARMER or not, they will still have to do a participation plan just for the use of the control stations. Scott Turner (Aitkin) stated that he would be talking with Cass and Itasca to see if they could do a joint venture for a participation plan, as all their studies are done. He states there may be some '07 money available for these three counties for the participation plan. Marcus suggests that a motion is made to recommend that the RRB approve the participation plans for the Counties of Cass and Crow Wing with the condition

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that the RAC would still have time to look at it, as things may need to be modified. Ron Whitehead states that the initial assessments that each county will want to submit to the RAC can then be incorporated into the regional planning process and once the participations plans are done, the RAC and RRB will approve them. Ron states they are looking for another MOU, as in the 2009 grant process, the State allocated money for participation plans and infrastructure. This will provide funds as well. A sub-committee will be put together to view these assessments. Those on the committee are as follows: Marcus Bruning, Scott Turner, Scott Camps, Tim Thomas, Scott Heide, Bruce Hegrenes, Steve Ovick, Bill Bernhjelm, and Tom Hannon will assist. Tom Hannon will forward the boilerplate that was used by the Central Region for this committee to utilize. Marcus again suggests that the RAC make a recommendation to the NERRB to accept the participations plans on a condition that part of the process, as it continues, will be to meet whatever standard the subcommittee decides after it meets and decides. Tim Thomas makes a motion to accept Marcus's suggested motion. Scott Turner seconds the motion. Randy Fisher asks for formal acceptance of the Cass and Crow Wing Counties' assessments, as they have had their Boards' pass a resolution of acceptance. A motion is made by John Bowen to recommend that the RRB accept the assessments from Crow Wing and Cass Counties. The motion is seconded by John Strongitharm. The motion carries. This motion is later amended to include Aitkin County.

- John Strongitharm states that he was working on his 2010 budget and became nervous because the radio change was always way out in the future, but reality is starting to strike that even if a decision was made today, they may not get done by then. John asks if the RAC should work under a timeline, so they can tell their councils that if a decision is not reached by September 2010, the decision goes away. Marcus stated that it is a concern and needs to be looked at when working on budget matters. He states that he has bonding in place to finish the infrastructure for narrowband, but they are waiting for the final assessment in the fall on what they are going to do. Tom Hannon states that other regions are having the same concerns and states that perhaps it would be a good opportunity to bring someone together from each region and start dealing with it on a broader basis. He states that he would be more than happy to work with the Chair to try to facilitate that.

**IV. Old Business**

*Departure from Agenda*

**I. Consolidated Telephone Company (Marcus Bruning)**

Marcus informs the RAC that the RRB recommended the RAC not write a letter of support for CTC as they did not feel comfortable giving one company a leg up over other companies that would apply for the same funding source.

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*Departure from Agenda*

**VII: Next Meeting**

The next meeting is going to be moved back a week to July 15, 2009, in Itasca County, at 10:00 a.m. Tim Thomas reminds the groups that the RRB desires to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month and the RAC always met on the fourth Wednesday of each month, which does not give the RAC enough time to recommend items to the RRB. Tim requests that we keep this meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) consistent and this will accommodate the RRB. A motion is made by Tim Thomas to change the meeting dates to the third Wednesday of each month and have this be consistent. The motion is seconded by Dewey Johnson. The motion carries.

**VII: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourns at 10:05 a.m.

**FEDERAL ENGINEERING: JIM FREGIN PROVIDES THE REPORT BELOW BEFORE BRAD BARBER'S PRESENTATION. BRAD'S REPORT WAS SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO ALL.**

**Table 1 – Report status**

| Report statistics       | Queued | In progress | Q/A       | Review         | Revising | Approved/Completed                         |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------|--|
| Existing infrastructure |        |             |           |                |          |  |
|                         |        |             | St. Louis | Koochiching -1 |          | Lake<br>Pine<br>Cook<br>Kanabec<br>Carlton |
| Alternatives reports    |        |             |           |                |          |  |
|                         | Cook   |             | Pine      |                |          |  |

**Table 2 - Survey statistics**

| County      | Received | Distributed |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Carlton     | 11       | 19          |
| Cook        | 6        | 15          |
| Kanabec     | 9        | 15          |
| Koochiching | 3        | 28          |
| Lake        | 3        | 14          |
| Pine        | closed   | closed      |
| St. Louis   | 14       | 176         |