

**Northeast Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 21, 2009  
10:00 a.m., Fond du Lac Tribal Center**

**Proceedings:**

Chairman Marcus Bruning called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The sign-up sheet disappeared halfway around the table. So there will be no listing of attendees on these minutes, as I do not have total recall and do not want to leave anyone out.

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions are made by those in attendance.

**II. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**MOTION:** Tim Thomas makes a motion to accept last month's minutes as submitted. Steve Ovick seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

**III. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**A. Training Committee (Mark Falk/absent)**

Nothing to report. However, later in the meeting, Monte Fronk reports that there is a Training Advisory Group meeting on Friday, October 23, 2009, either by ITV in Virginia or Mn/DOT headquarters in Shoreview.

**B. Policy (Pat Medure)**

Nothing to report here.

**C. Technical and Operations (Steve Ovick)**

Steve reports that Jim Fregin gave a good presentation to the Pine County Board two weeks ago and swayed them.

**D. SRB Operations and Technical (Bruce Hegrenes/absent)**

Tim Lee (Mn/DOT) reported that the DOC (nine facilities) and two DHS facilities came forward with their plan to come onto the system.

**E. SRB Interop Standing Committee (Scott Camps)**

To be addressed later.

**F. Regional CASM (Karla White)**

Karla has nothing new to report.

**G. NERAC Interoperability Committee (Thomas/Camps)**

Nothing to report.

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**H. User Committee (Erik Jankila)**

Erik reports that there have now been a couple meetings of the User Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2009, at the Fond du Lac Hotel. Erik reports that they are working with Tom Hannon and Bill Bernhjelm and will be going to the meeting in St. Cloud on October 26, 2009. Erik reports that they have an issue to bring before the RAC that relates to Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties. They would like to expedite the process for receiving towers, as they are ready to go in their migration to ARMER.

**MOTION:** Erik makes a motion to write a letter to present to the NERRB. Pat Medure seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. Erik adds that the RAC will be giving the User Committee much direction in the future and that the User Committee is just getting their feet wet and learning.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. GeoComm Regional Radio Survey Update (Rey Freeman)**

Rey states that the Region 2 Report is finished and two master paper copies will be provided. He states that each agency will get a single-ring binder with sections 1 and 3 and their own section 2 printed out. Rey says that he doubts anyone would want the entire paper report. CDs with the entire report on it will be provided (as many as are desired). These will go to the 11 counties, the City of Duluth, and EMS agencies. Rey asks to be contacted sometime between now and next week regarding the number of CDs that are wanted.

**B. Federal Engineering Update (Jim Fregin)**

**Report status**

Existing infrastructure	Queued	In progress	Q/A	Review	Revising	Approved/Completed
			Koochiching -2		St. Louis - 1	Lake Pine Cook Kanabec Carlton

Alternatives reports	Queued	In progress	Q/A	Review	Revising	Approved/Completed
			Koochiching	Cook Lake Pine Carlton Kanabec St. Louis		

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**Upcoming presentations:**

1. Carlton County Board meeting October 26<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 PM
2. Cook County Board meeting October 27<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM
3. Kanabec County Board meeting October 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM

**Completed presentations:**

1. Pine County Board meeting September 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM
2. Carlton County User meeting October 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM

**C. PSAP Consolidation (Pat Medure)**

Pat reports that the next meeting is tomorrow (October 22, 2009) at 2:00 p.m. The committee has been going through what Pat calls “a recipe book” with a consultant and making recommended changes in the consolidation book. Pat makes the offer to send anyone copies of the documents if they so choose. Marcus adds that if copies are desired, all they need to do is let him or Pat know and they can be sent out.

**D. SHSP Grant (Pat Medure)**

Background: Pat reminds people that this is a grant Itasca County received for radios for counties surrounding Itasca County. Some entities wanted mobiles and some wanted portables. Pat’s recommendation is to buy all portables (first come, first served). There is \$102,000 available. Cost per radio: \$2,023.26 plus \$90.00 in programming. This means purchasing about 48 portables. Pat is looking for direction. He believes it makes sense to buy portables and make agencies responsible for those radios to make sure they are working if/when they come into Itasca County so they will have seamless interoperability. There was discussion on the radios for helicopters. Mark Stansberry, North Memorial, reports that they are getting 700, 800 VHF compatible radios for their helicopters and are looking for grants for those radios; the radios must be FHA approved and mounted in the helicopter. Cost: Approximately \$20,000 per radio, plus \$20,000 for installation. Monte Fronk asks if the RAC could provide some financial resource to North Memorial. Marcus adds that the Board needs to be careful about that because there is more than one helicopter service in our region and if we start giving money to private companies, there could be an issue. Marcus suggests that the RAC find out what the need is and then make an educated decision. A letter will go out to each neighboring county agency asking how many they would like, and Pat will try to have the number at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Monte Fronk makes a motion to use the grant dollars for the purchase of approximately 48 portable P-25 800 MHz radios. Jim Wiinanen seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. (There are no freight charges.)

\*\*Later in the meeting, Pat interjects that anyone receiving a radio in the neighboring counties needs a unit identification number for that radio. Tim Lee points out that within the system there are IDs that are assigned to each radio; that addressing blocks were set up for each county in the state; IDs need to be set up and approved by the OTC; and a contract needs to be in place with Mn/DOT. IDs

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show up in the system and tell which agency it is from. Pat asks if 20 numbers are enough for these entities. After discussion, it is decided that it is best to ask for more so they don't have to ask for approval for more numbers later. It is decided that 50 numbers per agency would be requested.

**E. ARMER Update (Tim Lee/MnDot)**

Tim reports that they are continuing on and that there are approximately 20 sites ready to get specs out and that the Ely tower will be completed in a week or two.

Marcus asks Chris Lentz about the new Apex portable radio. Chris reports that it is certified to be on the ARMER system, but it is not on the state contract yet. He states that it is a dual-band, 800 MHz, which can be dual-sided (data side/voice side). He states that it is a loud radio, it has intelligent lighting, and it has an impact-resistant screen. Approximate price: \$5,000.00 each.

**F. ARMER CONTROL STATION (Bill Bernhjelm)**

Bill reports that the PSAP managers and emergency managers should have received this information asking for the first commitment at the end of November if you are going to accept the control station. Letter from sheriff is all that is needed for the commitment. Bill invites anyone to call him with questions if they need more information.

**G. Limited Participation Plan (Pat Medure)**

Already discussed.

**H. DECN Training (Tim Thomas)**

Tim reports that there was a presentation given regarding the Owatonna plane crash and the issues they had in communicating with locals. There was a panel presentation pertaining to the TIC Plan. There was also a CASM and a COML presentation. Next meeting by video-conferencing is at 9:00 a.m. this Friday, and the closest spot will be the Mn/DOT office in Virginia. November 20, 2009, meeting will see Dewey Johnson giving a presentation on the NE MN Hell's Angels rally.

**I. Website (Nell)**

Website address is: <http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/NEMNRadio/>

Nell reports that Scott Camps put together some information for the website regarding mission, etc., of the RAC and RRB. Nell invites others to look at it and will submit it to Chris Worth. If there are suggestions for additions to what Scott put together, those present are invited to state them. Nell reports that she will hand them over to Christopher Worth (MIS) to post.

**J. SCIP Plan for IECGP Grant (Scott Camps)**

Scott reminds the group that it is the State's interop plan that was done in 2007, and we received some money (Interop Emergency Communications Grant Program) a couple years ago. All funding requests had to originate with the RRBs, HSEM regions, Urban Area Security Initiative region, or DECN. Eighty

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percent of the funds need to be allocated to support local and regional entities; the remaining twenty percent can go to state agencies. They are anticipating \$700,000 for the state of Minnesota. Project funding goals are leadership and governance development and common planning and operational protocols and emergency responder skills and capability development. Scott reports that there are three goals under the SCIP Plan that would apply. There are other goals listed as well. Scott states that we need to make a recommendation to the RRB as to whether we should apply or not. Applications need to be in by Friday, November 13, 2009; by 1600 hours. After discussion, Scott makes a motion to get permission from the RRB to apply for the grant (Pat Medure offers to help Scott with the application). Dewey Johnson seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. (The recommended amount to apply for is \$210,000.)

**V. New Business**

**A. SCIP Update Delegate (Scott Camps)**

A work group is needed to update the SCIP, and they want to meet November 3, 4, 2009, in the Metro. Funding provided for mileage, meals, and reasonable hotel expenses for November 2, 3. They are asking each RAC, HSEM region, and the Urban Area Security Initiative Region to appoint delegates to participate. Pat Medure will go for the RAC; Scott Camps volunteers to go for the HSEM region.

**B. J-SMART (Monte Fronk)**

Monte presents information of a satellite mutual aid radio talkgroup from the DOJ and the FBI. It is a system that uses satellites for interoperability. He presents this to everyone as another tool to use, if they should choose. There is no cost for public safety agencies. The only cost is the satellite dome. According to the FBI this is a reliable tool and would be a great system if cell towers went down and would provide nationwide coverage. Coverage includes: Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. Handouts were passed out.

**C. Bill Bernhjelm**

- SCR workgroup is meeting; looking at the SAT Cow; they hired a consultant to help develop the capabilities of the whole reserve. Ron Whitehead is heavily involved in this matter and other matters.
- Bill reports that over the next couple of weeks there should be information coming out on the dollars allocated for participation planning for equipment, infrastructure, and mobiles and portables. Information on the \$5 million infrastructure grant should be coming out as well.
- Bill states there was an article in the Sunday Star Tribune that had incorrect information by a particular consultant and a neighboring state. He eased people's minds with the truth and confidence that the ARMER system was studied many times over and what Wisconsin is doing and what Minnesota is doing are totally different. Bill stated that if anyone gets hammered with questions from elected officials, he has a list of talking points that can provide answers to most raised questions. Pat

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Medure adds that he was disappointed in the article and urged people to share study information with their councils and boards to quell misinformation.

- Scott Camps thanked Rey Freeman for all his hard work and praised him and GeoComm. He also thanked him for faithfully attending the RAC meetings.

**VI. Future Meetings \*(PLEASE REMEMBER WE MEET THE THIRD WED.)**

- November 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Cass County Land Services Building
- December 16, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Hibbing Memorial Building

**Adjourn**

- There is a motion by Randy Fisher to adjourn the meeting. Scott Camps seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. This meeting adjourns at 11:28 a.m.