

**Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board Meeting**  
**ITV Sites: Two Harbors (Host), Lake County Service Center; Pine**  
**County Jail, St. Louis County EOC, Grand Rapids/ICC Davies Hall**  
**May 28, 2009; 10:00 a.m.**

**Board:** (☒ = present; ☐ = not present)

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Wedel/Aitkin               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Clifford/Lake |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Bodie/Carlton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Hallan/Pine  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Dowson/Cass      | <input type="checkbox"/> Peg Sweeney/St. Louis           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Fenwick/Cook  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tony Cuneo/Duluth               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Thiede/Crow Wing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tim Harkonen/Hibbing            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Eichorn/Itasca            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tim McBride/International Falls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Troupe/Kanabec            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Damm/Virginia   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Lepper/Koochiching      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Camps/NE RAC   |

**Alternates:** (☒ = present; ☐ = not present)

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|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Belich/Carlton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith Nelson/St. Louis County               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dick Downham/Cass County               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Strongitharm/City of Duluth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Houge/Crow Wing County            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Wolff/City of Hibbing                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catherine McLynn/Itasca County         | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian McBride/City of Int. Falls            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rich Sve/Lake County                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Van Kekerix/RAC            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Ovick/Pine County                |  |

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Bernhjelm (RIC, DPS ARMER); Steve Van Kekerix (Lake County Sheriff's Office) and Pat Medure (Itasca County Sheriff's Office).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting is called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Jim Dowson, Cass County.

**APPROVE MEETING AGENDA**

A motion is made by Commissioner Tom Clifford to approve the agenda as submitted. Councilman Jeff Damm seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes stood as approved without a formal vote.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Scott Camps reports that Federal Engineering would like to do a presentation on their VHF/UHF Interoperability Infrastructure Draft Report. Scott states that the RAC agreed to a proposed joint meeting with the RRB on June 25, 2009, in Lake County, at Grand Superior Lodge. The proposed schedule is: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. RAC meeting on budget issues; 10:00 a.m. joint meeting and presentation for the RRB and RAC from FE; after the presentation the RAC and RRB would separate and hold their meetings simultaneously.

- Bill Bernhjelm adds that Tom Justin could also do a presentation on talk group planning and a system overview of ARMER. Tom is a contractor for the State and Bill's counterpart for the Central Region. The cost of Tom's time would be \$125.00/hour plus travel expenses. Tom's presentation would last approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. Steve Van Keckerix reports that he could get the reserved room for a longer period of time if the group wished to have this meeting. Steve Hallan makes a motion to have the joint meeting on June 25, 2009, in Lake County. Commissioner Marv Bodie seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- Scott reports that another matter brought up at the last RAC meeting was that Consolidated Telecommunications Company, out of Brainerd, made a presentation on broadband stimulus money available by application. It could affect five counties: southern Cass; Crow Wing; Morrison, Aitkin, Carlton, and the northern part of Mille Lacs. They need towers and will exchange fiber optic connectivity to some of the towers and provide mobile data and high speed internet to those areas (including schools, hospitals, public safety facilities, etc.) CTC was soliciting support from the RAC. At the last RAC meeting, it was brought up as a motion and passed unanimously to write a letter of support for the grant application. Scott was asked to approach the RRB about the matter as well. Commissioner Clifford and Commissioner Fenwick stated that they did not wish to support this initiative. Other areas are being approached by other companies and they feel this would be competing with those offers. Sheriff Medure also did not wish to bring it before the RRB, as Itasca County is putting out RFPs and utilizing their towers as a part of leveraging. It is Itasca County's hope that there will be a reduced rate if they can get people onto the towers to put broadband out to the rural areas. Sheriff Medure asked if the RAC voted to write a letter; Scott Camps said there was a vote for the RAC Chair to send a letter of support for this project. Sheriff Medure also mentioned that he did not know if it was proper for the RAC to send a letter without first going through the RRB, as the RAC is an arm of the RRB. Bill Bjernhelm points out that Mr. Stroot, from CTC, could not be there today. He states that the State also could not commit to a partnership with CTC, though Cass and Crow Wing Counties and part of the Central Region did support it. He points out that one advantage would be that CTC would provide the fiber cable to create the redundant path that is desired in the ARMER system so that if one tower site goes down, there are alternate paths to move traffic around that tower. Commissioner Dowson adds that Cass's question was what to do with the areas of Cass County that are not covered. He points out that CTC's request for support may be redundant, if CTC is requesting support from county boards. He states that the information is needed, but a resolution may not be appropriate. Scott Camps states that he agrees and that this matter should be up to individual counties to support and not as a region. Scott adds that we will be hit by everyone else wanting to put forth a proposal as well.
  - Scott states that it is time for us to adopt our next year's budget for the RRB and we need direction from the RRB regarding who should look at it. Commissioner Dowson stated that the RAC did a fine job in the beginning, and the RAC should do it again. Sheriff Medure states that he could get together with Tom and Bill, put something together, and he asks Scott if he could do a presentation, as he (Pat) cannot make the next meeting in June.

- Scott reports that a while ago the RRB asked the RAC to go out to their users and start developing a list of people for a User Committee. Scott states that responses were received from: Carlton, Cass, Cook, Lake, City of Duluth, City of Hibbing, Kanabec County, State Patrol Districts (Duluth/Brainerd), and Pine County. Scott states that Marcus Bruning, Tony Pogorels, and Tim Thomas are beginning the process of setting a date and location for a convening meeting. The people who have volunteered for this committee will possibly be invited to our combined meeting on June 25, 2009. Nell reports that she has a list of 20 people signed on to the User Committee. Scott also mentions to the group that the RAC (Arrowhead EMS/fiscal agent) has M&A money left over that they thought could be used for the User Committee convening meeting. Commissioner Bodie adds that it would be good to have the User Committee meetings alternate between daytime and evening hours so people could make the meetings. Scott stated that this was a good recommendation to bring to the RAC, as they will be setting a schedule for those meetings.

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Nell reports that Chris Worth is working on a mock-up of the format and that it will be presented to the RAC and RRB when complete. Once that is approved, Chris will make the final web page.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bill Bernhjelm reports that the Statewide Training Advisory Committee will meet on May 29, 2009, in Arden Hills. Tim Thomas and others will represent the NE Region at that meeting. This prompts the discussion of Tom Justin again, as it was unclear if his proposal to present was accepted. Chairman Dowson and Commissioner Hallan agree he should come. Bill will line Tom up to present and asked folks to let Nell know who would be coming (including volunteers for Users Committee). Steve Van Kekerix will reserve Grand Superior Lodge from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. John Strongitharm asks if the focus on the presentation will be ARMER and 800 MHz. Bill states that it is a system overview of the trunking system and training on how to use talk groups for different purposes. John asks if there will be training for narrowband VHF and its capabilities. Bill states that it is recognized that there are counties that will not go to ARMER, but the system plan is that everyone will have access to ARMER (though some will be limited) for interop reasons, and even those will need basic training. Bill will get a copy of the outline from Tom of the training and Nell will disseminate it. Commissioner Clifford agrees that this would be good training.
- As reported earlier, the next meeting will be a joint meeting with the RAC/RRB and User Committee volunteers on June 25, 2009; at Grand Superior Lodge in Two Harbors. The meeting will go into the afternoon, as Tom Justin's presentation will also be included. As reported earlier, the schedule will be as follows: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. RAC budgetary issues; 10:00 a.m. - ? FE presentation; RRB and RAC will meet separately in groups after FE presentation; break for lunch; 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tom Justin presentation. The website for Grand Superior Lodge is <http://www.grandsuperior.com/contact.htm>. Grand

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Superior Lodge is located 12 miles northeast of Two Harbors on Highway 61, in Castle Danger. Please see this website for more driving instructions.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Nell reports that she will try setting up ITV several months in advance. She asks the group to let her know ASAP if the meeting should be cancelled and prefers she get that directive from a board member or the chairman. Sheriff Medure suggests booking the room instead of waiting and then canceling, if need be; otherwise there may be a lost opportunity for the room.

**ADJOURN**

A motion is made by Scott Camps to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jeff Damm seconds the motion. The meeting adjourns at 10:31 a.m.