

**Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board Meeting**  
**ITV Sites: Grand Rapids/Courthouse (Host), Lake County Service**  
**Center; Pine County Jail, St. Louis County EOC**  
**January 28, 2010; 10:00 a.m.**

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

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Wedel/Aitkin  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peg Sweeney/St. Louis          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Bodie/Carlton                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tony Cuneo/Duluth                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Dowson/Cass                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Harkonen/Hibbing           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Fenwick/Cook  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tim McBride/International Falls           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Thiede/Crow Wing                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Cuffe/Virginia                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catherine McLynn/Itasca                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Camps/NE RAC             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Troupe/Kanabec                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Stansberry/User Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Lepper/Koochiching                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Heidi/O&O Committee      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Clifford/Lake                            |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Hallan/Pine (acting as Board alternate) |  |

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

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Turner/Aitkin County | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith Nelson/St. Louis County               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Belich/Carlton County           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Strongitharm/City of Duluth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dick Downham/Cass County              | <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Wolf/City of Hibbing                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Houge/Crow Wing County           | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian McBride/City of Int. Falls            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Medure/Itasca County              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Van Kekerix/RAC            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Schulz/Kanabec County           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Swenson/User Committee     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rich Sve/Lake County                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Olson/O&O Committee        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Ovick/Pine County    |  |

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Bernhjelm (RIC, DPS ARMER); Rey Freeman (GeoComm)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting is called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman Jim Dowson, Cass County.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion is made by Commissioner Sweeney to accept the agenda. Commissioner Hallan seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no additions or corrections to the December 17, 2009, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Harkonen to accept the December minutes. Sheriff Turner seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Scott talked about the FCC licensing requirements that include MINSEF, Statewide Fire Mutual Aid, Statewide EMS, and Statewide Point to Point. He states that there will be a 60-day period--to include October 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012--to have all wideband operations on those channels cease.
- Interop Communications Grant Program: An application was submitted for \$226,000, which made it through the grant workgroup; reduced to \$175,000 for participation plan funding for the NE Region. It is on the agenda for the Operations and Technical Committee and needs to go through the Finance Committee and then the Statewide Radio Board.
- The State has received a little over \$10 million; a little over \$5 million is set aside for interop communications. Scott requests permission for the NE Region to apply for the remaining \$450,000 to complete the PSAP to ARMER microwave or fiber optic link in the Region. Scott also is requesting permission from the RRB to apply for up to \$100,000 for the NE Region for end user equipment on the ARMER system. The total request is, therefore, \$550,000 for the 2010 Homeland Security grant. A motion is made by Kerry Swenson to allow the RAC to apply for \$550,000 HSEM grant funds. Councilman Harkonen seconds the motion. Commissioner Clifford asks if Region II is the same as the NE Region. Scott Camps clarifies that it is and it includes the 11 counties in the NE Region, and HSEM defines it as Region II. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- Commissioner Sweeney makes a motion to allow St. Louis County to apply for participation plan funding in excess of the \$30,000.00 available through DECN. John Strongitharm seconds the motion. Commissioner Clifford asks how much money in excess of \$30,000 is being requested. Scott Camps states that because they are not sure what the plan will cost (until they get more information from a vendor) they are unsure. Scott states that they are not sure if they can get more than \$30,000.00, but they want the option available. Upon a vote, the motion carries. (This matter was also passed at the RAC meeting on January 20, 2010.)
- Approval of the 2009 (which Scott believes to actually be 2008) State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP). It will provide 48 ARMER radios to agencies that respond in Itasca County. Approval is needed to make application for this funding. Commissioner Sweeney makes a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Clifford seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- Approval is sought from the RRB to allow application of the DECN grant for \$40,000.00, which will be utilized to purchase radios for Itasca County schools. This falls under the 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Program. Commissioner Bodie makes a motion to allow application of this grant. Councilman Harkonen seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney to accept the Owners and Operators Committee Bylaws as submitted. Commissioner Hallan seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

#### **UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

- FYI - Chairman Dowson explains that the budget for 2011 needs to be completed on or before June 1, 2010. Nell explains that Sheriff Medure and Tom Hannon worked on this in the past.

- FYI - Yearly cost for MCIT Insurance is \$2,136.00. This comes out of the general fund and members will not be billed separately.

### **SPECIAL REPORTS**

- Bill Bernhjelm will discuss items next under “New Business.”

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- RIC meeting was last week in St. Paul. Discussion included NECP goals and milestones. There may be things to discuss at the User Committee level regarding interop channels.
- Number of meetings regarding interop with Manitoba and Ontario. There have been three meetings with Manitoba folks in the NW. Preliminary meeting in International Falls. The next meeting with Ontario will be at 8:00 a.m. on February 3, 2010, in International Falls, in the Sheriff’s Office training room. The grant is for border interop projects and includes \$15 million for the northern border and \$15 million for the southern border. Bill asks the group to think of ways to participate in a cross-border interop project.
- 2010 SHSP guidance document released this week.
- Statewide Interoperability Conference held in St. Cloud on April 28, 29, 30, 2010. The idea is to bring concerns regarding interop communications to this meeting. The RAC, RRB, and advisory groups welcome. Registration: \$125 each; however, discount available for those sponsored by their RACs or RRBs; other expenses can be paid through training grant funds. Save the date. More information to follow.
- Two Gateway workshops are being planned for people using Gateway features. February 25, 2010, in Rochester and at the Mn/DOT building in St. Cloud on February 23, 2010. Information was sent to everyone. First come; first served.
- T.A.G. has been suspended because of training issues, content, delivery, who is qualified to deliver the training, etc. More information will follow.

Kerry Swenson asked if the Gateway training would be offered in a year, as Cass County is about 18 months away from being operational. Bill states that there is not a plan now, but the sessions will be taped, and if there is a demand, they will try to do something.

Chairman Dowson expresses concern about Koochiching County’s involvement at the RRB and mentions that Nell had sent an e-mail up there to see if we can get ideas for better communications with them.

Commissioner Clifford asked if county commissioners could attend the meeting in St. Cloud. Bill Bernhjelm says, “Yes, definitely.” Bill adds that there will be a significant governance component and discussions regarding issues the RRB is asked to approve. He states that the idea of the meeting is to bring others together to share information, network, and get answers.

- Rey Freeman (GeoComm) runs through a verbal presentation of the participation plans for Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing. A power point presentation was done at the NERAC meeting on January 20, 2010, in McGregor, where the three plans

- were approved. They need approval from the individual county boards (two have been approved already, and it is on the Cass County agenda for next week). They also need approval from the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board, and at the State Radio Board Operations and Technical Committee on February 9, 2010. A motion is made by Scott Turner to accept the participation plan for Cass County. Commissioner Clifford seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. A motion is made by Kerry Swenson to accept the participation plan for Aitkin County. Councilman Harkonen seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. A motion is made by Sheriff Turner to accept the Crow Wing County participation plan. Scott Camps seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- A motion is made by Councilman Harkonen to accept Councilman Larry Cuffe as the new City of Virginia representative to sit on the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board. Councilman Cuffe will replace Councilman Jeff Damm. Commissioner Sweeney seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
  - There was a possible motion needed to accept Commissioner Curt Rossow as the representative from Pine County to sit on the NE MN RRB. **This matter is being tabled** until Commissioner Hallan and Commissioner Rossow get their directives.
  - Nell informs the group that Dewey Johnson is the Chair of the Owners and Operators Committee; Steve Olson is Vice-Chair; and the Recording Secretary will be selected at the next meeting. Scott Heide has been elected to sit on the NE MN RRB and will represent the Owners and Operators. Steve Olson is the alternate to sit on the RRB and represent the Owners and Operators. Nell also clarifies that on some of the other minutes she had put Erik Jankila as the person from the User Committee to sit in the NE MN RRB. She reports that Mark Stansberry is actually the primary person and Kerry Swenson is the alternate to sit on the NE MN RRB and represent the User Committee. They are both present and affirm this declaration.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Clifford points out the correspondence from Mr. Vegemast and asks if we are so far along that we will ignore anything he says.

Commissioner Clifford asks Bill Bernhjelm if ARMER will be used in Lake County if they go to 6.25 MHz in the future. Bill states that it is his understanding that the current narrowbanding issue does not apply to the 800 MHz band and that as time goes on, it becomes more of an infrastructure issue than a user issues. Bill states that he believes it would be the responsibility of the State to upgrade the infrastructure, and sees it as a non-issue at this time.

Bill states that Mr. Vegemast's issue isn't choosing ARMER or another technology; it is with the design and utilization of technology for the ARMER system. Bill states that Mr. Vegemast's point is that he would have designed it differently than the State and would have used VHF frequencies instead of the 800 frequencies that the State chose. Bill adds that Mr. Vegemast's concerns have been vetted a number of times and to do another study would push the whole project backwards and bump everyone up to the 2013 deadline and create

scrambling. Chairman Dowson points out that he does not want the RRB to be put in the middle of a disagreement between the State and Mr. Vegemast. Commissioner Sweeney asks if a letter could be sent to Mr. Vegemast simply stating that we have chosen to follow the State and any further correspondence should be with the State rather than the individual radio boards. Chairman Dowson states that he will send a letter to that effect.

- The next meeting of the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board will be on February 25, 2010; at 10:00 a.m., via ITV.

**ADJOURN**

There is a motion by John Strongitharm to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Turner seconds the motion. The meeting adjourns at 10:53 a.m.