

Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board Meeting
ITV Sites: Cook County LEC/Grand Marais; Crow Wing County S.O.
LEC/Brainerd; Grand Rapids/S.O. Training Room, Lake County/Silver Bay Service
Center; Pike Lake EOC; Pine County Law Enforcement Center;
June 24, 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"/> Jay Fosle/Duluth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Dowson/Cass | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Harkonen/Hibbing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Fenwick/Cook | <input type="checkbox"/> Tim McBride/International Falls |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Thiede/Crow Wing | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Stephen Hallan/Pine (acting alternate board member for now) | |

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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"/> Jan Hall/Cook County | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian McBride/City of Int. Falls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Houge/Crow Wing County | <input type="checkbox"/> (No Alternate/City of Virginia) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Medure/Itasca County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Van Kekerix/RAC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Schulz/Kanabec County | <input type="checkbox"/> Kerry Swenson/User Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rich Sve/Lake County | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Olson/O&O Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Ovick/Pine County (waiting to see if he is the alternate again) | |

Guest Speakers: Rey Freeman (GeoComm)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Jim Dowson, Cass County.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. No motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was understood to be accepted.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Fenwick to accept the meeting minutes from May 28, 2010. Sheriff Medure seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Scott Camps gives an update regarding the State Radio Board Interop Committee and talks about available funding that is anticipated: \$650,000 to Minnesota and

approximately \$5.4 million for interop communications, but they will not see anything from the Feds until October or November. Scott states that they are talking about the process and refining that at this time.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

John Strongitharm states that the City of Duluth has requested that they be provided with a control station with PSIC funding, as they need their EOC to be able to communicate with 800 MHz. He states more information will follow next month.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Rey Freeman (GeoComm) gave his participation plan update for Carlton and Pine Counties, which had been presented to the RAC the week before. That power point was sent via e-mail to the RAC and RRB. **A motion** was made by Sheriff Pat Medure to pass the two plans on to the State Radio Board. Sheriff Scott Turner seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

- Updates from the RIC by Bill Bernhjelm (Bill is not available for this meeting.)
- John Strongitharm explains that the Duluth Councilor who sits on the RRB cannot attend meetings, so there will be a new rep (Councilor Jay Fosle) and John Strongitharm will be the alternate. Official resolution paperwork from the City of Duluth was sent to the RRB showing these appointments. **A motion** was made by Commissioner Peg Sweeney to accept the appointments made by the Duluth City Council. Councilman Harkonen seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.
- Scott Camps explains that the SRB is proposing to have representation on the SRB from the radio boards in Minnesota and that it be a rotating seat from the radio boards. He adds that because the Central RRB was formed first, one of their members was appointed to the SRB. The term would be 1 year; the alternate chosen would be the next to sit in that seat. The rotation will be according to when each RRB was formed; therefore ours will be last out of the six that were created in Minnesota.
- Scott Camps states that DECN sent a letter regarding additional PSIC funding and an extension of the original deadline. Additional funding to the NE Region amounts to about \$394,704, with a required match. The initial allocation of these PSIC funds was split evenly among all members to the JPA. Scott states that some agencies opted not to take advantage of the funds. He reminds the group that the NGOs and tribal governments were to have been considered for funding and in the first process, certification from auditors in each of the JPAs was required and the timeline was short; therefore, he was unsure as to how well the funds were passed along to tribes and NGOs. Scott states that his proposal for the new funding would be as follows (which was approved at the RAC last week): All funds be allocated specifically to tribal governments and NGOs in the NE Regional Radio Board area; that the total be split 50% to tribal agencies (5 in our region), which would amount to \$197,352) and the remaining 50% for the non-governmental public safety agencies; each of the five tribes would be eligible to receive \$39,470.40; the application period ends August 31, 2010; other than the

tribal allocations, no one organization could receive more than \$10,000 in grant funding; the JPA organizations included in the first PSIC grant are not eligible to apply; each agency must certify that they have matching funding available; in addition to the true NGOs, that this also be available to the township or city ambulance services, first responder agencies and hospitals. Scott put together an application form and letter, which went out to everyone. Scott stated that it is Federal math and is not actually 20%, but 25% of the total amount, and he included that on the application form, so there is no question about it.

John Strongitharm proposes an amendment to Scott's proposal. He states that the City of Duluth has a concern, as well as the City of Virginia, regarding the 2009 PSIC funding that they refused, because they were not sure if they were going to ARMER. They gave their money to those going to ARMER and did not think it would eliminate them from future grant dollars. John proposes that the 50% split be kept, as Scott explained, but the 50% would go to the five tribal agencies, the City of Duluth and Virginia. The other 50% would go to the agencies Scott mentioned. The dollars the tribes and two cities would get would be lowered to \$28,193.00 with a \$7,048 match. This is less than the other counties received, but John states that it seems fair. John mentions that language in Scott's proposal needs to be changed in a couple other areas to include the two cities.

Sheriff Medure adds that the \$10,000 would be competitive among the NE RRB people and they would be awarded up to \$10,000, and it could be less. He adds that at the RAC meeting, it was mentioned that a grant committee would be formed. Scott Camps agrees with this.

Commissioner Clifford states that Lake County did not participate in the first round of funding and would like to be included. Nell agrees that Lake County was not included previously. Scott states that if we are going to amend his proposal, we should include everyone that did not take advantage of the first round.

There is much discussion on this matter. Commissioner Sweeney brings up the issue of putting Lake County in the first split and then taking governmental out of the sentence entirely and state that the other half is going to non-governmental. Scott Camps explains we also have governmental first responder agencies, Cook Ambulance, other services, township fire departments, etc. John Strongitharm states that if that was the case, he would propose a 60/40 split. He asks the group if it would make sense to recraft a proposal and come to the July meeting with it. Scott states that he believes there is time, if it is the wish of the Board. John Strongitharm states he will work with Scott. Commissioner Sweeney advocates that the government belongs in one pot of money and the others in the second pot.

Sheriff Medure adds that International Falls took PSIC funding the first go around; not the second. He states that some agencies did not take the reallocated dollars and that it gets to be layered. He adds that the paperwork has been sent to the Itasca County Board for approval and will not get approved until July.

Commissioner Fenwick states that, for the record, he thinks the original proposal Scott made, which was approved by the RAC, is sufficient. To clarify, Commissioner Fenwick is not speaking of the amendment, just the original proposal the RAC approved.

Commissioner Bodie asks if the August 31, 2010, deadline was something we set. Scott states that it was something we set so it would not take forever.

A motion was made by John Strongitharm to let John Strongitharm and Scott Camps bring the proposal back to the RAC to get it revamped for the July RRB meeting. Commissioner Clifford seconds the motion. **Discussion:** Sheriff Medure states that by December 31, 2010, there has to be certification of the match dollars. The PSIC funding has to be encumbered by June 30, 2011. Scott adds that on the application he put together, he added that they have to certify that they have the required match dollars available and they sign and date the form; that way we do not need a separate certification from auditors. Commissioner Bodie asks if the dollars will be reallocated again if only four of the tribes wish to participate. Scott states that if there is no interest by the date on the application deadline, the numbers would be readjusted. Pat Medure states that the first time around, we left it up to the individual counties to reach out to the tribes in their jurisdictions. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

- Term limit on the RRB. John Strongitharm states that there was language in the JPA that indicated that members had to be appointed annually and work at the will of their governing bodies. The City of Duluth has to do a council resolution each year appointing who will be on the NE MN RRB. He encourages everyone to look at the language. Chairman Dowson states that county boards and city councils annually appoint people to sit on boards. Sheriff Medure adds that the intent of the language is to have documentation sent to the RRB regarding the reappointment every year stating who their members are to the RRB. It is decided to leave the language the way it is in the JPA.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mark Stansberry, North Memorial Ambulance/Brainerd/User Committee wishes to assist Scott Camps and John Strongitharm with the PSIC funding paperwork that needs revamping. The other two agree and Commissioner Dowson thanks Mark for offering to help.
- Sheriff Medure asks if the revamped PSIC proposal needs to go back to the RAC for approval again or if the committee is just being asked to bring it back to the RRB for approval. Scott Camps indicates that because the RRB asked them to make the indicated changes, they can do it as a small committee and bring it back to the RRB for the July meeting, as they are the governing body in the Region. Sheriff Medure asks that the proposal rejection be made known to the RAC and asks if we need representation on the redrafting committee from the tribes. Scott Camps answers that there are not a lot of changes to incorporate. Sheriff Medure points out that Itasca did reach out to the reservation in their county and adds that

he does not want anyone coming back to say they didn't have any say so or didn't get much money, etc. He asks if we have our backside covered so there will be no fallout by doing what we are doing. Scott Camps states that it does not hurt to bring it back to the RAC, as the meeting is before the RRB meeting, but it is the RRB that decides the final funding. Sheriff Medure states that he just wants to make sure the tribes have the opportunity to speak up--whether they agree or disagree.

- Commissioner Sweeney asks why not open up the PSIC grant opportunity like the last one--equal allocation to those who didn't participate, then everyone has been treated equally in the first two rounds.
- John Strongitharm adds that maybe we should make it so the five tribal governments, Duluth, Virginia, and Lake County get the \$34,000 (which was the grant portion the first time around) and then the rest could go into the other pot, including the dollars those eight entities do not want.
- Commissioner Fenwick asks that a list be made of those who did not participate in the PSIC funding the first time around. Nell will provide the list.
- Sheriff Medure makes the point that St. Louis County only took a portion of their dollars (\$8,700) and asks if St. Louis County should be bumped up to the equal share amount. Commissioner Sweeney states that if they are ready to take the money now, she believes they should -- because Duluth is doing the same thing.
- Commissioner Fenwick adds that the complexity of reallocation lends credence to the wiseness of the RAC in bringing the initial proposal, and he still contends that the initial resolution--without the amendment--is appropriate.
- Commissioner Thiede supports Commissioner Fenwick's comment above. He adds that there is still more funding coming. Scott Camps adds that the PSIC funding came from selling the VHF spectrum and this is just a reallocation of state funds because it could not be used for the original purpose. Scott states that we do not know if there will be additional funding coming from the Feds.
- Nell asks Commissioner Fenwick if he just wants a list of those who did not participate at all or the ones who participated once and not twice. He states that his point in asking for the list was that if we are going to be expanding and changing Scott's proposal to include entities that did not participate, we should bring them all in; the other purpose of asking for the list was to elevate the point that this is more complex than simply bringing Duluth and Virginia in. Sheriff Medure then states that these are the agencies that did not participate in the first go around of PSIC funding: **City of Duluth, City of Virginia, Lake County, and a portion St. Louis County**. Sheriff Medure adds that Itasca County provided some radios to the Leech Lake Reservation with their allocation of funding and that he cannot speak for the other reservations because it was left up to individual counties to reach out to them if they fell within their boundaries. Sheriff Medure also reiterates that the reservations are not members of the Joint Powers Board; however, under PSIC guidelines, some of that funding is to be used for them. Sheriff Medure adds that he just wants to make sure we be sure that some of the PSIC funding has gone or will go to the tribes, so we do not have issues. This prompts Commissioner Sweeney to reiterate that we should go back and give equal distribution and not 50% to entities, as 50% never went to anyone, it was always equal shares. She adds that the committee really needs to take all

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this back to their meeting, chew on it, and get back to the RRB with their ideas of how to do it. Chairman Dowson adds that it will be sent back to the RAC for them to review and it will go back on the agenda for the July RRB meeting.

ADJOURN

Scott Camps makes a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sweeney seconds the motion. The meeting adjourns at 11:00 a.m.