

**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;**  
**July 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Cuffe/Virginia           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catherine McLynn/Itasca  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Camps/NE RAC                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Troupe/Kanabec  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Stansberry/User Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Lepper/Koochiching   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Heidi/O&O Committee                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Clifford/Lake   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Hallan/Pine (acting alternate board member for now) |  |

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Turner/Aitkin County   | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith Nelson/St. Louis County               |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Sve/Lake County  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Olson/O&O Committee        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Ovick/Pine County (waiting to see if he is the alternate again) |  |

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Bernhjelm (RIC, DPS ARMER)

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**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**

The meeting minutes from June 24, 2010, stood as approved with no motion.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

Scott Camps was not able to be at the meeting, and John Strongitharm (City of Duluth) spoke about the revamped PSIC allocation figures that the RRB asked the RAC to do at

the June meeting. John explains that the RAC voted to accept the amended allocation proposal at yesterday's RAC meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The issue of the 2010 PSIC grant allocation is now revisited, as per RRB direction from the June meeting. A vote is needed at this time. A **motion** is made by Sheriff Pat Medure to accept the 2010 amended PSIC allocation proposal, as submitted from the committee of Scott Camps, John Strongitharm, and Mark Stansberry. John Strongitharm seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries. Discussion: Commissioner Sve asks if the tribal governments will be a part of the JPA. Chairman Dowson explains that later in the agenda the RAC directed that he write a letter to the tribes asking them if they would like to be a part of the JPA. Chairman Dowson goes on to explain that there is some confusion over the matter, but it would give them a seat at the RRB, but it has nothing to do with funding. Chair Dowson states he will send a letter to the chairman of the tribes, the chiefs of police and to the RAC reps for those areas. Commissioner Sweeney asks if there is legislation allowing this, and John Strongitharm explains that there is legislation and the RAC requested a letter be drafted so we have documentation. Commissioner Sweeney asks why the tribal governments were not invited more aggressively. Chair Dowson explains that the law including them won't go into effect until August 1, 2010.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Updates from the RIC by Bill Bernhjelm. Bill explains that the updates are in the RAC minutes, which everyone received via e-mail yesterday. Bill highlights the updates:

- Meetings with Canadian counterparts on the border continue. We submitted a grant for border interoperability and are waiting to hear. Koochiching is the fiscal agent for that grant.
- Two new grants came through for 2011 (IECGP and HSGP), also e-mailed to everyone. Deadline for submission is in October. RAC will come up with project ideas.
- Strategic Technology Reserve: The plan is to provide a transportable 50' tower and repeater set to each region to match up with some capabilities Hennepin County has to use satellite connection and set up a separate ARMER site, should one be needed, due to a catastrophic failure or need for additional capacity. A host is needed for the transportable trailers. The RAC will be looking for a willing host and a way to handle the training for the operators.
- Discussion regarding PSAP consolidations and studies going on. In the NE Region, GeoComm is conducting two studies. There are four SW counties (Rock, Nobles, Chippewa, and Cottonwood) that have contracted with some other consultants to do an implementation study.
- The Next Gen 911 continues to be worked on. There are software issues being worked on at the present time. Vendors are aggressively trying to market equipment related to the 911 system. Bill states that before anyone makes decisions regarding equipment, they should contact Jackie at his office, who is the 911 program manager. She will advise you if the equipment is needed.
- Training issues being worked on. There is an arrangement with Alex Tech to do online training. Details are being worked on for: Radio 101; Standard Radio

Use; Governance; Interop Talkgroup Use. They will also work on radio control station training for dispatchers.

- Audio Logging Options. Bill reports that some of these options may save a considerable amount of money, and audio feed could be pulled off the main brain box (zone controller) in Duluth; that data could be accessed remotely by individuals who need to recover audio. The RAC and O&O will look at this matter.
- Steve VanKekerix asks Bill to go over the information about getting a line item in the budget. Bill explains that there is a rule under the PSIC grant that you cannot use money you already budgeted for as a match. Example: If you have a line item for radio items, you cannot use that as a match because the whole idea behind the grant program is the government is providing you this money because you cannot afford to do it yourself, so you need to have a separate line item that identifies the money as grant match contingency, or something like that. Bill states that essentially, you cannot use grant money to buy things you already budget for and have the money for. Bill adds that if you can't make the match out of this year's budget and can certify that you have it in your budget for next year, you can do the purchase after the first of the year because the grant will still be good after the first of the year. John Strongitharm states that their budget isn't passed until the last week of December and asks if a proposed budget could be sufficient. Bill states that if you do not have it in this year's budget and have a proposal in for it, that would suffice, as long as there are assurances that it will remain there. Sheriff Medure states that Itasca created a line item that said "grant match funding," and they allocated some of those dollars that were already in that particular budget and slid it into that line item. He states that you need to show a line item that is called "grant match dollars."

Sheriff Medure explains that when Itasca County moved to 800, Bearville Fire Department (located in the NE part of Itasca County) communicated with Itasca County but were paged out by St. Louis County, and Bearville chose to stay with St. Louis County through their communication system. Now that St. Louis County is moving toward 800, Itasca went back to Bearville to ask if they wanted to come back to Itasca because St. Louis is going to 800 and Bearville is in Itasca County (and some fire coverage is in St. Louis County). St. Louis County advised Bearville that it would be best to go back to Itasca County. Sheriff Medure explains that he is looking for a funding mechanism to get them the radio communication they need to be on ARMER in Itasca County. He explains that Itasca County wants to apply for a DECN grant and needs RRB approval to make that happen, and the amount requested will be around \$40,000. **A motion is made** by Commissioner Sweeney to approve Sheriff Medure's request to apply for DECN grant funding for Itasca County, which will ultimately be used for Bearville Township Fire. John Strongitharm seconds the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

Next on the agenda is the topic of the Chair writing a letter to the tribes, asking if they are interested in being a part of the JPA. A motion is made by Steve VanKekerix to authorize Chairman Dowson to write and send a letter to the tribal governments asking if they are interested in being a part of the JPA. Commissioner Bodie seconds the motion.

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Commissioner Sweeney recommends that a copy of the JPA be sent to each entity so they can have their attorneys go over it. Upon a vote, the motion carries.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Rich Sve asks what time the next meeting will be held. Commissioner Dowson explains that it will be at 10:00 a.m. (Meetings are always at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month, unless otherwise directed.)

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourns at 10:25 a.m. with no motions made.