

**Joint Meeting of
Northeast Regional Users Committee
&
Northeast Regional Owners & Operators Committee
Fond du Lac Community College
October 5, 2011 10:00 A.M.**

1.0 Dewey called the meeting to order.

2.0 Roll Call

Steve Olson	Erik Jankila
Dylan Bridges	Dana Putzke
John Hyde	Bruce Hegrenes
Greg Hanson	Jeff Ronchetti
Nathan Gen	Dan Sathre
Doug Rotta	Mark Smith
A J Morse	Anna Cass
Patrice Nelson	Cynthia Suess
Mike Fink	Bill Bernhjelm
Dan Lallier	Judy Sivertson

Erik – if you didn't receive the agenda and minutes sent by email, be sure to email Erik or Judy to be put on the email list.

3.0 Steve Olson made a motion to accept the minutes from August 3. Bruce Hegrenes seconded. Minutes accepted.

4.0 Presentations

4.1 Bill Bernhjelm – State office is still recovering from the shutdown. Additional staff is still needed and they're working through the hiring process.

Towers came on at Ogilvie for Kanabec County and at Molde, between Lake and St Louis Counties.

Per MNDOT, tower construction is back on track. The Elmer tower for Cass County is stacked and the antennas are on.

Weather Service Standard – will be discussing that standard after the meeting with Steve Olson, Cynthia Suess and Patrice Nelson.

Leadership Team meeting is in St Cloud the 24th of October.

Console training – Motorola put on two sessions in the cities. Motorola provided to the state a series of modifiable power point slides. They have Interactive End User Training Tool Kit on CD and that can also be downloaded from the Alexandria web site.

Dewey – St Louis County will be coming online at the end of the month so will need console training as well.

Bill – Brandon is working on the Status Board application, looking at the wireless situation, and still planning the Interoperability Conference. April 16-18 are the dates but the location is not set.

On Target is working on the COML training for the northwest group. Cass County is doing a Train the Trainer with On Target this weekend. Kanabec has one the 22nd and 23rd of October.

Steve – he, Jeff Anderson and Dylan Bridges will be in the cities December 14 to work on the overlay plan.

Bill – NW user group is still going. Hubbard County is still planning to come on. A couple other counties are working on financing.

Talked to a Border Patrol person out of Grand Forks who said they're putting in dual band radios. USFS and Border Patrol will use a gateway into the ARMER system.

4.2 Dewey Johnson – Train the Trainer coming to Kanabec County October 22 & 23. CPS (Custom Programming Software) training in Cass County December 28 & 29.

The application period has closed for fire grants. Nationally, the applications are down.

State Fire Marshall Jerry Rosendahl sent email looking for people interested in being grant viewers.

4.3 Erik Jankila – Nominations will be needed soon for officers for both the Users Committee and Owners & Operators Committee.

4.4 Erik said the City of Hibbing will have a couple appointment letters going to the Regional Radio Board. If anyone else has updated appointment letters for either the Users or the Owners & Operators, please send them off.

RAC – Steve O – The training committee within the RAC has decided to come up with 12-18 month mid-term training plan for the region, as well as a long range funding plan for the training. The other item was the appointment letters. These need to be sent to Anna and Jim Dowson.

RRB – Steve O – The chairman of the RRB is going to look into the bylaws for language reference the entities who do not attend meetings.

MNDOT contracts came through for Pine County & Kanabec County. Leech Lake is completing a participation plan.

5.0 Old Business

5.1. Regional Training. CPS training at Cass County went to the RAC for approval and passed. Regional training committee will be meeting October 14th.

5.2 a. National Weather Standard – Minnesota State Patrol is taking the lead.

b. Hospital Access – Mark Stansbury & Pat Lee were not able to attend this meeting.

c. Non Governmental Access – Dan Lallier – adopted metro standard. Erik will forward standard to everyone to look at.

d. Bi Directional Amplifier – Erik Jankila – this standard 1.8.1 is covered well by the state and will not need changes.

Metro standards are not state wide and the Non Governmental Access is a metro standard so it will have to be put in the format for the region. The Bi Directional Amplifier standard is a state standard and we've blanket adopted the state standards so we will not need to change that one specifically for the region.

Hospital access is going through the counties and will be part of the county participation plan. Erik was wondering if all seven St Louis County hospitals would be one group within the county. Dewey and Bruce are intending to discuss this with the hospitals. There was some discussion held reference using a common talk group or not.

5.3 Standards Review – Itasca County did not get notice that they were to present. Kerry with Cass County will have standards ready for presentation in November.

Dewey will schedule Itasca, Hibbing and Cass for November.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Spring Conference – discussion held earlier.

6.2 ARMER use during Pagami Creek Fire – Dan Sathre gave overview. Lake County deputies are using ARMER radios for daily use already but the rescue squads and fire departments are not. The 1st day with evacuations went fairly well with just Lake

County. The 2nd day they received help from other counties. St Louis County brought their mobile command vehicle and a tactical VHF repeater because so many of the fire departments are operating on VHF and all the squad cars still have their VHF equipment. They also brought a cache of 30 portable radios that were programmed for the fire plus our regular day to day stuff. That worked great on the west side of the fire where the command post was and probably two thirds of our road closure check points. The problem was when a portable radio was handed out to another agency officer who had come to assist and was assigned to the east side of the fire 20 miles away, that portable wouldn't hit the tower. HAM radio operators were positioned on each side of the fire to relay.

After a couple days of that, it became troublesome. Half of the ARMER towers were not up in the east side of the county but Dan went around to each checkpoint and all but one had ARMER coverage. At that point the switch was made to the ARMER system and started assigning the portable radios to officers from other agencies who were helping. Quick impromptu training was given to everyone who was assigned a radio by some regional certified trainers who were there. From that point everything worked pretty well.

Dewey felt the whole incident went well but also commented that there wasn't a lot of full circle communication between them and the Forest Service. Bill said those kind of issues should be noted in the After Action Report so the USFS is aware of them.

Some discussion was held on various methods that could be used to check the cache radios in and out.

Steve O asked about the 1854 warden radios. Per Bruce, they have a limited use participation plan. 1854 wardens are dispatched by state patrol.

Next meeting will be November 2, 2011

Bill will be sending out a questionnaire to Owners & Operators reference the 7500 APX radios, who has them and where they're assigned.

Dewey said St Louis County is 29 days away from their dispatch consolidation.

Judy made a motion to adjourn. Dylan seconded.
Meeting adjourned.