

**Joint Meeting of
Northeast Regional Users Committee
&
Northeast Regional Owners & Operators Committee
Fond du Lac Community College
December 5, 2012 10:00 A.M.**

1.0 Meeting was called to order by Dan Sathre.

2.0 Roll call:

Bill Bernhjelm	Dan Sathre
Dylan Bridges	Erik Jankila
Greg Hanson	Jeff Ronchetti
Mark Lallak	Mark Smith
Mike Fink	Mike Keyport
Pat Lee	Rowan Watkins
Stephanie Nynas	Steve Olson
Marcella Danielson	Jim Gangl
Tom Ralidak	Judy Sivertson

3.0 Dylan made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 7 meeting. Jeff second.

4.1 Bill Bernhjelm said the best practices documents were on the agenda for the SRB last week so assume they were approved. Those should be posted within a few days.

The situation in the northwest seems to be changing rapidly and we'll be seeing more participation in that area than was thought a few months back. There are participation plans in progress for Polk and Kittson Counties. There will probably be ones for Clearwater and Beltrami Counties. In this region, I'll be helping Koochiching at their board meeting in January. The grant money is there to do a full participation plans but there will probably be more gradual migrations as grant funds and local funds permit. Some of these area are having coverage issues now that they've narrow-banded. Norman County just put in an extension of their limited plan, asked for radio IDs. Polk is asking for some interim talk groups and radio IDs until they get their plan fully through the approval process as they want to get on the air fairly soon. Beltrami is putting in for some talk groups for their drug task force.

The RAC approved the allocation of the portable radio grant last month. Cook County is getting 15, Grand Portage 1, Pine 10, Crow Wing 5, Aitkin 3, and Mille Lacs Health Care 2. Bill will be contacting folks at those entities to complete the necessary paperwork, etc.

Change management hit a snag with concerns about re-naming S-Tacs, loading on the system, the impact of patching and how that affects the smaller 5 channel ASR sites, so that will probably be held up a little longer while they do some technical review.

The Pursuit Standard will be before the Interop group tomorrow. Metro had some input regarding changes that would affect them but not necessarily those dispatch centers in the NE.

The National Weather Service Standard is coming in front of the Interop work group tomorrow. It looks like Kanabec will probably follow the Metro standard. The NE, primarily those with capacity in their consoles, will be installing Duluth Weather Service in their consoles. State Patrol will be using NE Call to make the initial contact for weather service announcements. After acknowledgments, the switch will be made to the National Weather Service talk group.

4.2 Owners & Operators - Steve read in the by-laws that all terms of office shall be for one calendar year following the election at the first regular meeting of each year so that makes the elections in January.

4.4.a. Steve reported on the RAC meeting. Motorola is willing to do system admin training for up to eight people which is three full days. If you're interested, contact Dewey. If you have any suggestions for training at the Interop Conference, contact Monte or Bill.

4.4.b. RRB – No meeting in November as it fell on Thanksgiving Day.

4.4.c. OTC – Bruce not at meeting to give update.

4.4.d., 4.4.f., 4.4.g. already discussed.

4.4.e. EMS – Stephanie said Essentia is still waiting on programming. Erik said every hospital in St Louis County has their own talk group.

Pat said Nett Lake is looking into an EDIS patch because they've found out their ARMER radios will not function as pagers. This would somehow take a VHF page and convert it into a text message for the cell phone. Stephanie said Douglas County is already doing that, and theirs comes across as voice. Erik said three departments in St Louis County, Babbitt, Clinton, & Gilbert, are currently using it. The biggest complaint is the two to three minute delay from the time of the page to receiving the message. If the internet is down, it will not work, is internet and cell phone dependent.

4.3 Users – Dan was wondering what the status for ITV is here at Fond du Lac. If ITV isn't available at the college, possibly we could use other sites. Pat suggested using the same locations at different counties as the RRB and RAC use. Dan offered to make phone calls to find out about the different sites. Bill said how many boxes can be watched on the screen at one time can become a problem.

Dan also wondered if it was time to consider switching the meetings to every other month.

Mike Fink looked up a couple things and web based paging is called EDispatch. Mike got an email from Chris and the system admin training is for 8 participants at a total cost of \$21,000. He doesn't know if all the spots are spoken for at this time.

Bill got notice from Border Patrol last week that their dual band radios are on the way, and they will be on the interop users on the system as soon as they can get their plan approved, radio IDs allocated, and programming accomplished. Could possibly happen by March.

Bill said the USFS was really interested but haven't heard anything more. The last Bill heard was the law enforcement guys were ordering radios but not much communication from the fire side. Bill thinks they'll be using APEX radios. The advantage is they can program multiple systems into those radios and with them running Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, with dual band they can plug into the Wisconsin interop system, the county VHF, and the Michigan version of ARMER.

Steve asked about the Wisconsin narrow band and ARMER. Bill said they have ARMER control stations in Douglas County so they can communicate. There's a site in southern Minnesota where they can do a direct connection between the WISCOM system and the ARMER system, and they have done it console to console so it is technically feasible but as Bill understand it, no one has taken the next step for the hardware connection and also the procedural stuff.

6.2 Bill said Tom Justen has offered to do a two-day Train the Trainer on the front side of the interop conference. Dan said people need help in learning how to put together their own two to three hour classes for their agencies. Just a short Train the Trainer refresher would probably be good.

8.0 Jurisdictional Updates

Lake – no changes. Narrow banding will be finished next Monday night. The school got new radios.

Carlton – pretty much all on the system. Everything is narrow banded. Have gotten messages out to the communities about the weather sirens. They will be creating a dispatcher eligibility list in January from applications taken in December and plan to hire two in February. Look at the Carlton County web site if interested.

Grand Portage – have had a few narrow banding issues. They're waiting on the State for the Mt Jo tower.

Cook – almost finished with narrow banding. Power got into the Hovland tower. Updates have been made to the DNR radios.

State Patrol – Tom heard this morning that MNDOT is cancelling the VHF mobile FCC licenses the week of December 17 so all district troopers will discontinue use of their VHF radios. The existing re-broadcast to VHF of the MSP district main on ARMER talk groups will cease at the same time.

Hibbing – police and fire have radios programmed and ready to go but do not have good service. Will be getting all radios together next week to narrow band. Public works is staying VHF at this time.

Itasca – in process of working with Motorola to get MCC 7500 consoles. The new radio tech position has been approved by the county. They will have four openings for dispatchers, two immediately and two more within the year.

Pine – MCCs are up and running. Sheriff's department is on, highway should be on, radios are installed for the fire departments and they're going on piecemeal. Three sites are functioning on the simulcast system. They're going to change antenna on the north site so it will work a little better in the Moose Lake area. Licensing has been approved to put a site on the Grand Casino Hinckley Hotel.

Bill said the Mille Lacs Band is joining the NE Radio Board.

Mike Keyport said he will be submitting the paperwork for the Grand Portage Band possibly this week.

Gold Cross – all the operations should be up on Monday, the 10th.

EMS – Pat said he's waiting on Bruce to get radios ready. Have 10 radios they need to get NEMAC (NE Cooperation Coordination Center) on.

St Louis County Public Health – came to meeting to see Bruce – waiting on radios.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn, second by Mark.