

**Joint Meeting of
Northeast Regional Users Committee
&
Northeast Regional Owners & Operators Committee
Fond du Lac Community College
August 1, 2012 10:00 A.M.**

1.0 Meeting called to order by Steve Olson

2.0 Present:

Dylan Bridges	Bill Bernhjelm
BJ Kohlstedt	Mark Smith
Jeff Ronchetti	Laura Andrews
Tom Ralidak	Jayme Carlson
John Hyde	Greg Hanson
Karla White	Steve Olson
Erik Jankila	Bruce Hegrenes
Dan LAllier	Mark Lallak
Paul McIntyre	

3.0 Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes from the 6/6/2012 meeting, Dylan second.

4.1 Bill Bernhjelm –

Statewide completion is at 81%. The newest site, “temporary”, is Lake One-Snowbank, which is up and running.

On the VHF Overlay, 90 of 100 sites are equipped with routers.

37 counties are on the air.

Alex Tech’s contract was extended. Coordinate with Bill or Tom if anything is needed from Alex Tech. This does not include log-in information, go directly to Alex Tech for that.

At the leadership meeting in St Cloud last Monday, they made use of all the money leftover from the last grants. Motorola portables were purchased and they’re looking at distributing to those entities who did not get fire grants.

Radio Board passed the budget for next year. They’re trying to get the sales tax exemption extended to the rest of the state. MNDOT is proposing the next upgrade, going to level 7.13. The State Radio Board voted not to upgrade to 7.13 in 2013 due to significant cost. They will be looking at financing, possibly half to be covered by the state and half by the various users.

Steve O – The RRB set the budget with slight adjustments.

Bill discussed the MCIT rates.

Naming conventions passed the RRB.

5.0 Training

TTT training is good but trainers need to have the equipment and use it to be comfortable. Workshop refresher is needed.

Pursuit Standard – the state authorized 911 into the patch, the number 16 position on portables, so when the officer goes off main, they can go to 911.

Training manual for the STRs is in production

COMT training starts Monday at MNDOT in Shoreview. Class is full.

Status Board – will be selecting a vendor.

NIFOG class is August 28 and there are still seats available.

Best practices documents are moving forward.

The National Weather Service Standard is still in production at the Interop Committee.

The encryption issue is still up for discussion. One of the southern Minnesota users is consistently using encryption on their dispatch main which is creating a problem with other agencies, specifically state patrol and DNR. The best way would be to have one specific talk group always encrypted. This will be addressed in the law enforcement best practices.

Bruce said their sheriff proposed the sales tax reimbursement at MSA for purchasing ARMER equipment.

Bill said only two counties have submitted their MOUs for cross spectrum and those need to be done.

Kathy Anderson would like to be notified about any standards that are adopted.

Grand Portage held an election. Mike Keyport is still the RAC but need application to join the Radio Board.

Essentia Health purchased radios and is ready to install.

Interop Data group has a meeting August 14 which will be a conference call. The last meeting was organizational. Bruce H is the MSA member and John Hyde for the NE Region.

Paul McIntyre representing EMS at the Central Radio Board gave an information presentation on their status and the steps they've gone through.

4.4.f. Best practice for Public Works may be done now.

EMS best practices are done.

Fire and Dispatch best practices are on the agenda for the Interop group.

5.1.a. COML TTT at the EMI in Maryland – Steve O attended and it was excellent.

Steve O is attending the COMT training at Shoreview August 6-10.
NIFOG training is August 28.

6.1 Site trunking is in change management at this time.

7.1 MOTOTRBO – Itasca. PUC at Grand Rapids decided to go with MOTOTRBO based on information from a DSC representative. Public works is looking for other options. MOTOTRBO is a UHF narrow band digital platform that uses an ARMER 2500 portable as gateway. It is okay for now but the future problem is if every group wants to go with MOTOTRBO, they'll have to soft patch and that will use up the system.

7.2 Itasca-Microwave Disconnects. Too much rain-fog caused the microwave system to fail and it went to site trunking during the storm in July. Bigger microwave dishes would help.

Mark L said it is important to have a mobile radio in dispatch as they lost the console during the storm.

7.3 New PSAP issues – when a PSAP migrates, ask for advice from those who have already migrated and gone through the learning process.

BJ noted that during the fiber optic failure for Lake and Cook Counties, ARMER worked.

8.0 Jurisdictional Updates:

Lake County – Snowbank tower is on. Have had a few microwave fades.

Cook County – Progressing, all deputies have portables and working towards getting the mobiles installed.

St Louis County – Finishing with the consoles.

Carlton County – Allend user radios are in and the training is done.

Aitken County – Kickoff with Motorola was last week and equipment is arriving.

Hibbing – End user equipment is in and have a local enhancement site.

Virginia – Equipment is in and everyone going through end user training at Alex Tech.

Duluth – Cloquet Water Tank tower in Woodland is going forward, structure is up. They have nine consolettes to install.

Judy made a motion to adjourn. Karla seconded.