

**Joint Meeting of  
Northeast Regional Users Committee  
&  
Northeast Regional Owners & Operators Committee  
Fond du Lac Community College  
January 4, 2012 10:00 A.M.**

1.0 Dewey Johnson called the meeting to order.

2.0 Roll Call

Dana Putzke	Bill Bernhjelm
BJ Kohlstedt	Bruce Hegrenes
Dan Sathre	Dan LAllier
Dewey Johnson	Doug Rotta
Dylan Bridges	Jeff Anderson
John Hyde	Mark Lallak
Mark Smith	Mark Stansberry
Mike Fink	Steve Duchien
Steve Olson	Tom Rogentine
Tom Ralidak	Judy Sivertson

3.0 Adopt minutes from 12/7/11 meeting. Doug Rotta made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve Olson seconded. Passed.

4.1 Inside Edition with Bill Bernhjelm. Bill gave an update on the Mall of America incident that involved a large group of kids. The mall was cleared out around 9:00 p.m. but then the kids got on buses and trains and the incident continued in the Minneapolis metro area and downtown St Paul. They're doing an investigation now, looking into charging them with riot and some other things, not just disorderly as it was a pre-planned incident.

Bill said they're still waiting on guidance on the 2011 State Homeland Security stuff. The Bena tower and the Glenn tower in Aitkin County came on recently. The weather has been a factor in aligning the microwaves as the wind has to be below 10 mph, and it has been fairly windy recently. Statewide the tower construction is about 69% to 70% complete. In this region, the Wrenshall tower is going through finalizing acquisition and getting some easements. The ARMER website has a state map showing tower construction.

Bill requested all control stations get programmed with regional call at least plugged in. If you're waiting on a console or something else to happen, getting a portable at the PSAP programmed with the regional call or some of the regional or state TACS, just to be able to monitor at the PSAP, that would be a great help. If there's an

ARMER user in the area, they would be able to contact the PSAP. The staff also has to be trained to know how to operate the radio. Training resources are available on the Alexandria Tech web site, or other options for training are also available if needed.

The narrow band deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. There is a waiver procedure if needed which Bruce is applying for in case needed for St Louis, Carlton, and Lake counties. Tom Johnson was just at the National SWIC (State Wide Interoperable Coordinators) meeting, and said the FCC was there. Per the FCC, unless there's a really good reason, don't count on an individual extension, and don't expect the federal law to be changed/extended either.

Dewey asked if ECN had been moved to OET. Per Bill, ECN is still under the Department of Public Safety. There have been some of the people associated with the project who work at MNDOT associated with information technology who are working under both DPS and OET, (Office of Enterprise Technology). The legislature has commissioned a study due 2013 to determine if the radio project should be moved under the OET or remain under the DPS.

If your agency is still looking for money for radios, etc., send Bill or Jackie a note indicating you can use more help so their office is aware there is still some demand.

Nothing new is going on in the NW Region.

Alexandria Tech is working on additional training modules. They're working on taking one of the longer dispatch modules and breaking it down into more manageable sizes.

Dewey asked about the ECN staffing and Bill said Wendy Suprise is the Administrative Assistant, Joyce Simon is the grants lady, Dana Wahlberg is the 911 person, Brandon Abley is our technical coordinator, Tom Johnson is the Statewide Interop Coordinator, and Jackie's the director. Metro and Central RIC was filled by John Tonding, formerly a communications manager in Anoka.

Joyce is sending out notices that the infrastructure grant expires at the end of this month.

4.2 Owners & Operators Chair Dewey Johnson – With new officers elected, the officers did have a face to face meeting but will be conducting phone conferences in the future to plan the agenda, etc. We're going to work on getting more participation from Pine County and Koochiching County.

Steve Olson commented that sometimes the Owners & Operators have difficulty coming up with a quorum at meetings.

4.3 Users Chair Dan Sathre – Reminder to everyone to make sure all the appointment letters are in.

4.4.a RRB Report. There was no December meeting

4.4.b RAC meeting report was given by Marcus. A policy committee of Marcus, Sheriff Williams of Itasca County and Bill Bernhjelm is scheduled to meet on January 12<sup>th</sup> to review the Pursuit and PSAP Interoperability policies. Officers for the RAC were elected with Marcus Bruning as Chair again, Dan Lallier is Vice Chair now since Tim Thomas had held that position and retired, and all other representatives stayed the same. From the RAC perspective, they appreciate the work done by the Users and Owners & Operators.

4.4.c OTC – Bruce reported there was request approved that was through Goodhue County but from the state of Wisconsin to have access to ARMER interoperability talk groups with dual band radios in their state command vehicles and cache. It was approved. We also have a request to the RRB to have the regional talk groups also put into that same cache of radios and vehicles. Bruce said he asked about reciprocity, to be able to put their system into our dual band radios or just VHF radios. Nathan with Goodhue County Sheriff's Office said Wisconsin is totally in favor of that. He will be pursuing that at least for the St Louis County and Duluth command vehicles. Bruce handed out copies of the letter requests from Goodhue County and the State of Wisconsin. Through the OTC they will be developing protocols. This request is for only one vehicle but there are more along the border so there will probably be more requests coming. During an exercise in October at Red Wing MN, they were able to talk to someone on a portable at the capitol building in Madison WI through a gateway from the ARMER system into the Wisconsin system. Bruce suggested we entertain a motion to make a recommendation giving the RAC the authority to approve sharing the talk groups with Wisconsin. Dan Lallier made a motion, Mark Lallak second, carried.

5.1 Training Updates – Dewey said the CPS training at Cass County has now been moved to February 15 & 16.

Mark Lallak passed on a message from Anna that anyone attending grant funded training needs to have their county pay for their training first and then apply for reimbursement, and it needs to be done in a timely fashion.

Mike Fink said the new CPS for the XTS1500 that allows 256 talk groups in the radios is available. It also will upgrade the 2500 1.5 to 256 talk groups as well.

The next Train the Trainer is in Cook County in the spring.

5.2 Standard 5.4 Hospital Access – Involved parties will be meeting after this meeting.

5.3 Weather Standard – Steve and Cindy will be meeting next week.

5.4 Committee for Standard on Pursuits – handled by RAC. One major question is what direction to go after the L-TACS and S-TACS are full.

6.1 Landing Zone Standard – Dan commented that the same problem would apply to this standard as far as the L-TACS and S-TACS being full. If the S-TACS are used in helicopters, what else do they have? Per Bill, they should have them all. The new standard is that any user can have any of the state tacs, and it is recommended they have them all. Dan requested this standard be looked at by a group consisting of Jeff Anderson, Dan Lallier and Greg from Gold Cross.

6.2 VHF Overlay Meeting – Steve said the state appears to be going in the direction of having one high power frequency and one low power frequency, so we may be seeing two frequencies. It seems V-LAW 31 will be the main but the backup had not been decided on yet. Jeff said there is a state map showing the projected sites of the 109 Gateways.

7.0 Jurisdictional Updates

Carlton – continuing with online training, nothing new on the Wrenshall tower, moving ahead with the VIPER installation.

Cook – nothing

Lake – monitoring NE-CALL will be taken care of in dispatch by next Monday. Lake County dispatchers were trained on 7500 consoles last week.

Itasca – they had a 4 hour power outage Christmas Eve and for various reasons, no generator backup for radio so they were down to using portables which their dispatchers had no training on. He recommended all dispatchers be trained on mobiles and portables as well as the consoles.

Bill also said how important it is to have dispatchers included in the field user training. Users in the field may be contacting dispatchers for information.

St Louis County has a bag containing a cell phone and a portable radio that goes out the door with them if the PSAP can't be used.

Duluth – not much for updates, still working on the west tower.

Kanabec County – mobiles have arrived and are stacked in dispatch waiting to be programmed, PSAP equipment to be installed, and still hopeful to be live in January.

State Patrol – nothing new.

St Louis County – consoles set up for training, anticipating installation of consoles late January or early February, just got another 85 mobiles, still looking at the latter part of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, early part of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

Crow Wing County – nothing.

Cass County – from Mark S – going live on 2/6.

Virginia – nothing.

## 6.0 New Business

Mark S said regarding the EMS work group he's involved with that meets in St Cloud, they're moving from the OTC to under the Interop Committee and are going to request having an appointed person attend the RRB meetings. It sounds like the police and fire are going to have best practices work groups formed as well. They're also planning to have a public health work group moved out from the EMS work group to form their own group. They've met with Tom Justen about coming up with a Train the Trainer for hospitals and EMS services.

Dewey said the regional leadership meeting is in St Cloud on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Interop Conference is scheduled for April 16, 17 & 18 in St Cloud, and the Arrowhead EMS Conference is coming up in two weeks in Duluth.

## 6.3 Standards Review by St Louis County

- 1.11.3 Training Dispatchers
- 1.11.4 Training 800 MHz Users
- 1.11.5 Non-Participating Radio Users

Meetings for 2012 will be held in the same location and Dewey has reserved the room.

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Doug seconded.