

**Joint Meeting of
Northeast Regional Users Committee
&
Northeast Regional Owners & Operators Committee
Fond du Lac Community College
March 7, 2012 10:00 A.M.**

1.0 Dewey Johnson called the meeting to order.

2.0 Roll Call –

Aaron Johnson	A J Morse
Anna Cass	Bill Bernhjelm
B J Kohlstedt	Brian Belich
Bruce Hegrenes	Dan Sathre
Dave Gilmore	Dewey Johnson
Doug Rotta	Dylan Bridges
Erik Jankila	Greg Hanson
John Fredrickson	John Hyde
Mark Lallak	Mark Smith
Melissa Bowstring	Monte Fronk
Nathan Gens	Steve Olson
Tom Ralidak	Laura Andrews
Judy Sivertson	

3.0 Adopt minutes from 2/1/2012. Doug Rotta made a motion to accept the minutes, Steve Olson 2nd.

4.1 March Madness with Bill Bernhjelm

Regarding grants – 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program money should be coming out. There will be an opportunity to re-adjust the allocations that come to the region and there will be an emphasis on looking at regional needs. There is a requirement that the region identify where the gaps are at in the migration or communication plans and the gaps will be filled on a priority basis. This will probably occur at the RAC level.

For the 2012 HSGP application, the same process will occur, identification of the priority gaps and the projects proposed to fill them.

Best Practice groups are creating best practice guides for multiple disciplines. It started out with EMS and hospital. It now includes law enforcement, fire, emergency management and public health together, public works, and dispatch.

On May 2nd there will be a workshop provided by FEMA OEC (Office of Emergency Communications). This is one of their SCIP (State Communications Interoperability Plan) plan sessions with the focus looking at Broadband. The federal government has appropriated about two billion dollars immediately and is anticipating about seven billion dollars over the next few years in support of rolling out public safety broadband networks. The state has funded a broadband study to prepare Minnesota for this rollout. Updates will be available at the FEMA broadband workshop in May and next month at the Interop Conference.

The Interop Conference will be April 16, 17, and 18 in St Cloud. The registration materials are available online. The region has allocated some grant money essentially giving two seats for each member of the region. Hennepin County will have their mobile SAT COW (satellite cell on wheels) that can essentially create a connection into the ARMER system from anywhere in the state. One of the STR mobile tower and repeater setups will be there for a demonstration.

The State Patrol operations memo was sent to members. This is meant to standardize communicating with the patrol on a day to day basis.

STR towers will be delivered the end of March. There are two training locations, one in Bemidji and one in Mankato. The techs will be trained on the strategic technology portable towers.

In the northwest, Roseau County is purchasing several radios.

Tower construction is about 75% complete. The majority of the work still needed is in the northern part of the state.

Extensive discussion was held on the training needed and differences between agencies, some staying on VHF and some going to ARMER. Ultimately, the sheriff and county board are responsible for ensuring required training per the participation plan. There needs to be an understanding of how the system works and how to operate the radio at a minimal level.

4.2 Owners & Operator Chair D. Johnson – nothing additional.

4.3 User Chair Dan Sathre – nothing additional.

4.4.a RAC – Steve O. Crow Wing County is hosting Train the Trainer March 9th at the Brainerd Fire Hall. Grant updates given. Updates given on OTC approvals to participation plans. There will be a vacant seat in the training committee in March.

4.4.b RRB – Steve O. Northeast Emergency Management Advisory Committee was put under the RRB. Regional standards are being collected from all regions at the state level and posted on the state web site. The same is being done with training.

4.4.c OTC – Bruce H. Deadline for the management of change requests was March 1st.

4.4.d VHF Overlay – Bill B. Will be a great tool for those who want to take advantage of it but probably won't be used by all PSAPs.

4.4.e No updates.

4.4.F Best Practices – Steve O – working on Section 5 of the dispatch best practices which deals with interoperability.

5.1.a Cook County is hosting Train The Trainer April 28 and 29.

5.1.b Interop Conference April 16-18

5.1.c Dewey and Steve O attended CPS training in Walker.

5.1.d ICS 300 Training is March 23-25 at Fortune Bay Casino in Tower hosted by Mesabi Range College

Monte – Tom Johnson and his counterpart with the federal OTC will be in contact with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and putting together a one hour interop update session for one of the Indian Affairs Council meetings, and think they're looking at the April at Lower Sioux Community.

Bruce H – The SR Trailer, Train the Trainer, there will be four opportunities around the state. Bruce and two techs will be attending and receiving the trailer at the end of the training. It will probably be available around the 1st of April.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Pat not in attendance but Dan S said that he's spoken with Pat who is struggling with the smaller ambulance services understanding the need for these radios even if the county isn't switching to ARMER.

6.2 ITV use – Dewey asked for group input. Dewey offered to create a survey monkey to get input on a video meeting. The thought is there may be more members attending if they could attend by ITV. Final decision was to just go ahead and set up video meeting at the location we're currently using to see if attendance improves.

Bruce H – Region grant funded 99 encrypted portable radios for law enforcement. RRB and RAC are looking at distribution of those radios.

7.0 New Business

7.1 State Patrol Operations Memo – covered by Bill earlier.

8.0 Jurisdictional Updates

Carlton – Placing order for radios. Not going to wait for Wrenshall tower, going to go on as soon as possible. Three control stations are in.

Cook – Working on getting control stations.

Itasca – Still holding on to those radios.

Lake – Consoles up and operating. Looking at early part of next week for full installation. Still looking at funding for three fire departments. Waiting on approval with USFS for tower at Snowbank.

State Patrol – DNR Enforcement is having 800 mobiles installed in trucks as the trucks are replaced. DNR is also in the CAD system now.

St Louis – Currently doing the push for Lake County to get them on. Will probably have the consoles installed in St Louis County next month. Currently really pressed due to lack of towers.

Gold Cross – Radios have been sent to St Cloud region.

Duluth – Ordering radios this month. Framing the building right now for Woodland tower.

Hibbing – Have all the equipment and ready to start installing.

Mille Lacs – Just waiting for three counties to migrate.

Leech Lake – Sending people to training.

Virginia – Erik reported they got their AFG grant and will be purchasing the same Motorola equipment.

8.0 Standards Review

Hibbing – Erik reviewed Standards 1.10.1, 1.11.1, and 1.11.2

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Steve seconded.