

**CENTRAL MINNESOTA USER COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Alexandria Fire Hall, Alexandria, MN**  
**Douglas County**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

1. Benton County – Perry Beise, Jason Fleming, Marie Herbst
2. Douglas County – Dave Pedersen, Stephan Vanluik, Rick Wagner
3. Grant County – Vern Haack, Greg Jacobson, Troy Langlie
4. Meeker County – Rich Christianson, Joel Engler, Greg Gilbertson, Gary Shaffer
5. Mille Lacs County – Brian Payne, Peter Willis
6. Morrison County – Pat Boone, Mike Nieman
7. Otter Tail County – Dallas Grewe, Mark Hovland, Mathew McGuire, Doug Whiting
8. St. Cloud, City of – Gary Fletcher, Tom Justin, Chuck Koetter
9. Stearns County – Gary Curtis, Jim Hughes, Paul McIntyre, Dave Nohner, Jay Sikkink
10. Stevens County – Dave Dybdal, Justin Howe
11. Todd County – Bob Cuchna
12. Traverse County – Stan Churchill, Tom Schmitz
13. Wadena County – Don Snorek

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

14. Big Stone County
15. Kandiyohi County
16. Pope County
17. Sherburne County
18. Swift County
19. Wilkin County
20. Wright County

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul McIntyre at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:**

Quorum present with 13 of 20 entities present. Introductions were conducted.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

No communications since last meeting.

**INCIDENTS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Dave Pedersen moved to approve May 19<sup>th</sup> minutes with corrections, Don Snorek second, upon a vote motion carried.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*Todd Cuchna moved, Gary Fletcher second, upon a vote motion carried.*

**REPORTS:**

**SRB/ARMER UPDATE; MnDPS/MnDOT:**

**SRB Update:**

No update, did not meet last month.

**REPORTS: (CONTINUED)**

**SRB/ARMER UPDATE; MnDPS/MnDOT: (Continued)**

**OTC Update: (Jay Sikkink)**

Met last week, Standard 2.15 on talk group IDs was discussion, there is limitation of 65,000 allowed on the system, entities are coming in with a three-year plan requesting IDs per the standard request, if everyone follows the standard the IDs will be depleted by the end of the year and there would not be enough to go around. The RAC discussed this on Friday and will be writing a letter asking for reconsideration and OTC will be addressing it at next meeting.

**Interop Committee:**

Nothing at this time.

**CMNRRB Update:**

The RRB meets tomorrow in St. Cloud.

**CMRAC Update:**

Nothing at this time.

**CMN Regional Interop Coordinator Update:**

Training Advisory Group met and discussed what training the various regions in the state needed; dispatch, interoperability, and governance of the regions are the three main topics. Stearns County is planning to put trainers on for Stearns County; in order to remain compliant with requirements they are putting a training process together and in a month or two Dave will have an update on proposed plan.

List of tower sites are out, Tom explained the coverage while attending meetings across the region. Mark Gieseke indicated the state is on target for this region to have the state-owned tower sites up and operating by the end of 2009. Tom met this morning with several counties to work on fleet mapping.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tower Sites Update:**

See above.

Discussion last month as to what the organization of this group is, both the RAC and User Committee work under the RRB, at times the RAC may ask this group to take action, it is up to this committee to decide if they want to take the RAC recommendation into consideration, although the User Committee can chose to avoid the RAC recommendation and move forward.

Chair McIntyre is looking at having an EMS meeting at 5:00 p.m. prior to the July User Committee meeting to discuss how to interop with EMS.

**Funding and Grant Writing Update:**

Tom Justin stated the governor approved funding for ARMER which will be available for those entities that have not had an opportunity to receive grant funding previously. St. Cloud, Stearns, Wright, and Sherburne Counties will not be eligible and funding is for infrastructure purposes.

**Training Topics:**

See above, no recommendation made for future trainings at the User meetings.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS: (CONTINUED)

### Regional Talk Group Update:

Chair McIntyre indicated this was tabled at the last meeting, looking to move this forward with a recommendation to the RAC and RRB. This would be a pool of talk groups for a scene of action and the other type would be a group of talk groups by entity. He feels a group should be put together for the User Committee, RAC, and RRB to come up with best solution. Question was asked what the other regions felt was the best way to proceed, Chair McIntyre stated the other regions were waiting to see what we do and suggested to keep it simple and a pool appeared to be the easiest. *Peter Willis moved to use the regional pool of talk groups and put together a committee from User Committee, RAC, and RRB, Troy Langlie second motion.*

Jay Sikkink reminded the group we are going for the simplest approach and consistency is the simplest, when Mille Lacs goes into Benton, they will operate one way, when they go to Isanti it will have a different pool and they will need to learn both ways. State Patrol and ambulance do cross over into various regions and they will have two systems to learn. Another is a proposal to go from 12 regional tactical down to seven, question is if seven would be sufficient in a disaster, cost of reprogramming is a concern. Jay stated Stearns County uses this approximately once per year and question what we are solving by going to a pool. Dave Nohner thanked Chair McIntyre for bringing this to the table and the group needs to move forward, keep in mind it is not just Stearns County and the City who have radios programmed.

Jay stated light rail has been talking to Stearns County and will have different philosophies. Tom stated SE user group moved forward to a regional pool, he will be at the EMSB to present same concept to them, and scheduled to be in Two Harbors next Thursday to address. Real issue is not to meet individual discipline talk group, issue is the incident command interoperability of incident of any magnitude. One thing the state did not consider when setting up original tacticals is what happens as an entity crosses into the various counties across the state. He believes the issue is not the number of channels available; it is the concept and is closer to NIMS. If moved forward, the committee should also discuss timeline such at next flash update. Dave asked if the SOA's would be pooling and Tom stated they are designated by the Feds and they would need to determine if they will change. Chair McIntyre stated they are looking for funding for those who already programmed radios and need to be reprogrammed if this is passed. *He asked if the group wants to vote closed ballot or open, consensus was for open vote; vote was 26 in favor of motion, 7 opposed, motion carried.* This will then move forward to the RAC and RRB and they will ultimately decide where it goes from there. If the RAC and RRB moves forward with this, a committee from this group will then be formed.

### Other Items of Interest:

#### Talk Groups and Training Usage:

Chair McIntyre stated he noticed as more people come on to the system, discussion comes up that more resources are needed for training and resources are limited. He stated the training allows entities an opportunity to test the system; although as more entities come on the resources could be used by an entity for training and are needed for an emergency. The entity training need to contact the county and stated the talk groups are being used for training or a large event and are not an emergency in nature. Dave Pedersen stated they were having a drill in Alexandria and there was a lost child at the same time which caused communication and resource issues. Chair McIntyre asked if we should set up a standard for training purposes; Jay stated on some of the standards in the past if there is a planned event you would start with level four, if it is an unplanned event you start at the bottom, and if it was an emergency you start at the top. Tom Justin stated on the statewide resources he did not think they could be used for training and will verify the standards and send out on listserv. Dean Wrobbel stated with a disaster drill and setting up a communication plan, this needs to be considered and perhaps the training will need to be shortened.

**STANDARDS:**

Nothing at this time.

**Personnel Incident:**

Chair McIntyre read letter as a follow up from last meeting; *Pat Boone moved, second Jim Hughes to approve proposed letter, upon a vote motion carried.*

**Scanning Training:**

Tom Justin provided training on priority scan and monitor, you can have up to ten talk groups in your priority scan. In priority monitoring you can set the priority in the system by talk groups. *He will provide training on priority setting and talk groups for next month.*

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*Perry moved, Jim Hughes second to forgo July meeting, upon a vote, motion carried.* Next meetings are Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., Alexandria Fire Hall, and September 15<sup>th</sup> at Douglas County Hospital in the education rooms, lower level.

Chair McIntyre stated letters to EMS meeting will be going out to see if August 18<sup>th</sup> or September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be best. Dave Pederson and Don Snorek stated hospitals should be included and someone in ER and ambulance services can ask the appropriate ER staff to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Justin Howe moved, Greg Jacobson second to adjourn at 2:20 p.m.*

Minutes recorded by Debbie Backes, recording secretary.