

CENTRAL MINNESOTA USER COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
Douglas County Public Works Building, Alexandria, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Benton County – Marie Herbst
2. Douglas County – Tom Egan, Dave Pedersen, Rick Wagner
3. Grant County – Vernon Haack
4. Kandiyohi County – Ace Bonnema, Brand Hanson
5. Meeker County – Randy Celandier, Rich Christianson, Joel Engler, Greg Gilbertson, Gary Shaffer
6. Mille Lacs – Peter Willis
7. Morrison County – Craig Seelen
8. Otter Tail County – Dallas Grewe, Mathew McGuire
9. St. Cloud, City of – Scott Dahlin, Tom Justin, Dean Wrobbel
10. Stearns County – Paul McIntyre, Dave Nohner
11. Stevens County – Ashley Schmidgall, Ross Tiegs
12. Traverse County – Amy Churchill, Stan Churchill, Lynn Siegel
13. Wadena County – Donald Weniger
14. Wilkin County – Rick Fiedler

MEMBERS ABSENT:

15. Big Stone County
16. Pope County
17. Sherburne County
18. Swift County
19. Todd County
20. Wright County

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul McIntyre at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

Quorum present with 14 of 20 entities. Introductions were conducted.

COMMUNICIONS:

No communications since last meeting.

INCIDENTS:

Kandiyohi is up and running on the system. Marie Herbst stated Benton was able to patch their deputy to Morrison County into MNSEF, were able to hear very well all of the communication.

Ace reported tower was up in Granite Falls and one of their radios affiliated with it and went into site trunking could not get it back, Dan from Motorola stated programming may be able to fix it for now. Tom Justin stated it could be a preference in the radio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dave Pedersen moved to approve November 17th minutes Ross Tiegs second, upon a vote motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dave Pedersen moved, Don Weniger second to approve agenda as amended adding Owners and Operators Update, upon a vote motion carried.

REPORTS:

SRB/ARMER UPDATE; MnDPS/MnDOT:

SRB Update:

No update.

OTC Update:

No update.

Interop Committee:

No update.

CMNRRB Update:

No update, next meeting is January 27th.

CMRAC Update:

No update.

O&O Update:

No update available.

CMN Regional Interop Coordinator Update:

See below.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

Chair – Don Weniger moved to nominate Paul McIntyre, second Tom Egan, Dave Pedersen moved to close nominations, second Peter Willis upon a vote motion passed.

Vice Chair – Tom Justin moved Bob Cuchan as vice-chair, Tom Egan second, Dean Wrobbel moved to close nominations, second Peter Willis, upon a vote motion carried.

RRB representative – Brad Hanson moved, Dean Wrobbel second to nominate Paul McIntyre as representative and Tom Justin as alternate, Dave Pedersen moved to close nominations, Don Weniger second, upon a vote motion carried.

Tower Sites Update:

RIC Justin stated there are three towers in this region which will be started in April, he will send out via email the updated tower information released as of today.

Funding and Grant Writing Update:

There will be an additional grant funding of approximately \$5 million, Central Region put in for a grant request and it was turned down. The state put out a RFP for data across the ARMER network and six private companies responded. ARMER and SRB will be taking a stronger stance on tower build out and construction. 65 of the 87 counties in the state passed resolutions to migrate to the ARMER system.

Next Monday is the leadership conference for the state-wide meeting, April 28-30 at the St. Cloud Civic Center there will be a conference workshop in which all Users, RAC, RRB members can attend, the registration fee is \$125 and there is grant funding available for most registrations.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS: (CONTINUED)

Training Topics Update:

Chair McIntyre asked if there was any level of training of the system members are interested in reviewing at the next meeting. Ross Tiegs stated as they get closer to getting onto the system, they would like to see what their dispatch would look like. Dave Nohner stated he put together a power point presentation and could present at the next night meeting. He stated he could provide a tour of 6-8 people for those interested and Benton County also offered.

Scott Miller stated it would be good to develop a procedure for communication issues, Chair McIntyre stated the RAC approved funding for a regional training which will involve numerous entities and regions.

Pam Billadeau's contract has been completed, will be moving forward to develop the mini training modules.

ARMER capacity study which GeoComm conducted last year will now be conducted by other regions to determine how their long-term assessment needs will be met.

S-TACS 5-8:

Chair McIntyre explained the state and regional interop zones; once you leave your region the regional interop talk group will no longer work. The suggestion was to have S-TACS 5-8 be assigned as four additional state interop groups, the downside as the dispatch would then need to put those channels into their console. Ross Tiegs questioned if it was an issue of the misuse of tactical channels where an entity could be using a regional versus a state tactical. Chair McIntyre stated there may be a training issue that will need to be addressed in the future. Tom Justin explained the various statewide tactical channels including the encrypted talk groups. It would allow four additional talk groups into the State as currently there are four statewide talk groups that would not work in our region, just the same we have four regional talk groups that would not work outside of our region so the suggestion is to add four additional statewide talk groups (this is the state zone). *Ace moved to approve S-TACS 5-8, Dave Pedersen second, upon a vote motion carried.*

Cancel Meeting Without a Quorum/RSVP:

Discussion at November meeting was if a quorum was not present by noon the day prior to the meeting, it will be cancelled. Chair McIntyre stated as we move forward and with us reviewing standards at each meeting, it is more important that we do not cancel a meeting due to a lack of quorum. With having up to five representatives per entity on User Committee, there is expectation that at least one member would be able to attend. Brad Hanson stated as we get busier, he did not feel it should be a concern that members should want to attend to be able to conduct business. Dean Wrobbel stated if individuals take the time to set up training and a quorum isn't present, it is not fair to the person preparing the training. Tom Justin stated perhaps the quorum is revisited with the RRB and they would be willing to reassign their representatives as needed. *Upon taking a vote if a meeting did not have a quorum the day prior that the meeting would be cancelled, upon a vote motion failed.* Debbie will send out a reminder of the meeting on Friday afternoon of the upcoming meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS: (CONTINUED)

Border Issues:

Chair McIntyre discussed the need to have your neighboring county's talk group, a regional talk group, etc. and how you will then communicate when on the scene. Brad Hanson explained a scenario in his county how this would work; Dave Nohner stated a soft patch works well for those agencies who only respond occasionally. Tom Justin explained the pros and cons about utilizing local talk groups when they interop with their neighboring entities. Scott Miller suggested utilizing a best practice scenario. Preferred practice is if you border other regions and do not have a legally defined coverage area, you interop on a regional talk group; although if you have a mutual aid agreement, the entity would then have the entities they have mutual aid agreements with in their radios. Tom Justin provided scenarios where a county from this region goes into another region, what options they have, and what resources would they tie up.

Other Items of Interest:

Dave Pedersen stated towing companies in Douglas County want to come onto the system and asked what other entities are doing. Tom Justin stated in St. Cloud a towing company requested St. Cloud's main although a decision has not yet been made. Chair McIntyre stated in a recent training he attended, it did include towing companies as they respond to calls on the highway and at times play a role so this may be something that will need additional discussion in the future.

Scott Miller stated at a recent state meeting, there was some discussion as to private entities which use the system as a potential revenue stream. Dean Wrobbel stated once a main is given out to private entities, will they then tie up resources, Ace stated in Kandiyohi they control the patch and they need to comply to the state standard and are a part of their participation plan.

Tuesday, February 23rd, there is a gateway workshop in St. Cloud. There will be an Air Disaster Drill if interested in participating to contact Marv Klug. Blue Angels will be providing a show on Saturday and Sunday, expecting 100,000-125,000 attendees at the Saturday show and 60,000 on Sunday, June 26th-27th.

SOA testing should be completed in February. Tom Justin will be completing testing to see if a local talk group's main is patched to a state main when their pursuit started within their own jurisdiction, the local talk group could then be utilized across the state. Results will be available at February meeting.

Chair McIntyre stated ambulance to hospital's that communicate on a daily basis will need to make sure the hospital's talk group is in their radio. EMS1 will be a hail channel and 2-4 will be reserved for future use.

STANDARDS:

Procedure to Review Standards:

Chair McIntyre stated the Owners and Operators will be reviewing the standards for changes, the User Committee will review the standards starting from number one and move through the standards, the group will explain what each standard means and if any issues come up in the standard, it could then be referred to the Owners and Operators to review.

We will email out the link to the standards so they can be reviewed in advance.

TRAINING/EDUCATION:

See above.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 16th at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Pedersen moved, Gregg Gilbertson second to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., upon a vote motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Backes