

**CITY OF ST. CLOUD**  
**800 MHz Radio Project Team Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 26, 2005**  
**Conference Room Number 3**

The following people were present at 1:40 p.m.: Tom Hannon, Tom Justin, and Debbie Backes (**City of St. Cloud**); Jay Sikkink, Bob Dickhaus and Joel Robak (**Stearns County**); Dan Gelle (**Gold Cross**); Rod Fischer and Dan McCoy (**Granite Electronics**); Mike Mazzitello (**Geo-Comm**); N/A (**St. Stephen Volunteer Fire**); N/A (**City of Sauk Rapids**); Jim Hughes (**City of Sartell**); Tom Jensen and Gary Curtis (**City of Waite Park**); Frank Karnauskas (**Karn Services**); Mike Fink (**Motorola**); N/A (**MNDOT**); N/A (**State Patrol**); Allen Wolbeck and Gerald Feld (**Corrections Facility**).

**STEARNS COUNTY, PROJECT UPDATE:**

Everything is good, currently all four towers are up as of two weeks ago. Minor incident where cables were switched at the top of the tower. Bob's crew just finished the "can you hear me now" testing today. The staff stated it is better than the current radios and the southeast corner is a little light as expected since there is not a Kimball tower. The testing was completed with portables from the hip and the expectation is as good as they expected prior to testing.

Jay stated the County knew what towers they were on while testing and used Camp Ripley's tower and didn't get off the St. Cloud tower until they got to St. Wendel. Bob stated there were two deputies who completed the testing.

Bob stated yesterday the Board approved the purchase of portables and mobiles. Jay said they are purchasing all portables and mobiles needed as the County found additional funds above the grant money.

Working on spare parts for the tower system, Jim Mohn recommended in the next few weeks the County take ten radios and turn five to one talk group and the other five to another talk group to ensure they don't key up on the same channel.

**INTEROPERABILITY:**

Jay stated at the meeting this morning there were 22 people present and the next meeting is November 30<sup>th</sup> and discussion followed the meeting regarding the VA radio system. He stated Jim Mohn said the State Patrol is getting radios and Bob said they are installed and programmed already. Jay stated Frank provided an excellent training this morning for the group.

There was discussion regarding December's meeting and Jay recommended to the group that we not meet in December due to the Holidays.

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**REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Tom stated nothing has changed since this group last met. The next meeting will be in Wright County in Buffalo and Frank will be providing training for a better understanding of the system. He asked Frank to focus on the history of the system in more detail than what this morning's group received. He stated Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Wright and Morrison County each have a representative to begin the planning process for the creation of a Regional Committee and felt it will take up to three to four months to get a better understanding on the role of the committee.

**TALK GROUP UPDATE:**

**Recorder:**

Fire has a couple of items left on the punch list. Tom asked the County if they are going to use the recorder or if they are putting in their own recorder? He stated the City learned a lot of things in this process. He expects this to be taken care of in the next couple of weeks.

**List Updating:**

See Upgrade below.

**Interference Issues Update:**

Tom stated the traffic report states we are not hitting the fifth repeater which is why we probably are not getting any performance issues. He expects with the addition of the expansion channels it will take care of the interference issues.

Jay stated he very rarely sees more than two channels being used at the same time. Mike stated it would be interesting to see what happens when numerous channels get utilized.

**Rebanding:**

Tom stated one of the five frequencies and at least one of the expansion channels will need to get moved. Unfortunately it is not the channel we are getting inference with. The City will be getting a plan in place to reband and he is not sure what the County needs to do to get rebanned.

Mike stated the rebanding is necessary as Nextel was using 800 MHz and it has created problems with public safety entities using frequencies near Nextel. It is funded by Nextel to cover the cost of this by a transmission administrator (TA) by segments of the country – we are in the second section and received our notices. Everyone affected comes up with a plan and goes to Nextel, they negotiate a contract and the expenses are paid from the funds set aside.

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**Rebanding: (Continued)**

Tom H. stated part of the impact is the radios will need to be reprogrammed and will impact the reprogramming and will impact the County as well. Tom J. asked when the end date is and Mike M. stated sometime in 2006, the date is undecided as a plan is not yet completed. Jay told Waite Park they need to keep track of the number of radios they purchase and let him know. Tom Jensen stated the Administrator told him he needs to have a cost before they can turn the radios on and Jay stated he needs to be fair to all cities involved and he can't handle programming, etc. for everyone involved although he would like to. Tom H. told Tom Jensen to talk to him on this after the meeting. Dan McCoy stated they can contact him regarding costs and Mike M. stated Granite is not yet approved though. Tom H. asked the County to come up with the initial code plug and Lance can program from there and Sartell and Waite Park can then test the radios. Waite Park Police has 15 and the Fire Department has approximately 30 radios.

Tom J. stated the Police Chief from Waite Park still has not received a "user fee" as to what the cost or range will be. Tom J. stated this should be sent to him in writing and said he had a discussion yesterday with him and he wants to know the cost of programming and the annual maintenance fee. Jay suggested perhaps we provide a one-year fee for now. Tom J. informed him he needs to contact the County and Tom H. as he felt since they had the radios and didn't turn them on was a mistake.

Tom H. said he did not know that Motorola's 2500's were not certified to run on the State's system and anyone who has interoperability when they get down to the Metro area may run into issues as they are not yet certified. Tom Jensen asked what their issue is since they have a 2500 as a mobile, and Tom H. stated he does not want anything utilized on the system that is not certified by the State and the metro area for use on the state wide system.

**Certification:**

Mike F. stated as of Wednesday or Thursday the State had everything they needed to go through the certification process including the number of personalities and are evaluating how Motorola is going to upgrade the personalities. Mike F. stated Motorola is trying to get the XTL2500's to include 50 personalities and are in the process of determining how, when, and what they are going to do about it. Tom H. stated he received a 2500 radio and he needs it to be certified and asked Mike what they are going to do about it? Mike F. stated he needs to wait and see what is going to be approved. Tom said he needs it at the airport and can't wait for an answer with snow removal coming up and his only option at this point is to return it. Tom H. stated the City was not aware Motorola was shipping 2500's yet and was surprised when it arrived, he thought they were still shipping 5000's.

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Tom H. stated we do not have all the minutes posted on the website yet and we will eventually have all three committee meetings posted.

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**Talk Group ID's:**

Tom said all communication regarding talk groups for the metro area simulcast system will take place between the City IT staff and MNDOT and requests for the County installed system will take place between the County Technical staff and MNDOT so we can keep track of what is happening. Jay stated anyone who puts a request in will be sent to Lance as he is keeping track of the Master Sheet at this at time. Bob asked if he needs to forward the change to Lance and Tom H. stated he prefers Bob goes through Jay's staff to ensure information is not lost.

**SMG Updates:**

Jay stated most of the discussion taken place was about uncertified radios by vendors. Tom H. stated a lot of discussion also was about the 6.5 and 7.0 system. Jay stated going from one to the other is like changing the whole system as the costs are really high and we need a better migration plan and is working with Motorola on this. He stated the cost of upgrading every few years is of a big concern.

Frank asked with the completion of Stearns system if there is a date for the start of the 30-day burn-in period. Jay stated the microwave is up and running on the 30-day period, he thought the radios might be rolled out in January. Jay stated most of the staff who have radios are covered under the simulcast system.

Jay said the County is waiting for the issue of the patch to be taken care of and then they are ready to proceed. Tom H. stated as far as the simulcast system and the City, they are ready for the other agencies once they turn their radios on. Frank was concerned with the emergency staff receiving certification for utilizing their radios. He felt this should be documented for the safety of the staff involved. Jay will check with John Anderson to verify that all of our talk groups are on the simulcast system and the County's four towers.

Tom J. stated there was a priority set in place a long time ago as to what system will be utilized. He asked how dispatch would connect entities coming into St. Cloud? He then asked what the City staff should do when going out of our system? Bob stated currently dispatch will do a hard patch to MNSEF.

Frank stated this should be put on the Interop Committee agenda for discussion so everyone knows how the system and talk groups function. Jay stated once the City does roam out of the area, their scan list will change and it should not be an issue. Tom J. stated the City hits Anoka and Hennepin quite often.

Bob asked Tom J. is the STACS are working and he stated he does not know as they gave them an out of range error in the past and haven't rechecked them. Jay stated he will ask John Anderson to attend the January Interop meeting for further discussion.

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**SMG Updates: (Continued)**

Tom J. explained some issues he had with his radio and portable not working properly and stating he was in site trunking, roaming or out of range appropriately and is of a big concern for the safety of the City's staff. This will be addressed at an Interop meeting with John Anderson in hopes to clarify this.

**Constitution and By-Laws of Minnesota Chapter Motorola Trunked User Group:**

Mike M. stated Motorola created a trunk user group for emergency users and stated MTUG and Utilities meet once per year to discuss issues of concern. Lynn Ness with MNDOT was appointed as the person in charge of this group. Mike M. passed out a draft of the constitution and policy for review. Mike stated any comments should be directed to him or Tom H. for collection.

Frank stated the annual meeting is usually held the day before the National APCO Convention. Mike will keep monitoring this and we will appoint someone to attend. Tom H. asked if anyone was interested in attending the MTUG meetings and Jay stated he will continue attending.

**Commander Mic and Earpiece:**

Tom J. asked the status of the commander mic and earpiece as the new commander mic does not have a knob on it anymore. The earpiece only fits the commander mic and it was suggested to be tested in a loud environment as it makes a difference depending where it is turned on initially as to how it functions. The issue is that some of the earpieces work and some do not, Tom J. stated this will be tested Friday this week with two of the officers. He will have an answer following that. Tom J. stated the earpiece is very comfortable and about 80% of staff take medium, 10% of small and 10% take large as a rule of thumb.

**Reporting:**

Jay will see if the County can run their own reports on usage of channels, etc. Tom J. felt it is because the traffic is busy and perhaps we are hitting channel four which is in the 5<sup>th</sup> position which causes problems.

**Cooperation:**

Tom J. reported he heard several positive comments the past couple of days during his meetings about the Central MN system, the communication between entities which is taking place and the results.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting will be November 30<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus that this group does not meet in December due to the Holidays and we will meet again in January.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.