

CENTRAL MINNESOTA USER COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m.
Douglas County Public Works Building, Alexandria, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Benton County – Perry Beise, Jason Fleming, Marie Herbst
2. Douglas County – Tom Egan, Dave Pedersen, Dave Robley
3. Grant County – Chad Biss, Vernon Haack, Greg Jacobson, Troy Langlie
4. Kandiyohi County – Ace Bonnema, Dave Wyffels
5. Meeker County – Randy Celander, Rich Christianson, Joel Engler
6. Morrison County – Pat Boone, Jeff Jelinski
7. Otter Tail County – Dallas Grewe, Mark Hovland, Matt McGuire
8. St. Cloud, City of – Tom Justin, Chuck Koetter, Dean Wrobbel
9. Stearns County – Gary Curtis, Paul McIntyre, Dave Nohner
10. Stevens County – Dave Dybdal, Ashley Schmidgall, Ross Tiegs
11. Swift County – John Holtz, Bill McGearry
12. Todd County – Bob Cuchna
13. Traverse County – Tom Schmitz, Lynn Siegel
14. Wadena County – Donald Weniger
15. Wright County – Gordy Vosberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

16. Big Stone County
17. Mille Lacs County
18. Pope County
19. Sherburne County
20. Wilkin County

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul McIntyre at 1:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

Quorum present with 15 of 20 entities present. Introductions were conducted.

COMMUNICIONS:

No communications since last meeting.

INCIDENTS:

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dave Pedersen moved to approve January 19th minutes John Holtz second, upon a vote motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Pat Boone moved, John Holtz second to approve agenda, upon a vote motion carried.

REPORTS:

SRB/ARMER UPDATE; MnDPS/MnDOT:

SRB Update:

No update.

OTC Update:

Participation plans submitted were approved; other regions are submitting plans too.

Interop Committee:

No update.

CMNRRB Update:

No update.

CMRAC Update:

Conducted elections, updated tower site status, narrow banding, participation plans, only one EMS channel approved, there are misconceptions of DNR status coming onto ARMER, discussed patching local to state resources, approved Gold Cross radio plan funding and other grant funding. In April there is a statewide three-day conference regarding the ARMER system, costs are involved and will include a wide variety of training. With change in naming convention, the standard will need to be reviewed soon. SRB is showing interest in participation plans as they are being presented. Encryption concerns were discussed and entities should have those discussions now with their interop groups as to who they need to communicate with through encryption. Discussed the best options for grant funding and approved infrastructure requests such as Sherburne/Wright and Meeker Counties based on no match required.

Dave Pikal provided review of their channel capacity and the need to increase capacity. Meeker County will be in the same situation. If a match is required, approval then will go to counties who have the match and again a priority to infrastructure. Considering regional Train-the-Trainer Training to include documentation for each county; looking at system administrator training with grant funding and will bring a trainer in to the region.

All the paperwork is complete on the control stations so entities can now purchase their three control stations and submit for reimbursement through Micah Myers.

Working with a grant writer to complete grant requests, there is a \$5 million grant available and there will be a regional grant submission.

Sales tax exemption discussed, is back in legislature and looking at a bonding bill to reimburse the counties who have paid for sales tax.

FSOA testing completed, Tom Justin reported Granite assisted in the test, programmed for low and high power FSOA's and conducted testing. When testing approximately 10 feet away there was not a problem with either low or high power. At 500 feet on high power there was some interference and was only from the street portable and up to the portable on the 7th floor. Beyond that no matter what testing they conducted, there was no interference. There is a state standard that FSOA's can not be programmed into mobiles so we would need to request the state to change this standard. *Dave Nohner moved we move forward a request to the state to change the standard, Pat Boone second motion, upon a vote motion carried.*

REPORTS: (CONTINUED)

O&O Update:

Working on reviewing standards 3.24 is being rewritten completely. Some counties will not have access to a status board to check out a regional and statewide resource, working on a procedure for this.

CMN Regional Interop Coordinator Update:

Tom Justin reported the \$1.6 million grant is due this Friday. Entities who receive funding from the first grant would have a lower priority on future grant disbursements.

He explained the status board concerns and by adding a calendar to the program would enhance the checkout process. The state is responsible for changing the status board display, he will verify with the state on getting that changed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:

Tower Sites Update:

The tower site status can be reviewed by visiting the website.

Funding and Grant Writing Update:

See RAC update.

Training Topics Update:

Next month Dave Nohner will be conducting a dispatch center Powerpoint and the group will continue reviewing standards.

Tom Egan felt everyone needs to be brought up to speed on working on the system. Troy felt perhaps a step by step process would be helpful and to start at the participation plan process since that is where most counties are at. It was the consensus for the need of additional information on what grants are available, how they are applied for, and if a boiler plate would be available for completing requests. Chair McIntyre stated there are FEMA grant applications on the website to be utilized as a sample.

Matt McGuire asked what radios are the most efficient for the cost, durability, in-use testing, etc. Chair McIntyre will follow up with this. Dan McCoy stated they have demo radios that can be checked out and tested. Tom Justin suggested perhaps vendors be invited in to demonstrate the equipment, the interest is more of an interest from a user endpoint. Gary Curtis stated entities within the county may want to ensure they all have the same radios for the ease of interoperation. Dan McCoy stated you will want to be sure to have the 2500 standard encryption. Tom Justin stated for entities involved in training if having different vendors and models it will increase the cost of the training. He stated there is single and double encryption key concerns and if you want to use encryption on the state's talkgroup you must have DES encryption. Tom stated there will be various vendors in attendance at the conference and that would be the place to review and demonstrate them. There is an approved list of radios authorized to use on the system. Tom Schmitz asked what will be needed in a radio when making a purchase, when warranties start, etc. Dan McCoy stated even within one radio there are several options regardless of what vendor you purchase from. Chair McIntyre will work with the vendors to see if they can attend the March meeting to demonstrate equipment and have P2500 encryption information.

Andy asked if there will be a meeting with the EMS meeting in the near future. Chair McIntyre stated they are still trying to get a group together from hospitals, ambulances, etc. and the group has expanded statewide and not just within this region.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS: (CONTINUED)

Border Issues:

Discussed border interoperability issues when a county responds to other counties, a county borders another region, etc. Dean Wrobbel stated the Mutual Aid Association discussed how they will interop; if they will be operating within their own jurisdiction they use their talk group, if within the county will use a county talkgroup, if outside of county will use Central MN talk group. They discussed patching and communicating with Gold Cross. It was suggested counties discuss this with other entities at their County User Committees.

Other Items of Interest:

Dave Nohner stated a lot of entities are not programming Central MN PD1 and Central MN Fire1, and may want to discuss if we want to eliminate these; they are on dispatch consoles and not being used. This will be discussed at the next meeting. There is also a public works one as well.

STANDARDS:

Committee will be starting at the beginning with management. If there are any questions or concerns in reference to a particular standard it will then be forward to the appropriate group. Reviewed standards 1.1.0, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.2.0 and will start with 1.3.

TRAINING/EDUCATION:

See training above.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bill McGeary moved, John Holtz second to adjourn at 3:00 p.m., upon a vote motion carried.