

CENTRAL MINNESOTA USER COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Douglas County Public Works Building, Alexandria, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Benton County – Perry Beise
2. Douglas County – Dave Pedersen, Dave Robley
3. Grant County – Tina Lindquist, Thor Tollefson
4. Kandiyohi County – Ace Bonnema
5. Meeker County – Rich Christianson, Greg Gilbertson
6. Mille Lacs County – Brad Hunt, Peter Willis
7. Otter Tail County – Jim Stewart
8. St. Cloud City of – Dean Wrobbel
9. Stearns County – Kristin Lahr, Paul McIntyre
10. Stevens County – Mike Moser, Ashley Schmidgall, Ross Tiegs
11. Todd County – Bob Cuchna
12. Wadena County – Donald Weniger
13. Wright County – Gordy Vosberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

14. Big Stone County
15. Morrison County
16. Pope County
17. Sherburne County
18. Swift County
19. Traverse County
20. Wilkin County

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair McIntyre at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND INCIDENTS:

MnDOT put in a patch so Todd, Douglas and Mille Lacs Counties could communicate and so far it is good; Stearns did the same for Gold Cross.

Still discussions taking place regarding talkgroup; North will put in County talk group and possibly create a four-county entity talk group, suggestion is to discuss with local EMS and verify what they decided to do. Suggested is perhaps a regional EMS hail be used as an option as North Memorial will not allow anyone to use their main, Gordy Vosberg and Al Fjerstad will follow up.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dave Pederson moved to approve agenda, second by Gordy Vosberg, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Perry Beise moved to approve January 19th minutes, second by Bob Cuchna motion carried.

REPORTS:

SRB/ARMER UPDATE; MnDPS/MnDOT:

MnDOT:

MnDOT working on fix for console issues which occurred last month.

RIC Update:

RAC is working on getting National Weather Service connected with Aberdeen Weather Service as they provide notices to Traverse and Big Stone Counties and need to interop. Tentative plan is to provide connectivity through Traverse County PSAP and then patch to a state-wide talkgroup until the storm passes. A concern is the potential of too much traffic although it may only be a concern if there are two storms simultaneously.

DECN Conference – registration started today and scheduled for April 16-18.

SRB Update:

No report.

OTC Update:

Best practices EMS is now considered a plan.

Interop Committee:

No report.

CMNRRB Update:

Conveyed Emergency Managers Advisory Committee, approved a logger vendor and process of forming EMAC. Once appointments are made the first meeting will be set.

CMRAC Update:

No report.

Owners & Operators Update:

Alex Tech is interested in how the region wants to proceed in providing an operating dispatch training facility and looking for feedback on how to train current dispatchers. Reviewed bylaws, discussed where region is with CCGW ports as currently region is at maximum capacity, update provided on change order paperwork for JSOA and state site trunking talkgroup has been submitted to state management committee, discussed console outages from two weeks ago.

User Committee:

Meeting jointly on odd months and evening meetings on even months; and will have a tabletop exercise at each meeting. Next night meeting will discuss air show communication. If we don't see an increase in attendance at the night meetings, will then return to joint meetings. Osakis Fire Department would like to have two attendees at our meetings, if there is anyone interested in attending let Debbie know and she will add them to the listserv.

EMS Hospital OTC Subcommittee Update:

Became a formal subcommittee of the OTC Interop, going to a formal voting membership, looking for two members from each of the regions to represent EMS (ambulance or hospital base) and would like the ESB to make appointment. *Kristin Lahr nominated Paul McIntyre as representative, second by Ace, motion carried. Dean Wrobbles nominated Gordy Voss for alternate, Kristin Lahr second, motion carried.* Put on three Train the Trainer Classes for EMS and hospital; classes funded by a grant and utilized On Target training and curtailed for EMS.

REPORTS: (Continued)

Regional RRB/RAC/O&O/User Meeting:

Next meeting is July 30th. Discussed shared mains of State Patrol, Al Fjerstad provided update and is looking for guidance as a whole from the state as to when if at all State Patrol main can be used by entities. There was also some confusion of using MSP call. Kathy reported that following a meeting today there will be a follow up on clarification.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:

By-law updates:

Proposed bylaws provided, *Dave Pederson moved, second by Thor Tollefson to approve proposed bylaw changes, motion carried.*

Grant Update:

Working with entities which have been allocated funding to verify they be used; if not they should let Micah know so the funding can be reallocated.

STR Update:

Training taking place in March, the STR was originally going to be distributed at DECN Conference and now will be distributed to the personnel responsible at the end of the training. There is a something in place for requesting the use of cache radios although not the tower. The Owners and Operators will work on a procedure for this.

JSOA Update:

PSOA2 could be used for communications within a jail and also for a sally port notification; it has been submitted through the standard change process and is considered a minor change and an update will follow. Otter Tail County is using it at this time and it works well. John indicated they do not anticipate a name change as it will still be a PSOA. Tina Lindquist suggested discussions such as a name change and input, etc. should be discussed at a county user meeting and their suggestions brought to the regional User meeting.

Other Items of Interest:

Appropriate use of local, regional and state talkgroups were discussed as an entity is immediately going to a statewide TAC group versus starting with the local, county, region and then finally the state. Dean Wrobble provided a scenario of a fire and how or when they move on to the next level of tactical and SOA's. The only time the City of St. Cloud requests a state-wide talk group is if they need to call in a state entity such as HazMat. Ace indicated if users can use a CM zone versus a state, it will reduce tying up traffic on the towers. Tina explained how their county which is smaller uses the neighboring talkgroups for mutual aid scenarios.

INTEROPERABILITY DISCUSSION – TABLETOP EXERCISE:

Discussed a tabletop walk-through exercise of a small plane with landing gear problems and the process for interoperability. There is a state standard for scene flights, some entities are patching local fire into MNSEF and not using STACS per the standard. If air and ground are both on ARMER, someone at the scene should be controlling the resources. In this scenario the air service would prefer to talk to only one person on the ground and should never be patched to a main talkgroup and the preferred is a STAC. Discussed procedures from the initial call coming in to the end of where the plan either lands safely or crashes.

TRAINING/EDUCATION:

DECN Conference:

See above.

Discuss Needs for Upcoming Year:

Consensus is the interoperability tabletop exercise is a great idea; a suggestion for April meeting is to discuss a severe weather scenario. Will also discuss duplex operation and emergency revert at the April meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. jointly with O&O. *Ross Tiegs to moved to change the April meeting to the 24th and avoid the DECN Conference, second by Gordy Vosberg, motion carried.*

ADOURNMENT:

Gordy Vosberg moved to have adjourn at 8:45 p.m., second by Bob Cuchna, motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Debbie Backes.