

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, September 22, 2006, 12:00 p.m.
City Hall
St. Cloud, MN

PRESENT: The following RAC members and alternates were present: Tom Hannon, Micah Myers, City of St. Cloud; George McClure, Stearns County; Bill Swing, Wright County; Mike Disher, Morrison County, Dan Hartog and Stacey Bonnema, Kandiyohi County. **NOT PRESENT:** Benton and Sherburne Counties. **The following staff members were present:** Debbie Backes (Recorder), Tom Justin, Bill Mund, and Dave Pikal, City of St. Cloud; Bob Cuchna, Todd County; Jeff Norlin and Mike Hirman, Meeker County; Ron Whitehead DPS/ARMER; Tim Heroff, City of Rochester. **The following guests were present:** Dan Gelle, Gold Cross; Mike Kahl, Andy Faith, and Dan McCoy, Granite Electronics; Mike Mazzitello and Todd Pieper, Geo-Comm; Jeff Nelson, PSC Alliance; Mike Fink, Motorola; Keith Simons and Frank Karnauskas, Karns Services.

Meeting called to order at 12:25 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bill Swing moved, second Micah Myers to approve minutes of August 25th, motion carried.

Meeker and Todd Counties:

The Central Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee received letters of request from Meeker and Todd Counties to be a part of the RAC. Meeker County appoints Mike Hirman, Sheriff, as their representative member with Jeff Norlin as alternate. Todd County appoints David Kircher, Sheriff, as their representative member with Bob Cuchna as alternate. Meeker County – Micah Myers moved, second by Bill Swing to approve membership. Todd County – Mike Disher moved, Micah Myers second to approve membership, motions carried.

ARMER UPDATE:

Ron Whitehead commended the Central Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee for working to bring entities together on a regional level.

He reported that the state has signed a contract with Motorola for the two zone controllers for phase three development and they should be delivered by the end of the year. The interoperability device may not be installed until September 2007, MNDOT and Motorola are working on design plans for this. There will be additional towers added to the plan to be located in Buffalo and Winona. The State-Wide Radio Board has a meeting at the end of the month and has accepted to participate in drafting a policy for interoperability on a national level. There will be a couple of trips to Washington, DC. Director for Ohio's radio system will be at the next radio meeting for their experiences in building their system.

Ron stated the state will bond for \$42 million to start paying for some of the equipment for the build-out. He stated about \$150,000 for interoperability equipment was allocated to Stearns County as the fiscal agent for this committee to utilize. Once the committee has a Regional Radio Board officially in place, funds can then be awarded to the board versus the county. The committee should decide

how the funds will be distributed and which projects should be approved. Goodhue County received \$80,000. \$100,000 was also granted for planning purposes for this region.

Sherburne County:

Tom stated Gary Peterson from Sherburne County retired effective today and is working on a replacement for his position.

STANDARDS, PROTOCOLS, AND PROCEDURES DISCUSSION:

Micah Myers distributed Section 7, Compliance and Conflict Resolution for discussion. This Standard comprises subsection 7.1 Audit and Monitoring Process, subsection 7.2 Response to Non-Compliance and subsection 7.3 Appeals Process. The sub-committee has made numerous cosmetic revisions to the original SRB Standard to reflect the CM-RAC Interim nature of the standard and it's sub-sections. This Standard builds on the previous adoption of Standard 1.5 and it's subsections.

Mike Disher moved to accept Standard 7, subsections 7.1 through 7.3 as presented and amended, Bill Swing second, motion carried.

REGIONAL RADIO BOARD CREATION:

Continuation of Discussion on Draft of Joint Powers Agreement from August 25, 2006:

The latest draft copy of the proposed Joint Powers Agreement creating a Regional Radio Board was distributed. The latest revision includes language including Kandiyohi, Meeker and Todd counties. Dan Hartog stated their County Attorney has reviewed the previous draft and expressed concern over the statutory authority to add non-elected board members. There was general discussion concerning the specific authority in the Radio Board statute authorizing the creation of a radio board. The statute specifically allows "and may include additional members whose qualifications shall be specified within the joint powers agreement". The Kandiyohi County Attorney had no other reservations that were expressed. Mike Hirman requested discussion on further actions necessary to complete this process. There was general discussion and the consensus of the RAC members present was that following approval of the draft by the RAC each member would secure administrative review of the draft from their agency. The results of those reviews should be presented at the October RAC meeting with the goal of presenting a finished draft for approval by each agency's governing body in November.

Moved by Bill Swing second by Dan Hartog to approve the draft and submit it to each agency's administration for review and comment with each member reporting back at the October meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:

Simulcast Update:

Micah Myers stated next week the St Cloud simulcast system will drop into site trunking as there will be an update at the Kimball site affecting the link to the zone controller. Dave Pikal will send out a notice to all users as to the exact date and time.

State Finance Committee:

Bill Mund stated the Finance Committee will let the county know about the \$9.5 million matching grant for the local enhancements, taking into consideration the additional tower in Buffalo so the counties know what their minimum match would be. In Central Minnesota only Benton, Wright, Sherburne, and Stearns counties are eligible for this matching grant funding. Bill Mund stated the funds need to be spent within the next five years.

There are 23 counties total included in the matching funds program in phase three development areas. The SRB Finance Committee is reviewing a process to allow re-allocation of funding set aside for counties that do not participate in this build-out during the required time period to counties where available funding does not provide a full 50% matching grant. Bill Mund stated that counties will have to have a plan approved by the State Wide Radio Board prior to getting approved for funds. Bill Swing asked where Wright County needs to be with their plan to secure funding. Bill Mund and Ron Whitehead expressed the thought that the SRB needed a commitment to participate from counties by January 1, 2007 with approval of county plans early next year. There was general discussion regarding the approval process. There was general consensus among the members that the plans first need approval by the governing body of the county, then can be submitted to the RAC and the Regional Board (if in place by that time). Following county, RAC and Regional Board approval it can be submitted to the SRB for final approval.

Jeff Nelson stated Captain John Olson has been appointed to replace Gary Peterson representing Sherburne County.

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

Wright and Sherburne Planning Project Update:

Jeff Nelson from PCS Alliance stated they had their third briefing with the Wright County Board. Sherburne County has some funds set aside in their 2007 budget for radios.

The fire users are asking 12-24 months advance notice to budget for subscriber units. Wright County met with MNDOT on the tower construction to possibly be on County land and the partnership between Wright County and MNDOT for the tower site looks positive at this time.

Mike Disher suggested Ron Whitehead talks to Little Falls regarding the old AT & T Tower. Dispatch integration in Sherburne County can be integrated easily and Wright County would take a little more effort. Jeff Nelson thought in approximately October he should have a draft of the county plans to Sherburne and Wright Counties for their review. Tom asked Jeff what unique items he came across in dealing with two agencies such as Wright and Sherburne at the same time. He stated cost sharing was a major discussion, there is a difference in style during the planning process, and the plans between entities. Also without knowing where the State will be building out, it made the planning process a little longer.

Bill Swing stated the new LEC in Wright County has played a role in this process and anticipates completion during the second half of 2009 as a tentative date. Data emphasis is a consideration for Wright County as they see their future needs being addressed.

Jeff Nelson stated there should be some flexibility considered as Wright County moves forward as they don't have all of the answers yet with their future LEC being built. In the past most counties moved onto the system at one time. Ron Whitehead stated that as Jeff Nelson has indicated, the joint planning between Wright and Sherburne Counties reduces the cost of infrastructure and if they did it separately, the costs would be much greater.

City of St. Cloud and Stearns County:

Micah Myers stated so far the City and County are dealing with re-banding issues and are in the process of re-programming all the radios. Dave Pikal stated with the re-banding, the City only has to switch out one frequency so we should not see much interference when re-banding takes place.

Tom Hannon asked Mike Mazzitello how the radios are being dealt with that are governmental radios but not owned by the City of St. Cloud such as Stearns County and other smaller agencies suing the

system? Mike stated there are approximately 300 radios in this category and he has included Tim Lee from MNDOT in this conversation. This is a concern with how the reimbursement of expenses for re-banding with Nextel will take place. There are no concrete answers yet.

Bill Mund stated on October 5th, the Interop Committee is putting together a Legislative forum at the Albany Fire Hall. Ron Whitehead and Tom Hannon are going to provide an overview of the system. There will be three to four presentations as to how the radios have helped this area, will cover the subscribers costs to small users, operational costs of the system, how they will be assessed, and the State's desire to just commit to the funding and bond for the system. Micah added that there will be some media present as well. Bill said if anyone is interested in bringing their commissioners or representatives, feel free to. The meeting will be at 6:30

Kandiyohi County:

Sheriff Hartog reported that Willmar Police and Fire are working with Kandiyohi County in the development of their plan. They are proceeding to form a local planning group.

Meeker County:

Will be developing a radio planning group within their county.

Morrison and Wright Counties:

Nothing additional at this time.

City of Rochester:

Tim Heroff stated he commends this group for their working relationship. Ron Whitehead and Tim Heroff will be meeting with entities in the Southern Region regarding regional relationships. Tom Justin stated perhaps between the various counties here at this meeting, they could call a Sheriff in the Southern areas to discuss the system and working relationships and it may be beneficial. Dan Hartog stated if they have any questions, please call him.

Frank Karnauskas:

Frank stated he is starting to train the Ramsey County entities at this time. Tom Justin asked what the tornado in Rogers did to the system and Frank responded that the Public Works entities used the ATACS that were set up and it was very beneficial in the cleanup process and it expedited the cleanup as well. Bill Mund asked Frank if he knows of someone who could be at the October 5th meeting who had an experience from the tornado and their success using the radio system, Frank will check and get back to Bill.

Other Items of Interest:

None at this time.

UPCOMING MEETING, SET DATE, AND LOCATION:

Next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 27th at noon at Benton County.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m., and went to closed meeting.