

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, November 18, 2005
Wright County Administration Center
C-118 Sheriff's Conference Room, 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Tom Hannon, City of St. Cloud; George McClure, Stearns County; Bill Swing, Wright County; Gary Peterson, Sherburne County; Mike Disher, Morrison County; Pat Bettenberg, Benton County; Rollie Helgeson, Wright County alternate; Greg Howell, Wright County Sheriff Department; Micah Myers, City of St. Cloud alternate; Frank Karnauskas, Karns, Inc.; Dave McCauley, Dave Pike, Motorola; Paul Arneson, Geo-Comm.

Call to order at 12:30 p.m. and conducted introductions.

TRAINING. Frank Karnauskas, assisted by Dave McCauley, conducted training for the members of the RAC. The training focused on history, development and operational issues affecting the ARMER system.

BY-LAWS. A draft of proposed by-laws for the RAC were distributed. Discussion followed on provisions contained in the draft with particular emphasis on committees and purpose of the organization. There was considerable discussion on the best methods to ensure inclusion of all interest groups in the process. George McClure proposed studying the by-laws prior to the December meeting with further discussion scheduled at that time. It was decided to postpone further consideration of proposed by-laws until the December meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Updates from partners on current projects.

Sherburne County. Gary Petersen reported that Sherburne County staff had been testing coverage throughout the county using radios from the Elk River Fire Department and the City of St Cloud. They found portable coverage in a vehicle to be generally available throughout the county with the general exception of the northeast quadrant. Gary also reported that Sherburne County has ten portables and one mobile radio in the Mobile Command Unit that they would like to get programmed and turned on for testing and training purposes. Sherburne has been coordinating efforts with Wright County and Jeff Nelson, their consultant.

Wright County. Bill Swing and Rollie Helgeson reported Wright County has been continuing coordination efforts with Sherburne County. They also utilize the services of Jeff Nelson. Rollie Helgeson indicated Wright County has 13 portable radios they would like to get turned on and programmed for testing and training purposes. Bill Swing advocated for quickly developing a process to include radio system users and user groups into the planning process. Swing also reported that the seven phased project being undertaken to upgrade the Wright County Sheriff in-house system has a preliminary schedule that includes "broadband" transport to the mobile in 2008.

Stearns County. Stearns has completed the build-out of its local sub-system and is now operational. George McClure reported that the failure to secure grant funding in the latest round of COPS grants has delayed the rollout of local Police Departments throughout the county. Stearns County is currently exploring alternate ways to provide radio subscriber units for Stearns County jurisdictions.

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City of St. Cloud. The City and its partners have begun the process of expanding the recently completed metro area simulcast sites. The expansion will include three additional channels to accommodate the expanded capacity requirements.

Geo-Comm Statewide Planning Effort. Paul Arneson of Geo-Comm informed the RAC that their firm will be retained by the State of Minnesota to conduct a high level study of the 21 counties included in the phase three build-out. The purpose of the study will be to determine the extent of required local sub-systems for coverage and capacity and to develop budget numbers for the additional requirements.

Meeting Participation. It was suggested by Tom Hannon that the RAC consider development of a policy at its next meeting defining who may attend committee meetings.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2005, and is tentatively set for Sherburne County. Gary Petersen will advise the group by email of potential date/time changes required.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.