

# WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

## *Joint Operating Committee*

### **Minutes**

**Friday ~ April 17, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Washoe County Administration Complex**  
**Building A – Second Floor Caucus Room**  
**1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-action item]**

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Bryan Boren – Veterans Affairs; Mike Brown – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Robert Chisel – City of Reno; David Cutis – Nevada Air National Guard; Adam Garcia – University of Nevada, Reno; Tom Garrison – City of Sparks; Denise Inda – Nevada Department of Transportation; Daniel Johnston – Truckee Meadows Community College; Reid Kaiser – Nevada Department of Transportation; Tim Leighton – Sierra Fire Protection District; Charles Moore – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Tracy Moore – Washoe County School District; and Ryan Sommers – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Jamie Edrosa – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority, joined the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Joey Hastings – Washoe County, joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

**ABSENT:** Brian Allen – City of Sparks; Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Valerie Barr- Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Paul Burr – Washoe County; Andrew Clinger – City of Reno; Andy Gebhardt – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Mike Henry – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Jon Kelley – Washoe County School District; Patrick Kendrick – Drug Enforcement Administration; Chris Ketring - Sierra Fire protection District; Arlen Melendez – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Pat Nielson – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Phil Povey – Truckee Meadows Community College; Jackie Quintone – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Jason Reynolds – Truckee Meadows Community College; Michael Scott – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Mike Shaffer – Washoe County School District; and Jason Trevino – Washoe County School District.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]**

There were no public comments.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 23, 2015, MINUTES [For possible action]**

Hearing no public comment, Chair Moore asked for Board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Adam Garcia, seconded by Tom Garrison, to approve the January 23, 2015, meeting minutes, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.***

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE [Non-action item]**

Tom Garrison noted that the signed Interlocal Agreement had been distributed to member agencies.

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5. **NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (NPSCC)** [For possible action] – *An informational update and possible direction to staff on recent activities of the NPSCC.*

Mike Brown stated that NPSCC (Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee) had not been met since the January 23, 2015, JOC (Joint Operating Committee) meeting.

Jaime Edrosa - RTAA (Reno Tahoe Airport Authority), joined the meeting at 10:03 am.

6. **CONSULTANT REPORT ON THE FUTURE P25 PHASE 2 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM** (Non-action item) – *An informational update on the P25 Phase 2 Communications system. NDOT, WCRCS and NV Energy have received the final report and recommendations from consultant AECOM, Inc. This report affirms the decision to move to a Project 25 Phase 2 radio system as a replacement for the statewide Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system. The AECOM report has been accepted by the parties and is available for distribution. The second phase of this process, currently underway, will generate an RFP and to obtain consulting services intended to identify P25 Phase 2 technical requirements on behalf of all system users and to identify a single manufacturer for a statewide radio system.*

Chair Moore opened the agenda item.

Denise Inda – NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), commented that Tom Moore of NDOT would provide an overview of the report and that a signed report would be submitted for sharing with all member agencies.

Tom Moore – NDOT, summarized the report noting that the three (3) partner agencies (NDOT, Washoe County and NV Energy) had been involved in the process for more than a year. Mr. Moore noted that the collaborative effort was the best way to move towards choosing a consulting agency to assist in the process. The P25 system was the favored communications platform prior to the AECOM report (copy on file), which was the favored platform in the report. It is recommended that the working relationship between and among the partner agencies continue and that an oversight committee be established to guide the continuing process to assure transparency. It is recommended that the partner agencies chose a common equipment vendor to assure compatibility in the field. Mr. Moore emphasized that the liberal costs outlined in the report will change as the final features and capabilities are determined. The scope of work for the second phase of the RFP (Request for Proposal) process will be out on Monday or Tuesday, April 20 or 21, 2015. The RFP will include a request to develop system specifications along with a microwave component that is not part of the LMR system. Mr. Moore emphasized that each member agency will be responsible for certain end user equipment contracts.

Joey Hastings – Washoe County joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Robert Chisel noted concerns about the costs indicated in the report and suggested that a not to exceed cost be developed, which member agencies can then build on.

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Mr. Moore (Tom) noted that the two phased RFP process will provide the data necessary to determine a funding component once a systems that meets specifications is determined. Mr. Moore pointed out that flexibility and scalable deployment based on available funding will be included in the Phase 2 RPF process. Mr. Moore noted that he believes that NV Energy has included their portion of the system in future budgets. Mr. Moore noted that NDOT will include a funding component in the next budget cycle.

Responding to Tracy Moore's inquiry about funding set aside for the future system, Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that system replacement costs are included in the backbone buy-in costs and that the year-end budget surplus has been placed in the infrastructure preservation fund. Mr. Tayler noted that funds have also been used for other system upgrades, such as the DC conversion and that the fund balance is not sufficient for the cost estimates contained in the report. However, it is anticipated that a public safety discount or other negotiated terms will reduce the final costs based on the features of the system. Mr. Tayler noted that member agencies are already in the process of phasing in P25 compliant equipment.

Mr. Moore (Tom) noted that NDOT is also responsible for DPS (Department of Public Safety) communications and that in the event the current partnership is dissolved NDOT would retain communications responsibility for DPS and other state agencies. Responding to Denise Inda's comment about options other than system purchase, Mr. Moore explained that options such as lease will also be explored. Therefore, it is important that equipment purchases by member agencies are fully functional and compliant with the new system.

Stu Cronan - Galena Group, questioned at what point a final cost analysis and proposal would come to the JOC.

Mr. Moore (Tom) noted that the Governance Structure had not yet been fully identified and that once a decision is made each region will have an opportunity to provide input either as a standing agenda item or informational presentations as the process moves forward. Mr. Moore encouraged end users to make sure that equipment upgrades/replacements are P25 compatible equipment thus assuring that the device will function properly on the future system. It is anticipated that a cost for member agency will be available in about eight (8) months or less with the RFP within twelve (12) months or less.

Mr. Tayler noted that it is incumbent on each member agency to maintain and upgrade terminal equipment, which is a large component of the system.

During the discussion it was emphasized that it is imperative that the JOC be an integral part of the overall process and that a single vendor for equipment purchases makes the process less cumbersome. Other discussion noted that Washoe County already has representation on the NCSC (Nevada Communications Steering Committee) and that a future agenda item should address possible appointment(s) to a future Governance and/or Oversight Committee.

## **7. SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PROJECTS** [For Possible Action] – *An ongoing review, discussion, and possible direction to staff to work with the Nevada Department of*

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*Transportation (NDOT) on the point to multipoint data and video gathering and distribution system to be hosted at select WCRCS communications facilities and other ongoing infrastructure projects including the P25 Phase 2 Communications System and its likely impact on areas of limited coverage.*

Shawn Tayler - Regional Communications Coordinator, explained he would defer to Tom Moore – NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), who has more information on the ongoing exploration of a cooperative effort to provide data and video capabilities that will benefit but the statewide and Washoe County communication systems.

Tom Moore - NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), outlined the anticipated benefits to both the Statewide and Washoe County systems and explained that he believes the information will be ready for review in the next 30-days.

Chair Moore directed that the agenda item be added to the July meeting agenda.

No specific action was taken.

### **8. DC POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible direction to staff on the continuation of the DC Power System Conversion to WCRCS Communications Facilities.*

Shawn Tayler - Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that the Red Peak Simulcast site would be the next upgrade and noted that the site is located adjacent to the REOC (Regional Emergency Operations Center) where a number of other antennas and communication towers are located. Additional details will be available in the next fiscal year.

No specific action was taken.

### **9. RED ROCK ROAD/RANCHO HAVEN LIMITED COVERAGE ISSUES** [For Possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify options recommended to alleviate the limited areas of communications coverage in the Red Rock Road/Rancho Haven areas of Washoe County.*

Shawn Tayler - Regional Communications Coordinator, explained that a vendor had been engaged to survey potential sites. The vendor identified two potential sites that are being evaluated by staff. Mr. Tayler noted that he hopes to have additional information for the July 17, 2015 JOC (Joint Operating Committee) meeting and pointed out that both sites would require major investment to bring power as well as equipment to the sites. Mr. Tayler noted that other technologies are being explored including “leap frogging” signal to Peavine Peak using portable equipment that can be placed in a vehicle for deployment by either TMFPD (Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District) or WCSO (Washoe County Sheriff's Office). Mr. Tayler noted that additional equipment would most likely be required to implement the “leap frog” process. Mr. Tayler outlined the topographical issues that exacerbate the inability to communicate including an inability for signals to penetrate to the valley floor given surrounding peaks and terrain. Mr. Tayler explained that Future Com can bring service to specific areas and provide additional coverage where none may exist. However,

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the cost of such a system is prohibitively high. Mr. Tayler then noted that as the region transitions from the current EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) system to P-25 it is unclear whether or not communications in the Red Rock/ Rancho Haven area would be enhanced. However, a portable repeater solution may be viable until a more permanent solution is identified. Mr. Tayler noted that the site adjacent to the Red Rock TMFPD (Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District) station does not have sufficient elevation to be a viable site.

Joey Hasting questioned whether a matrix comparing the pros and cons of the various options along with project costs could be developed for review.

Mr. Tayler stated that he could produce a matrix.

***It was moved by Joey Hastings, seconded by Tim Leighton, to direction that a matrix of possible solutions, costs along with the pros and cons of each option be developed and brought to the July 17, 2015, JOC (Joint Operating Committee) meeting. MOTION CARRIED.***

- 10. RADIO STUDY/UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES** [Non-action item] – *An ongoing informational update on the current requirements to conduct radio studies and communications improvement for large commercial structures when undergoing major remodel/renovation.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, drew attention to the new Washoe County ordinance that covers most of the concerns associated with new structures being built as well as existing structures.

Mike Brown – North Lake Fire Protection District, pointed out that this is part of the International Fire Code that the State of Nevada adopts pointing out that member agency have the option of adopting or writing their own code.

- 11. 800-MHz REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on the status of the communications system.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, outlined the system report, which indicated that the typical annual patterns continue to operate within normal parameters. Mr. Tayler noted that nearly all mountain top sites are now accessible and that crews are beginning the annual after winter maintenance, repair and system tune-up. Mr. Tayler commented that talk groups are being tested that allow the use of cellular on WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) and that additional licenses can be obtained at additional cost if there is any interest.

- 12. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM RADIO UPDATE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible direction to staff to work with NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), NV DPS (Nevada Department of Public Safety) and NV Energy on testing and evaluating possible new radio system technologies.*

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Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that testing of cellular devices had been explored with NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) and that he had not received any negative feedback to date.

No specific action was taken.

- 13. 800 MHz JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *The next meeting of the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) is Friday, July 17, 2015. No discussion among Committee Members will take place on this agenda item.*

The July 17, 2015, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Selection of a representative for the future Governance/Oversight Committee for the P25 system upgrade; and 2) Matrix of options, costs, pros and cons for improved communications coverage in the Red Rock Rancho Haven areas.

- 14. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Tammy James - Douglas County, recalled her previous work with Robert Chisel and others including Craig Betts. The intent is to observe how Washoe County moves forward with the transition to a new communications system, which may be some years out for Douglas County, which is still using a VHF communications system.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE IN SESSION ON JUNE 19, 2015.**