

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Joint Operating Committee

Minutes

Friday ~ June 19, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Regional Emergency Operations Center
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

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

Vice-chair Moore called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. a quorum was established.

PRESENT: Mike Brown – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Robert Chisel – City of Reno; Tom Garrison – City of Sparks; Joey Hastings – Washoe County; Eric James – University of Nevada, Reno; Denise Inda – Nevada Department of Transportation; Tim Leighton – Sierra Fire Protection District; Tracy Moore – Washoe County School District; and Jason Reynolds – Truckee Meadows Community College.

ABSENT: Brian Allen – City of Sparks; Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Valerie Barr – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Bryan Boren – Veterans Affairs; Craig Betts – Washoe County; Andrew Clinger – City of Reno; David Curtis – Nevada Air National Guard; Jamie Edrosa – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Adam Garcia – University of Nevada, Reno; Andy Gebhardt – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Mike Henry – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Dan Johnston – Truckee Meadows Community College; Reid Kaiser – Nevada Department of Transportation; Jon Kelley – Washoe County School District; Patrick Kennedy – Drug Enforcement Administration; Chris Ketring – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Arlen Melendez – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Charles Moore – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Pat Nielson – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Jackie Quintone – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Mike Scott – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Mike Shaffer – Washoe County School District; Ryan Sommers – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection 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 APRIL 17, 2015, MINUTES [For possible action]

Hearing no public comment, Vice-chair Moore asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Denise Inda, to approve the April 17, 2015, minutes, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.

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

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Mike Brown noted that the NPSCC (Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee) agenda and meeting minutes had been previously distributed. During the course of the NPSCC meeting there was significant discussion about potential participation in the FirstNet. Rivada Networks provided a presentation on the matter noting that they already own a large spectrum of frequencies that are set aside for public safety. Their intent, if they are chosen, will be to sell unneeded spectrum to non-public safety users when not needed for public safety with the intent to cancel non-public safety subscribers should a need arise to increase public safety spectrum. Their belief is that they can build out the entire system in 18-24 months. Mr. Brown noted that the intent is to review existing infrastructure and if necessary build the entire system. It is hoped that a presentation can be scheduled for the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee).

No specific action was taken.

- 5. RED ROCK ROAD/RANCHO HAVEN LIMITED COVERAGE ISSUES** [For Possible action]
– *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the BCC (Board of County Commissioners) approve, deny or otherwise modify the options to alleviate the limited areas of communications coverage in the Red Rock Road/Rancho Haven areas of Washoe County.*

Gary Beekman – Washoe County Technology Services, noted that funding for providing covering in the Red Rock/Rancho Haven areas had been discussed at the April 2015 JOC (Joint Operating Committee) meeting and that the 800 MHz Users Committee recommended Option 1. An agenda item has been placed on the June 23, 2015, BCC (Board of County Commissioners) meeting agenda at a cost not to exceed \$850,000.00. Mr. Beekman outlined the funding and funding sources available to cover the projected cost pointing out that Harris Communications offered a \$75,000.00 discount if the purchase were made before the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year (June 30, 2015).

Shawn Tayler – Region Communications Coordinator, provide an overview of the options being considered with a 2, 3 or 4 channel simulcast capabilities. The costs shown in the staff report do not reflect the discount being offered.

Responding to Joey Hastings' inquiry about the purpose of the special meeting today, Mr. Tayler confirmed that the special meeting was called in order to take advantage of the \$75,000.00 discount.

Mr. Tayler then outlined the various options noting that each channel offers two (2) talk paths. Additionally, agencies needing the additional coverage will need infrastructure to support the devices in the field, such as vehicle mounted repeaters that operate as a mobile radios. It is felt that the investment will be worthwhile for member agencies as contingencies are built into the system to better serve member agencies. Mr. Tayler explained that the portion of the infrastructure being purchased is fixed infrastructure and will overlay the Metro Simulcast in a P25 compatible format. Mr. Tayler emphasized that the future P-25 system might or might not improve communications in this particular area. Mr. Tayler noted that there is a vehicular repeater system that operates on the P25 system as a standard mobile radio. Mr. Tayler explained that such a system would also provide in-building coverage for large structures with limited communications

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such as the Sparks Nugget. Additionally, there is equipment available costing significantly less for non-public safety radio users.

During the discussion it was noted that the P25 technology will operate in a similar manner on all P25 equipment regardless of vendor. Of particular concern are the life/safety issues for public safety personnel in remote portions of Washoe County. While a fixed mountaintop site would provide the best coverage it is estimated that two (2) sites would be needed at a cost of approximately \$1.5-million each, plus the cost of power generation and access roads. It was emphasized that the driving factor in this proposal is the life/safety issues previously discussed. Other discussion noted some concern about the potential need to replace the equipment as the P25 system is brought on-line. It was pointed out that unlike the placement of a BDA (Bi-Directional Amplifier) in the Sparks Nugget, a BDA would not provide the coverage needed in remote areas. Other discussion noted that the equipment being considered was not designed or tested for continuous operation. It was suggested that a similar device be considered for the Sparks Nugget to address areas of limited communications within the structure.

Mr. Tayler recommended that the 3 channel option be chosen.

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Tim Leighton, to approve Option 1 with Simulcast three (3) channels at a cost of \$640,000.00 less the \$75,000.00 discount.

There was no public comment.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 6. 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, commented that Washoe County had implemented an ordinance requiring radio studies and communications improvements and had implemented the ordinance with the Apple Data Center east of the Urban Area.

Member Garrison noted that there was no further update on the Sparks Nugget BDA (Bi-Directional Amplifier).

Member Chisel commented that City of Reno staff is currently working on the issue.

- 7. 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, drew attention to the report provided (copies on file) noting that the Slide Mountain site had been inspected to review the technical issues and that some equipment for the DC conversion to Red Peak had been received and

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should be completed later this summer. Currently two (2) sites in the Lake Tahoe Basin need modification Snowflake and the Water Tank.

- 8. 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.*

Denise Inda – NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), noted that an RFP (Request for Proposal) had been developed in conjunction with partner agencies of Washoe County, NV Energy and NDOT, to identify and engage a consultant to work with the partners in the development of an RFP for a replacement of the communications system. The goal is to have specifications developed and ready for review by early 2016 with a goal of seeking funding during the 2018-2019 biennial session.

Member Chisel reiterated concerns about potential cost escalation that could harm partner agencies and asked that a member of the JOC (Joint Operating Committee) be part of the process.

Ms. Inda noted that the consultant will be coordinating with partner agencies during the information gathering and outreach process. Ms. Inda noted that Shawn Tayler is on the Selection Committee and that she would welcome a representative from the JOC to provide input.

Mr. Chisel noted that the overarching concern is an option that could cost the City of Reno 5 to 10-million. Therefore, it is crucial that the JOC have input in the review and decision making process.

Ms. Inda explained that the RFP will have a qualifications based analysis that is done by the Selection Committee, which is not yet appointed. An evaluation of costs will also occur and will be taken into account when selecting the replacement for the existing system. Additionally, as the process continues to move forward there will be more discussion on how to structure outreach and process input from each user agency.

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Joey Hastings, to appoint Mike Brown of North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District to represent the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) in the development of an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a replacement of the communications system.

Mr. Brown accepted the nomination.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Chisel clarified the intent is to have both Shawn Tayler and Mike Brown representing the interests of Washoe County and WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System).

Joey Orduna Hastings noted that the Washoe County Finance team has and will continue to meet with internal subject matter experts in seeking grant opportunities to assist in financing the replacement system. Ms. Hastings further requested that the topic of “grant opportunities” be

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added to future agendas to encourage a dialogue and review of grant opportunities at JOC for this project.

- 9. 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, October 16, 2015. No discussion among Committee Members will take place on this agenda item.*

The October 16, 2015, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Discussion and possible action on grant and/or supplemental funding opportunities for replacement of the existing EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) System; 2) Informational update on the RFP (Request for Proposal) process; 3) Informational update on the Committee formed to review research potential grants and how the agency will distribute grants statewide; and 4) 2016 meeting calendar.

Robert Chisel noted that City of Reno staff has been directed to review possible consolidation of the Reno and Washoe County PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Point).

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

There were no public comments

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

Vice-chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 11:16 .m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) IN SESSION ON JANUARY 22, 2016.