

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Joint Operating Committee

Minutes

Friday ~ February 5, 2016 ~ 9:00 a.m.
Washoe County Administration Complex
Building A – Second Floor Caucus Room
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada

Tracy Moore, Chair
Tim Leighton, Vice-chair
Robert Chisel, Secretary

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

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Ed Atwell – University of Nevada, Reno; Craig Betts – Washoe County; Mike Brown – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Robert Chisel – City of Reno; David Curtis – Nevada Air National Guard; Jamie Edrosa – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Adam Garcia – University of Nevada, Reno; Joey Hastings – Washoe County; Denise Inda - Nevada Department of Transportation; 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; Pat Nielson – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and Jason Reynolds – Truckee Meadows Community College. Tom Garrison – City of Sparks, joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

ABSENT: Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Brian Allen – City of Sparks; Valerie Barr – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Bryan Boren – Veterans Administration; Andrew Clinger – City of Reno; Andy Gebhardt – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Patrick Kendrick – Drug Enforcement Administration; Dan Johnston – Truckee Meadows Community College; Jon Kelley – Washoe County School District; Chris Ketring – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Arlen Melendez – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Jackie Quintone – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Mike Shaffer – Washoe County School District; Michael Scott - Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; 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]

Ed Atwell suggested a discussion about having one individual serving as Chair to both the 800 MHz Users and 800 MHz Joint Operating Committees.

3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 22, 2016, MINUTES [For possible action]

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Mike Brown, to approve the January 22, 2016, minutes, as submitted.

There were no public or board comments.

MOTION CARRIED.

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4. 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 provided an overview of the January 13, 2016, meeting during which a number of informational items were presented including a report on the Statewide 911 Coordinator, federal definition of interoperability as well as a progress report on the progress of the P-25 system in southern Nevada. However, there was no update on the First Net system. Mr. Brown stated that he will be retiring in the near future and that retired individuals have served in this positions (Jim Johns – Reno Police).

There were no public comments.

Responding to Chair Moore's inquiry about future action to reappoint Mr. Brown, Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial stated he would review the matter and add to a future agenda if action is needed.

No specific action was taken.

5. ADDING BEON/P25 RADIOS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify the 800 MHz Users Committee recommendation add new BEON/P25 units to the system.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, recalled the discussion of the matter by the 800 MHz Users Committee and their subsequent recommendation to bill devices accessing the system as conventional LID's (Logical Identification Number). Mr. Tayler noted that the BeOn service requires internet connectivity and therefore places additional traffic on the system. If billed as a conventional LID there is a potential reduction in overall cost per radio as the cost is spread among the member agencies based on the number of radios accessing the system.

Responding to Member Garcia's inquiry about talk group scanning, Mr. Tayler explained that in the upper right hand corner of the display there is a small circular symbol that if tapped will disable the feature which is by default set to scan.

Chair Moore explained that the 800 MHz Users Committee felt that the billing should be the same as a conventional LID due to the additional traffic and use of the communications system. Chair Moore noted that a packet of 5 licenses costs \$1,222.75 (\$244.55 each).

Mr. Tayler explained that each BeOn applications have a user ID that is the equivalent to the LID on the EDACS systems therefore the count would be the same.

Robert Chisel commented the BeOn application will not be used for public safety personnel but rather for administrative personnel that wish to be able to keep in contact with field personnel without a radio. However, it is unclear why the per unit charge should be the same as a conventional LID.

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Responding to Joey Hasting inquiry about whether a tiered fee system based on the equipment being used could be developed, Mr. Tayler replied in the affirmative noting that it was suggested at a previous JOC meeting to develop an alternate billing procedure. The tiered fee system will be brought to the next JOC meeting for discussion.

Tim Leighton commented that this may encourage some users to switch to the BeOn feature thus making additional LIDs available.

Mr. Tayler explained that he would bring back a suggested per unit cost for adding a BeOn unit to the system at the next meeting.

During the discussion it was suggested that a comprehensive report on how the use of BeOn would affect the communications system is needed before an informed decision can be formulated.

It was moved by Charles Moore, seconded by Adam Garcia, to continue agenda item 5 until the April 15, 2016, meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **ADDITIONAL LIDs** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify a recommendation from the 800 MHz Users Committee to consider and authorize the purchase of an additional radio channel for installation in the existing P25 system that is being installed in the Truckee Meadows at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.00.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that as of this morning (February 5, 2016) only 53 LID's (Logical Identification Number) were available. Mr. Tayler noted that the Washoe County Dispatch Consoles have access to 811 talk groups. As the IP (Internet Protocol) based consoles are deployed it is thought that the dispatch centers will be seeking access to additional talk groups. Mr. Tayler explained that the additional channel to the P-25 being deployed in the Red Rock/ Rancho Haven area will provide enhanced communications in that area and move some users to another simulcast site. Additionally, this will operate in the same manner as the existing system as it is a rolling system.

Tom Garrison – City of Sparks, joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Responding to Mike Brown's inquiry about whether the region will be able to use equipment from other vendors in the future, Mr. Tayler explained that that is one feature the partner agencies (NDOT, NV Energy and Washoe County) are taking into consideration. Mr. Tayler noted that there is a common misunderstanding that all P-25 equipment is compatible and that there have been instances where additional feature might not be support another vendor's equipment.

In response to Ed Atwell's question about freeing up LID's, Mr. Tayler commented that the region is in need of 450 to 500 LID's and that the transition of non-public safety personnel to other communications devices might not return that many LIDs.

Chair Moore commented that the Washoe County School District had been testing the use of the BeOn service and is not seen as an effective means for public safety communication. It is Chair

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Moore's belief that while the use of BeOn is appropriate for administrative personnel not enough LIDs would be freed up to make a difference.

Adam Garcia suggested that a survey be conducted to determine who would use the service and that the RFP (Request for Proposal) have a requirement that equipment be compatible with what we have.

Chair Moore commented that an update will be provided and that it is difficult to commit given that the bid has not yet been issued. Current the partner agencies are in the design engineering phase and that he does not believe that BeOn is a significant benefit. Chair Moore pointed out that there is an immediate need to get the dispatch centers upgraded.

Responding to Ed Atwell's inquiry about whether the Washoe County School District would prefer the use of cellular devices with BeOn or new hand held radios, Chair Moore explained that after testing the Washoe County School District did not find the BeOn application given it limited abilities and need for Wi-Fi connections, which the District does not wish to open to that type of use.

Robert Chisel commented that he concurs that the region need to be cautious on what is needed since the system is still in the design/engineering phase so as not to be locked into using a single vendor.

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Tim Leighton, to approve the purchase of an additional radio channel for installation in the existing P25 system that is being installed in the Truckee Meadows at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.00.

Wayne Petersen resident of Washoe County and employee of Motorola outlined his concern about the need to keep this an open and competitive bid process.

Responding to Mr. Atwell's question about system investments to date, Mr. Tayler explained that BeOn was an integrated component of the VIDA (Voice, Interoperability, Data, and Access) system that had been purchased with a federal grant through Clark County as SNAC (Southern Nevada Area Communications) was deployed in their P25 system. Other investments include the replacement of damaged equipment lost during major weather incidents.

MOTION CARRIED: Members Brown (NLTFPD) and Garcia (UNR) opposed.

7. FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 800 MHz OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operations and Maintenance Budget.*

Craig Betts – CIO (Chief Information Officer) Washoe County Technology Services, recalled the extensive discussion at the January 22, 2016, meeting. At that time the JOC directed that the matter be continued to provide an opportunity to received input from the 800 MHz Users Committee. Mr. Betts noted that before his retirement Gary Beekman had recommended up to a 25-percent contribution that was subsequently reduced to a 10-percent recommendation to the 800 MHz Users and JOC. Mr. Betts then offered additional insight into the various line items including

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Professional Services, which are used to augment existing staff without additional FTE (Full Time Equivalent).

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, outlined how the cost per radio is determined. On July 1 each year a report is generated, by agency, on how many radios accessed the system, even if only one time. The total number of radios is then divided in the budget to achieve the per radio cost.

Mr. Betts then discussed the 2015-2016 and 2016/2017 budget comparison report and the cost per radio should the JOC decide to provide an additional contribution to the Infrastructure fund of 10-percent. Mr. Betts then provide an overview of the expenditures made from the Infrastructure fund to replace damaged equipment, upgrades all of which are brought to both the 800 MHz Users and JOC Committees for approval. Additionally, funds have been used to replace the existing DC power sources at the mountain top sites.

Mr. Tayler then noted that the vendor will cease providing support for the EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) system in 2017 and emphasized that parts are no longer being manufactured. Where possible spare parts are purchased from sources such as E-bay and stockpiled for use as needed. It is anticipated that over the next 3 to 7 years the replacement system will be in-place as the systems reaches its end of life functionality. Part of the overall plan is to slowly integrate the P-25 system over a number of years with spare parts being used to extend the service life of the EDACS system as the transition is made.

Mr. Betts noted that on average about \$75,000.00 is expended for replacement parts as various components fail or are damaged beyond repair.

There was significant discussion about the suggested 10-percent contribution. It was pointed out that the 10-percent would not cover the anticipated \$40-million cost of the P-25 system. As the discussion continued, it was noted that the increased contribution would provide a cushion for large scale events such as high winds or worse that could significantly damage the aging system components. Over time the contribution has ranged from 0-percent to as much as 25-percent. It was emphasized that the percentage of contribution is at the discretion of the 800 MHz JOC.

Tom Moore – NDOT, commented that NDOT is working with partner agencies to determine the type of equipment that will be needed during the systems design and engineering phase. It is anticipated that the vendor will be identified in early 2017. Mr. Moore noted that he encourages system partners to take steps to establish a budget for the new system and its components.

Tom Garrison commented that the City of Sparks cannot support the higher contribution given already current budget constraints.

Jamie Edrosa noted that RTAA (Reno Tahoe Airport Authority) can support the proposed budget maintaining the current 5-percent contribution.

Mr. Betts commented that while there had been some discussion by the 800 MHz Users Committee about the 5 and 10-percent contributions it was subsequently decided to recommend

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that the 800 MHz JOC approve the budget without the current 5-percent contribution to the infrastructure fund.

Robert Chisel noted his concern in the event a 0-percent contribution was accepted and the consequences of major damage and lack of funds to repair the system. Therefore, Mr. Chisel supports maintaining the 5-percent contribution and base budget.

Joey Hastings concurred with Mr. Chisel's observations.

There was additional discussion about the total budget increase over 2015/2016. Other discussion noted that the 800 MHz JOC has traditionally opted to place unexpended operations/maintenance funds in the infrastructure account. Discussion then turned to the need for a plan on use of the infrastructure funds. It was pointed out that there may be a need to issue public debt once the P-25 system requirements are finalized and approved.

Discussion then turned to system buy-in costs established by the 800 MHz JOC. Typically, new users are charged a per radio backbone buy-in cost of \$2,000.00 and allowed to expand the number of radios by not more than 10-percent annually without incurring additional back-bone costs. As the discussion continued, it was noted that radios not accessing the communications system at least once during the fiscal year are not included in the radio count and budget process. However, as the number of radios increases the budget amount is then determined and each agency assessed according to the number of radios they have.

It was moved by Robert Chisel, seconded by Charles Moore, to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operations and Maintenance Budget with a 5-percent contribution to the Infrastructure Preservation Fund. MOTION CARRIED.

8. 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 scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2016. No discussion among Committee Members will take place on this agenda item.*

The April 15, 2016, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Comprehensive cost analysis of BeOn; 2) Legal opinion on a single person serving as Chair of both the 800 MHz Users and 800 MHz JOC; 3) legal recommendations on how member agencies failing to attend meetings or appointment of members can be removed from a voting position.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Chair Moore encouraged member to respond to the survey that was recently distributed.

Tom Moore – NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), explained that input will guide the design and engineering of the future system. Mr. Moore expressed his appreciation to representatives of Harris and Motorola for meeting with partner agencies to discuss the future communications system.

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10. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) IN SESSION ON APRIL 15, 2016.