

# WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

## *Joint Operating Committee*

Tracy Moore, Chair  
Charles Moore, Vice-chair  
Christine Vuletich, Secretary

### Minutes

Friday ~ July 19, 2019 ~ 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]

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

**PRESENT:** Ed Atwell – UNR; Bryan Boren – VA; Dave Cochran – City of Reno; Todd Curtis – NvANG; Jamie Edrosa – RTAA; Denise Inda – NDOT; Rishma Khimji – City of Reno; Levi Kleiber – TMWA; Charles Moore – TMFPD; Pat Nielsen – TMWA; Jim Reid – City of Sparks; and Christine Vuletich – WC.

**ABSENT:** Charles Atkinson – TMWA; Lance Avansino – RSIC; Craig Betts – WC; Mark Cameron – RTAA; Scott Gorgon – TMFPD; Stewart Handte – RSIC; Sam Hicks – TMFPD; Dave Hunkup – RSIC; Jon Kelley – WCSD; Chris Ketrang – TMFPD; Ray Leal – VA; Tracy Moore – WCSD; Darrell Norman – VA; David Paulon – PLPT; Don Pelt – PLPT; Mark Regan – NLTFPD; Todd Renwick – UNR; Jason Reynolds – UNR; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; and Ronald Wilson – NvANG.

**VACANT:** DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration)

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

Ken Prentice drew attention to the devastating wildfires and noted the challenge faced by individuals target shooting who might not see a spark that could cause a fire. Mr. Prentice commented that he had discussed the matter with BLM and fire services who concurred with opening public land every other week to the public with law enforcement and others having access on alternating weeks.

#### 3. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2018, MINUTES** [For possible action]

It was pointed out that the approval was for the April 19, 2019, meeting minutes. David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, stated that the Board could take action on the item.

***It was moved by Member Curtis, seconded Member Reid, to approve the April 19, 2019, meeting minutes, as submitted.***

There were no public or Board comments.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

#### 4. **RESILIENCE COMMISSION** [Non-action item] - *An informational update and possible direction to staff on recent activities of the Nevada Resilience Commission.*

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Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County, noted that RSIC representative Dave Hunkup is also on the committee and may provide updates at future meetings.

**5. LID (Logical Identification Number) STATUS UPDATE** [For discussion only] – *An ongoing review and discussion on the issue of limited LID availability on the Washoe County Regional Communication System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that there were only five LID's available that could be issued to any users with an additional 35 that could be reassigned to other units or agencies by the holding agency. Mr. Tayler encouraged members to contact him for cross connections to VIDA or EDACS.

**6. SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that the system is operating at full capacity and that access is now open to the Slide Mountain site. A site inspection of the Spectrum and Edison Way facilities has been completed and that Mt. Rose is still closed. Mr. Tayler noted that a visual inspection of the Mt. Rose site did not reveal any significant damage and that Fox Mountain and Virginia Peak will have site alignment and other work conducted that should not cause any interruptions the week after next.

Responding to an enquiry by Member Charles Moore about the Peavine site, Mr. Tayler explained that the issue was caused by a drift in the alignment and that other components may be brought to the shop for inspection. Mr. Tayler then drew attention to a design flaw with anodized antenna part that does not properly conduct electrical current. The antennae are a Laird product and it is suggested that antennae be brought to the shop for inspection and possible replacement.

**7. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE** [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion on the progress of the Nevada Share Radio System project including discussion on project schedule and impacts of the project specific to the Washoe County Regional Communications System.*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file). Mr. Korbolic outlined the ongoing process and work with NDOT and NVEnergy in Region 2. It is anticipated that the statewide communications system will be completed in 2023. Mr. Korbolic noted that once work is completed on Region 2 the next segment will be Region 3 with Region 1, which included Washoe County following. Mr. Korbolic outlined recent upgrades made at the Spectrum and Edison Way facilities that included a need for a grounding upgrade, which has been completed. Mr. Korbolic then outlined the milestone payment which is on schedule and that Harris has agreed to work with Washoe County during an anticipated budget constraint allowing some milestones to be deferred until FY 2021. Mr. Korbolic recalled the JOC's previous action to allow the use of \$750,000.00 for the FY20 Milestone Payment. Mr. Korbolic then provided an overview of the Federal Engineering contract and payment schedule. To date approximately 703 radios have been purchased that are compatible with the incoming P-25 system with a need to purchase a total of 3,300 in the next few years.

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Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that a small subset of the system is being installed to expand the simulcast with multiple sites.

Responding to Ed Atwell's concerns about cost overruns, Mr. Korbolic explained that the contract had been developed using multiple quotes from a variety of vendor with the goal of not allowing the use of any contract to assure that the costs are not greater than expected. The budget includes \$7-million for the Greenfield site and site remediation. Mr. Korbolic noted that there is a penalty for a failure of purchasing less than 4,000 radios as required in the contract. The programming fee is part of the contract as the system moves to the P25 system. Mr. Korbolic emphasized that all radios will need to be "touched" and that the reprogramming must be done by 2023.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, reminded the Board that this was a discussion only item and that the Board needs to avoid any discussion that may be construed as deliberation.

Mr. Atwell commented that UNR had upgraded about 85-percent of their handheld radios and that he believes that radios purchased in 2013 might not need to be replaced.

Mr. Watts-Vial suggested that the agenda language be modified to address the contract with Harris Corporation.

## **8. WCRCS P25 SYSTEM FINANCING AND COST ALLOCATION UPDATE** [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion on the progress on Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) P25 financing and cost allocation to WCRCS members.*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, provided an update on the discussions among and between member agencies about updates and changes to the inter-local agreement and allocation of costs. An update will be brought forward at the September meeting as well as the next quarterly meeting of the JOC in October 2019. Mr. Korbolic pointed out that Washoe County will retain full ownership of the system as it is paying the full \$26-million. Additionally, Washoe County will pay half of the costs for dispatch equipment expected to total \$13.7-million. Mr. Korbolic noted that the equipment has different life-spans which will be addressed in the debt service costs. The new system will be based on the number of active radios that will be reflected in the cost share for each agency. Although there has been some discussion with REMSA about coming on to the P-25 system there has not been a final decision that may have some effect on the cost per radio. The contract includes 12 dispatch consoles with Washoe County paying for six and the other to be financed. Mr. Korbolic noted that there has been some discussion about relocation of the Reno PSAP. An updated report will be distributed after today's (July 19, 2019) meeting that reflects the milestone payment.

During a brief discussion it was pointed out that Washoe County's bond rating is only one step below the best bonding rating. It is not expected that Washoe County will seek funding for about one more year thus allowing member agencies to determine whether or not to prepay their share. As the discussion continued, it was emphasized that there are only estimates and that the total debt service and servicing costs are estimates based on current information and may be subject to change. Other discussion noted that NDOT will continue to be part of the EDACS system until

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Washoe County fully transitions to the P-25 system in 2022 or 2023. An update on the radio county and cost estimate will be brought forward at the next quarterly meeting. Member agencies are encouraged to provide updated information on active radios and LID's. Staff will continue to with budget and finance as well as representatives of member agencies to have a better understanding on the needs and costs.

**9. AMENDMENTS TO THE WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT** [For Possible Action] *A review and discussion on the possible adoption of amendments to the Washoe County Regional Communications System Interlocal agreement.* Quinn Korbulic – Washoe County Technology Services

Quinn Korbulic – Washoe County Technology Services, stated that staff will continue to work with the Washoe County District Attorney and legal counsel for other agencies on the agreement that will be distributed at a later date. The data provided is a summary of proposed changes to the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Korbulic emphasized that once the region converts to the P-25 system the WCRCS Interlocal agreement will be negated and is expected that this will occur in 2024. Until that time there will be two agreements in place. The intent is to get general acceptance of the proposal after which the document will be submitted to the legal counsel of each partner for review and comment.

There was some discussion of a suggestion to eliminate the 800 MHz users Committee. It was noted that since the item was identified as an "Action Item" that the JOC could make a proposal to discontinue the 800 MHz Users Committee. As the discussion continued it was also suggested that it may be time to revamp the users Committee to a Technical Guidance meetings based on user issues that the JOC and staff need to be aware of. Other discussion noted that while two members of any public body may discuss issues care must be taken to avoid having that discussion turn into a serial meeting by discussing the issue with other member individually to avoid an Open Meeting Law violation.

Mr. Korbulic suggested that he meet with the two members to develop some language for an agenda item for the October 2019 JOC meeting.

The agenda item was closed with no specific action taken.

**12. 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 October 18, 2019.*

Shawn Tayler introduced Ryan Carpenter a senior at UNR studying RF engineering and assisting with site maintenance.

The October 18, 2019, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: Review and Discussion of the continuance or disbanding of the 800 MHz Users committee; and update on contract negotiations.

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

There were no public comments.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Approved as written in session April 17, 2020.