

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHZ COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday ~ November 19, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
5195 SPECTRUM BOULEVARD, RENO, NEVADA**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Non-action item)

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

PRESENT: Jeff Byrne – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Richard Burger – Nevada Department of Transportation; Pat Dyer – City of Sparks; Clay Griffin – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; James Hawthorne – University of Nevada, Reno; Dan Johnston – Truckee Meadows Community College; Jon Kelley – Washoe County School District; Rob Larson – City of Reno; Anthony Masten – Nevada Air National Guard; Duane Meyer – Washoe County; Thomas Moore – Nevada Department of Transportation; Keith Mullen – City of Sparks; Thomas Nelson – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Jason Reynolds – Truckee Meadows Community College; and Paul Wiley – City of Reno.

ABSENT: Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Steve Baker – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Bryan Boren – Veterans Affairs; Richard Brooks – Nevada Department of Transportation; Mike Brown – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Bonnie Condor – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; David Curtis – Nevada Air National Guard; Geoff Daforno – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Ray Guzman – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Gregg Herrera – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Patrick Kendrick – Drug Enforcement Administration; Chris Ketrting – Sierra Fire Protection District; Pat Lee – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; 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; Todd Renwick – University of Nevada, Reno; Mike Shaffer – Washoe County School District; Ryan Sommers – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; and Teresa Wiley – City of Sparks.

VACANT: One (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe).

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

Secretary Meyer noted that both the Chair and Vice-chair were absent and that on the advice of legal counsel (David Watts-Vial) that a Pro-Tem needed to be elected to conduct today's (November 19, 2015) meeting.

Member Hawthorne nominated Duane Meyer to serve as Pro-Tem, seconded by Dan Johnston.

Secretary Meyer accepted the nomination.

The nomination of Duane Meyer as Pro Tem carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

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3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 MINUTES (For possible action)

It was moved by Member Moore, seconded by Member Larson, to approve the September 17, 2015, minutes, as submitted.

There was no public comment.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON BEON (Non-action item) – *An informational presentation on BeOn.*

Gary Kimmerle – Dailey Wells, narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) outlining BeOn, which is already in the profile of P-25 capable radios. Mr. Kimmerle noted that the application works on Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G LTE networks and can extend the range of the WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) based on its VoIP (Voice-over-Internet Protocol) nationwide. Mr. Kimmerle drew attention to the variety of uses and compatibility with both Android and iOS operating systems and pointed out that the application also maintains historical data including incoming calls that can be replayed as needed. Drawing attention to a GPS (Global Positioning System) map, Mr. Kimmerle noted that the system can identify not only the location of the caller to within a few hundred feet but also the type of device being used (e.g. portable radio or cellular device). Mr. Kimmerle noted the benefits of the BeOn application at a cost of \$244.55 individually or packs of five (5) Licenses for \$1,222.75.

During the discussion it was noted that the application may be beneficial to administrators that prefer not to purchase an additional radio and that the application is a one-time charge with automatic updates provided at no charge. The application also provides a way to disable the device should it be lost or stolen. Additionally, BeOn is already embedded in the system and will not have any detrimental effect on the limited number of LID's (Logical Identification Number). A demonstration of the capabilities was provided and pointed out that the application can be used nationwide and internationally. It was emphasized that BeOn does require a registration and authorization process on the communications network.

5. ADDING BEON/P25 RADIOS [For possible action] – *An informational update review, discussion and possible direction to staff on requests that have been made by member agencies about the cost of adding new BEON/P25 units to the system.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, provided an overview of the BeOn/P25 units noting that a block of licenses were already part of the system. The intent is to seek input from the 800 MHz users Committee on how to manage the costs for the system that will not require the use of additional LID's (Logical Identification Number). Mr. Taylor explained that he had tested the BeOn capabilities while vacationing in Saint Thomas as well as from Cheyenne, Wyoming. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the BeOn system would add traffic to the existing EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) system similar to that of handhelds and that the application works with Wi-Fi as well as 3G and 4G networks enhancing in-building communication abilities in large structures.

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During the discussion it was explained that the administrative use of BeOn would be determined by the end user who may have both the cellular device and a handheld radio. It was emphasized that the application provides yet another tool for administrators to monitor situations as they arise. Other discussion focused on the potential infrastructure costs associated with the use of the application coupled with the costs of the incoming P25 system and radio replacement. Additional information will be provided for members to take to their management for further discussion.

Pro Tem Meyer directed that this item be continued until the January meeting.

6. LID (Logical Identification Number) STATUS UPDATE [For possible action] – *An ongoing review, discussion and possible recommendation to recommend that the 800 MHz Joint Operation Committee (JOC) approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations to resolve LID issues with WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) Users.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that only 68 LID's (Logical Identification Number) were still available. Mr. Taylor pointed out that a request for fifty (50) new radios is pending between now and the first of the year (January 2016). Mr. Taylor also noted that talk groups also require an LID as do the IP (Internet Protocol) Consoles being deployed in the regions dispatch centers. Mr. Taylor asked for suggestions or recommendations that could be taken to the JOC (Joint Operating Committee).

Craig Harrison suggested that administrative talk groups could be replaced with the BeOn system which would free-up some LID's.

Member Moore noted that NDOT would be pulling back radios that are sitting on the shelf to secure additional LID's.

Responding to an inquiry from Member Paul Wiley, Mr. Tayler noted that the P25 equipment authorized by the JOC had been received and is in the process of being deployed to cover the Red Rock Road/Rancho Haven areas. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the portable equipment may increase capacity and is hoped to be deployed by January 2016. Currently, access to the Peavine site is hampered by snow which hopefully will be removed later today (November 19, 2015). Mr. Taylor suggested that one option may be the addition of a fourth channel. Mr. Taylor suggested a recommendation to the JOC to authorize the funding and purchase of the fourth channel at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00.

It was moved by Member Larson, seconded by Member Johnston, to recommend that the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) 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 \$50,000.00. MOTION CARRIED.

7. SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE (Non-action item) – *An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, drew attention to the report (copy on file) and noted the seasonal increase in usage. Mr. Taylor noted that PSLE-1 and PSLE-2 should not be used for pre-planned events.

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There were no public comments.

- 8. AREAS OF LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS** [For possible action] – *An informational update review, discussion and possible direction to staff on the recently purchased P-25 Phase 2 equipment to cover the Rancho Haven/Red Rock Road and other areas.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that the JOC had authorized the purchase and installation of the P-25 system for the Red Rock/Rancho Haven area as discussed earlier. It is hoped that installation will be completed in January 2016

Member Tom Moore noted that NDOT was also looking at additional sites in the USA Parkway and Red Rock once equipment approval and right-of-way were obtained for mountain top installations.

No specific action was taken.

- 9. KMF SUBSYSTEM TO SECURE ACCESS TO THE P25 SYSTEM** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) approve, deny or otherwise modify a recommendation to add a KMF subsystem to our existing VIDA infrastructure to secure access to the P25 System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that under the current communications system a specific vendor had been used, which restricts the sale of radios to unauthorized access. Mr. Taylor noted that some individuals have been able to secure and deploy programming of unauthorized radios, which has led to safety concerns for first responders. The request is to seek authorization from the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) to add the KMF subsystem to the existing VIDA (Voice, Interoperability, Data, and Access) infrastructure to secure access to the P25 system. It is anticipated that the cost per radio will be $\pm \$60.00$ for P25 capable radios. Mr. Taylor noted that the BeOn application does require registration and cannot be used on the communications system without registration. Mr. Taylor noted that the software upgrade should be under \$200,000.00 and that the upgrade only applies to P-25 capable radios.

Member Larson commented that he believes this to be a viable alternative to encryption which would allow only scanning of radio traffic.

It was moved by Member Larson, seconded by Member Dyer, to recommend that the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) approve a recommendation to add a KMF subsystem to our existing VIDA infrastructure to secure access to the P25 System at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.00. MOTION CARRIED.

- 10. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND RADIO UPDATE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible direction to staff on the change-over to newer technology radio system and radios as current models are being phased out.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that staff continues to work with NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) and NV Energy on system upgrades. Mr. Tayler noted that

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NDOT had facilitated Field Trips to review neighboring jurisdictions with similar system upgrades and we will continue working with NDOT and NV Energy on system upgrades.

Tom Moore - NDOT, noted that Federal Engineering had been retained to conduct a “high level” document on user requirements and technical issues. It is anticipated that an RFP (Request for Proposal) will be released in August 2016 that will include a review of the existing agreement and governance of the system as well as technical and related issues.

No specific action was taken.

- 11. 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** (Non-action item) –
No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled on January 21, 2016.

No new agenda items identified.

- 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

- 13. ADJOURNMENT** (Non-action item)

Pro Tem Chair Meyer adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION ON JANUARY 28, 2016.