

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHZ COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

DRAFT of Minutes

Rob Larson, Chair
Keith Mullen, Vice-chair
Paul Wiley, Secretary

Tuesday ~ January 31, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
5195 SPECTRUM BOULEVARD, RENO, NEVADA

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

Vice-chair Larson called the meeting to order 10:12 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: William Ames – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Ed Atwell – University of Nevada, Reno; Jeff Byrne – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Richard Burger – Nevada Department of Transportation; Bonnie Conder – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; David Curtis – Nevada Air National Guard; Clay Griffin – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Rob Larson – City of Reno; Keith Mullen – City of Sparks; Ryan Sommers – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Jim Whalen – Nevada Department of Transportation; Kirt Warren – Washoe County School District; Paul Wiley – City of Reno; and Teresa Wiley – City of Sparks.

ABSENT: Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Steve Baker – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Bryan Boren – Veterans Administration; Geoff Daforno – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Jason Edmondson – City of Sparks; Andy Gebhardt – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Ray Guzman – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Sam Hicks – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Dave Hunkup – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Jon Kelley – Washoe County School District; Chris Ketring – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Anthony Masten – Nevada Air National Guard; Remy Mauro – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Tracy Moore – Washoe County School District; Tom Nelson – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; David Paulon – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Jason Reynolds – University of Nevada, Reno;

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

Vice-chair Larson noted that Chair Moore could not attend today's (January 31, 2017) meeting due to a school district security issue.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [For possible action] – 1) *Chair*; 2) *Vice-chair* and 3) *Secretary*

Vice-chair Larson opened nominations for Chair noting that Chair Moore has indicated he would decline a nomination to serve as Chair in 2017.

Ed Atwell nominated Rob Larson to serve as the 800 MHz Users Committee Chair, Ryan Sommers seconded the nomination.

Member Larson accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations or public comments.

The nomination to elect Rob Larson as Chair of the 800 MHz Users Committee carried.

Chair Larson opened nominations for Vice-chair.

Chair Larson nominated Keith Mullen as Vice-chair, seconded by Ed Atwell.

Member Mullen accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations or public comment.

The nomination to elect Keith Mullen as Vice-chair carried.

Chair Larson opened nominations for Secretary.

Chair Larson nominated Paul Wiley as Secretary, seconded by Keith Mullen.

Paul Wiley accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations or public comments.

The nomination to elect Keith Mullen as Secretary carried.

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2016 MINUTES (For possible action)

Chair Larson opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by David Curtis, seconded by Tom Moore, to approve the December 12, 2016, minutes, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.

5. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC) OF WASHOE COUNTY [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend to the Joint Operating Committee that they induct the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County as a Participating Member of the Washoe County Regional Communications System.*

Shawn Taylor – Regional Communications Coordinator, outlined discussions with the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) to become a participating member of WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System).

Tina Wu – RTC, explained that the RTC has been considering this option for some time. The intent today is to ascertain whether she should move forward with a formal request to the RTC Board to approve the application and funding for WCRCS membership. If approved by the RTC board a formal request and application will be brought to the 800 MHz Users Committee for consideration and possible recommendation of approval to the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee).

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – DRAFT Minutes

January 31, 2017

Page 3 of 6

Responding to Ed Atwell's concerns about the number of radios and potential effect on the EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) system, Ms. Wu explained that NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) will allow the RTC to access their Open Sky system and will bring about 100 radios to the system.

Mr. Tayler further explained that those issues will be reviewed and brought forward to the JOC (Joint Operating Committee) and that he does not believe that there will be any detrimental impact to the EDACS system. Mr. Tayler emphasized that the Open Sky system works with the current EDACS and incoming P25 systems.

Tom Moore – NDOT, noted that NDOT is supportive of the request and will relocation existing infrastructure that is not in use to facilitate the RTC request.

Responding to Chair Larson's inquiry about the next steps, Mr. Tayler explained that the RTC is seeking approval to move forward with a request to the RTC Board to avoid any setbacks once the application is submitted.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, commented that the agenda item is styled to recommend appointment of the RTC as a participating member to the 800 MHz JOC. Therefore, it is Mr. Watts-Vial's opinion that no specific action is needed at today's meeting due to a lack of approve by the RTC's governing body.

Ed Atwell reiterated his earlier concerns about potential impact to the EDACS system, LID's and backbone buy-in and therefore believes it is too early to make any recommendations to the JOC.

Ms. Wu stated that RTC would come back to the March 16, 2017, meeting with a formal application and additional details if there are no objections. The intent was to assure there was support for adding the RTC as a participating member.

Mr. Watts-Vial stated his understanding of the concern and request for preapproval. However, this appears to be somewhat premature and suggested that the application and additional information be presented for review prior to the next 800 MHz Users Committee meeting.

Chair Larson asked that the RTC bring the formal application and responses to questions raised to the March 16, 2017, meeting.

There was some discussion about the open Sky communications platform with is a parallel system that cross connects with the existing EDACS and incoming P25 systems.

There were no public comments and no specific action was taken.

- 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.*

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – DRAFT Minutes

January 31, 2017

Page 4 of 6

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that he has receive cooperation on identification of inactive LID's and that he believes there are many more that could be relinquished.

Ed Atwell noted his concerns about the requirement imposed on surrendered LID's. The current process requires that the surrendering agency be billed for the LID for a specified length of time in this case an LID surrendered today, January 31, 2017, would require UNR to pay the fees on the LID until July 1, 2019. Additionally, there is no known provision that allows the surrendering agency to regain the LID should a need arise. It is unclear what type of action would be needed to modify the current requirements. Mr. Atwell suggested that once the LID is surrendered billing for the LID cease within 60-days and that surrendering agencies receive additional consideration in seeking replacement LIDs up to the number of LID's surrendered.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, commented that this is an action item and that the suggestion could be incorporated into a motion for public comment and subsequent vote.

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, explained that the activity report is generated each July 1 for the previous fiscal year and is used in formulating the fees for the next fiscal year. If a radio has logged in and used the communications system once during the previous year it is included in the billable process. Mr. Tayler commented that the current process was to his knowledge informally adopted by the JOC as part of the budgetary process that stats in December/January timeline for finalization in February as required. Mr. Tayler noted that any proposed changes would not take effect until the fiscal year after receiving JOC approval. Mr. Tayler pointed out that surrendered LIDs are held until the next fiscal year unless there is an agreement between agencies to assume the cost of the surrender LID when transferred to another agency.

Mr. Atwell suggested that Mr. Taylor develop an alternative process for discussion and possible action. It is Mr. Atwell's belief that by removing the requirement of paying for a surrendered LID until the beginning of the next fiscal year and inability to regain the LID if needed may be a deterrent to many agencies that have LID's that could be surrendered.

Mr. Tayler stated he would develop an alternative process that would make the process less cumbersome.

There were no additional public comments and no specific action was taken.

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, noted weather related damage that caused some outages. A microwave dish on Virginia Peak was encrusted with a thick layer of ice that a technician was able to clear and a failed power line that has since been replaced by NV Energy. Additionally, the back-up generator has reached it end of life and was unable to fully power the site. A backup generator was delivered to the site with a Sno-Cat and sled. A replacement generator was approved by the JOC (Joint Operating Committee) on January 27, 2017. It is expected that the new generator will be operational summer of 2017 due to access issues. Other damage includes a replacement of a high gain antenna that will be replaced with a somewhat smaller and lower gain

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – DRAFT Minutes

January 31, 2017

Page 5 of 6

antenna that is better able to withstand severe weather elements. Mr. Tayler noted that there will be a reduction in coverage with the smaller antenna

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 a P25 simulcast system is located on Peavine and Red Peaks and has resulted in a moderate increase in coverage in the Red Rock Rancho Haven areas. Additionally, a portable (25 device has been purchases and can be used in remoted location to provide better coverage. The device can be transported as a two man portage and has been identified and placed in the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the new P25 system.

9. **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.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, outlined the ongoing process and work with partner agencies NDOT and NV Energy on the RFP. Mr. Tayler emphasized the need to assure that all new equipment purchases were P25 complaint and that member agencies should perhaps contact WCRCS staff before making equipment purchases.

10. **WASHOE COUNTY RADIO SHOP - RADIO REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT OPTIONS** [Non-action item] – *A review and discussion of radio repairs for obsolete radios and replacement options for obsolete radios.*

Bob McCafferty – Washoe County Radio Shop, outlined the issues being encountered in the repair of older radios using previously used components. Mr. McCafferty explained that repair parts for the 700P portable radios had been discontinued in 2009, thus requiring the repairs to be made with used components. However, there is a high percentage of failure for this model radio when used parts are incorporated into the repair. Therefore, the 700P radio will no longer be accepted for repair as of July 1, 2017. Other radios that will soon reach this critical juncture include the M7100, the 500M and the Orion. These are mobile radios. Mr. McCafferty will email the list of radios to member agencies so that they can plan radio replacement purchases. Mr. McCafferty asked that anyone with questions or concerns meet with him after the meeting.

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that a system monitors radios for frequency modulation and that the models mentioned no longer meet the FCC requirements. Agencies are encouraged to move forward with radio replacements to forestall future communications issues.

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 March 16, 2017.*

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – **DRAFT Minutes**

January 31, 2017

Page 6 of 6

Ed Atwell recommended an agenda item to address concern about surrendering of LID's.

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, explained that he would provide that information under the current agency item at the March 16, 2017, meeting.

No new items identified

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT (Non-action item)

Chair Larson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.