

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHZ COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

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

Thursday ~ July 19, 2018 ~ 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 Mullen called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Ed Atwell – UNR; Steve Baker – TMWA; Bryan Boren – VA; Richard Burger – NDOT; Todd Curtis – NVANG; Karl Holden – WCSO; Dave Hunkup - RSIC; Jon Kelley – WCSD; Nicole Lacap – RTAA; Tracy Moore – WCSD; Keith Mullen – Sparks; Jim Whalen – NDOT; Jason Reynolds – UNR; Kirt Warren – WCSD; and Paul Wiley – Reno.

ABSENT: Bill Ames – WCSO; Lance Avansino – RSIC; Jeff Burne – NLTFPD; Geoff Daforno – TMWA; Seth Daniels – NDOT; Jason Edmondson – Sparks; Andy Gebhardt – TMWA; Ray Guzman – RTAA; Sam Hicks – TMFPD; Chris Ketrang – TMFPD; Rob Larson – Reno; Rafael Leal – VA; Anthony Masten – NVNAG; Tom Nelson – RTAA; Darrell Norman – VA; David Paulon – PLPT; Don Pelt – PLPT; and Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, introduced Greg Krantz.

3. APPROVAL APRIL 12, 2018 MINUTES [For possible action]

It was moved by Member Hunkup, seconded by Member Whalen to approve the April 2, 2018, minutes, as submitted.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. WINTER 2017 RADIO TOWERS DAMAGE STATUS UPDATE [Non-action item] – *An informational update on repair of 2017 winter damage to radio towers caused by the severe weather experienced at the WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) Slide Mountain and Peavine Sites.*

Shawn Tayler, Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that repairs are nearing completion and that staff is waiting for the results of nondestructive testing and final inspections including newly galvanized components.

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

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Shawn Tayler, Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that only twelve LID's were available and that NV Energy had provided an additional twenty LIDs that will be held in reserve until needed. Staff will work with member agencies to identify any additional LIDs that they may have. Mr. Tayler pointed out that the LIDs will be swept on July 1 and will become available to any agency.

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 technical staff was performing a system alignment at the various sites and that work at the Slide Mountain location should not affect radio communications. Additionally, the simulcast system will be aligned in early to mid-August and that issues that arose with the Mt. Rose site during the winter months has been corrected. A microwave dish at the Peavine site needs to be changed

7. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion on the progress of Washoe County, NDOT and NV Energy on radio system design and drafting of a contract for the P25 Nevada Shared Radio System.*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, outlined the process thus far on the P25 radio system design and the recently completed NDOT RFP (Request for Proposal). Mr. Korbolic explained that NDOT has signed a letter of intent with Harris Corporation for the detailed design-build contract pointing out that each of the three member agencies, Washoe County, NDOT and NV Energy each would have a separate contract while working together to assure that the system has the same features to provide a seamless operations, which may take a bit more time. Mr. Korbolic noted that the P25 system has a project cost of \$12.5-million to \$20.5-million which will be covered under a separate agenda item. Mr. Korbolic pointed out that the contract is still being negotiated by Washoe County with the intent of keeping the cost as low as possible and will need the cooperation of all member agencies to fund the project.

Member Atwell expressed concern about Washoe County moving forward with a contract without input from either the 800 MHz Users or 800 MHz JOC and how much of the system will be used by NDOT once they are no longer a part of the system.

Mr. Korbolic explained that the topic has been discussed in the past and is relevant to the discussion. However, that will be brought forward at a future meeting as the site layout and pricing is reviewed. Mr. Korbolic pointed out that each of the three member agencies will pay for their portion of the P25 system and that an agreement is in place that will not charge for other members for use of their specific portion of the communications system.

8. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM DESIGN - POOR COVERAGE AREAS AND NEW SITES [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion of poor radio coverage areas and new sites to address the poor coverage areas.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, outlined ongoing discussions on the system's design and need to fill in areas where coverage is limited or nearly non-existent. Mr. Tayler pointed out that the preliminary results site are promising and that several new sites will be needed to provide coverage in areas such as the I-80 canyon east of the Tracy Power Plant, Wadsworth as well as

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other areas in northern and southern Washoe County. Additional information will be provided as details are made available.

Responding to an inquiry about sites along Pyramid Highway and Red Hawk for additional NDOT coverage, Mr. Tayler explained that the Smokey Quartz area will provide additional coverage for NDOT and NHP as well as the southern areas of Spanish Springs and big box stores that have limited radio coverage as well as other areas in Washoe County. Additionally the additional coverage will be used not only for primary areas but also as a backup for the simulcast system in the event of a failure.

9. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/DRONE AMERICA PROJECT [For possible action] *– A review, discussion and possible action to approve Drone America's use of Washoe County Sheriff's Office LIDs to support search and rescue operations.*

Russ Pederson – WCSO (Washoe County Sheriff's Office), commented that this was a request to allow WCSO to continue the use of two of their existing LIDs for Drone America drones that are used for public safety. Mr. Pederson noted that the drones had been in use with the LIDs currently held by the WCSO for the past six years. Additionally, Drone America has purchased their own radios. Mr. Pederson introduced John Dunn of Drone America.

John Dunn – Drone America, explained that the drones are and will be used in support of SAR and First Responder operations and be available for use throughout Nevada. Mr. Dunn then narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) that addresses more specifics. Most recently (May 19), their Savant VTOL-Fixed-Wing drone was used as part of a SAR/EMS training event in Incline Village. Mr. Dunn noted that the drones are typically used sporadically rather than routinely and that Drone America has no commercial purpose for 800 MHz radio use other than to support Nevada SAR and First Responder activity. Mr. Dunn pointed out that Drone America had purchased their own 800 MHz radios so that the WCSO did not have to absorb the cost of the additional radios and in return WCSO is sponsoring the LIDs for use access/programming. Mr. Dunn explained that drones could also be used to assure that there are no missed communications in areas of varied topography or atmospheric conditions that sometimes hinder or block radio communications, when fitted with airborne radio relay/repeater capabilities. Mr. Dunn noted that he would continue to provide Drone America internal people training on the use of the radios. To help assure compliance with existing radio protocol, he has been provided training from the region's dispatch centers and also through active use in the RPD SAVE group. These protocols are in place so as not to abuse the system as well as seamlessly integrate into the system.

Member Atwell expressed his appreciation for the presentation and support for Drone America's efforts. Of some concern is the limited number of LIDs and history of sponsored agencies becoming full voting members in order to have their own talk groups. Mr. Atwell suggested that perhaps the Interlocal Agreement should be modified to clarify on becoming a full-fledged member.

Mr. Pedersen noted that the LIDs will remain with WCSO and that the request is to formalize approval for Drone America to use two of the WCSO LIDs. Mr. Pedersen commented that the Washoe County District Attorney's Office had opined that the 800 MHz Users Committee needed to approve this particular use. Mr. Pedersen pointed out that WCSO does control the use of their LIDs and that the intent is to do what is right for the community.

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Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, pointed out that WCSO pays for the LID and that Drone America in this case would be considered a sponsored agency, as is REMSA, as they do not have an ability to enter into an Interlocal Agreement.

Member Atwell noted his concerns about being able to meet quorum as the number of member agencies continues to grow.

Mr. Tayler recalled that the FBI and DEA had started as sponsored agencies and indicated a desire to increase their participation and use of the 800 MHz communications system in order to get talk groups. However, Drone America will not have their own talk groups.

It was moved by Member Moore, seconded by Member Whalen, to recommend that Washoe County Sheriff's Office sponsor Drone America with two LIDs in compliance with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend amendments to the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal agreement.*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) explaining that the intent of the proposed amendment is to concur with the recommendation that Washoe County has the right to set rates and recover costs for the construction, maintenance and operation of the system through user fees.

The meeting recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 10:49 a.m.

Mr. Korbolic explained that Washoe County will pay for the P-25 system and accept full financial liability for the system. The request is to modify the Interlocal Agreement to reflect that Washoe County has the right to recover some of the cost for the construction of the system through User Fees. Mr. Korbolic then outlined other minor modifications to the calculation of operational expenses and construction expenses of the P-25 system. The example of costs presented are a high level overview of what the cost could look like and are expected to be somewhat lower once the final figures are identified. Mr. Korbolic emphasized that the costs presented are an example for discussion purposes only and will change as the costs for the construction of the P25 system are finalized. It is anticipated that per units costs could increase by as much as \$300.00, but may in fact be lower. The cost estimates for construction of the P-25 system range from a low of \$12.5-million to a high of \$20.5 million.

Ed Atwell expressed his concern that the presentation does not include the additional costs that other member agencies will have to absorb once NDOT is no longer a paying member of the Washoe County system. Mr. Atwell suggested that the anticipated per radio cost be revised to reflect the cost difference.

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Mr. Korbolic pointed out the NDOT will remain as a paying user until such time as the EDACS system is turned off and all radio traffic moved to the P-25 system. It is anticipated that the additional per radio cost may increase by \$100.00. The practical effect of a motion to recommend approval of the suggested amendment is to have all participating agencies agree that Washoe County has the right to recover costs for the P-25 system.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, explained that the motion to recommend approval would send the amendment to the original signers of the Interlocal Agreement rather than a recommendation to the 800 MHz JOC.

Member Atwell suggested that a working group be formed to further study the request and look at other modifications that may be needed noting the issue with achieving quorum due to the increased number of voting members.

Mr. Watts-Vial stated that the floor is open to any motion and that this is only a staff recommendation. Mr. Watts-Vial explained that the original governing bodies signed the agreement in 1999 and most recently 2014. The original members were Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Nevada Department of Transportation.

Mr. Atwell expressed his concern about moving forward without having an opportunity to review the contract and not knowing the actual costs. Therefore, he believes that it is a mistake to move forward with the proposed amendment.

It was moved by Tracy Moore to recommend that the original signers of the Interlocal Agreement, Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Nevada Department of Transportation, approve the amendment as written.

Jim Whalen – NDOT, stated that he would abstain as this will affect all Washoe County users.

Mr. Watts-Vial outlined the specific methods to abstain from a vote that have not been stated by NDOT. It is Mr. Watts-Vial's opinion that without documentation from NDOT legal counsel to support the possible conflict of interest that the abstention is premature at this time.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

There were no public comments.

- 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 at 10:00 a.m. September 20, 2018.*

It was recommended that item 10 be continued to the next meeting and that information be provided that can be taken to local representatives for review and comment.

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Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, believes that the contract information will be available and posted on the Washoe County website for the September 20, 2018, meeting.

After a brief discussion Vice-chair Mullen reopened item 10.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend amendments to the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal agreement.* [Reopened]

Tracy Moore pointed out that those in public safety have a signed contract agreement to work out the technical aspects with the funding realities come in at the bottom of the list. While Washoe County School District might not have an interest in certain sites, the decision has to be based on what is in the best interests of the residents of Washoe County as a whole. Mr. Moore emphasized the need to move forward with a replacement communications system as the existing EDACS system is no longer sustainable.

Vice-chair Mullen noted that this would give Washoe County the authority to move forward and pointed out that the ground work is already in place.

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, explained that staff has the 800 MHz Users Committee comments and recommendations on the Greenfield sites and noted that the expenditures have to be justified.

Vice-chair Mullen pointed out that the region shares in the cost and that he does not believe that this can be piecemealed on who will pay and for what is not known.

Ed Atwell reiterated his concern about the 800 MHz users and JOC having the final figures and the lack of flexibility once the contract with Harris Corporation is signed. Therefore, Mr. Atwell believes that what the Users are paying for is out of line.

Mr. Korbolic explained that Washoe County cannot yet discussion what is in the Harris Contract.

In response to Member Wiley's inquiry about whether the governing agencies would be able to review this, David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, stated that the governing agencies would have an opportunity to review.

During the discussion concern was expressed about what could happen if a Chief Financial Officer stated that the price was too high and could not pay.

Mr. Korbolic explained that it is hoped that the contract and bottom line will be available for review of actual costs. The intent is not to cut off communications for any public safety agency.

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Mr. Watts-Vial pointed out that the contract would include a termination clause and that Washoe County is fronting the money for the system. Therefore, there is a need to have some assurance that the expenditures will be repaid.

Vice-chair Mullen believes that this needs to move forward and that it appears that the region is not bound by an agreement at this point. Vice-chair Mullen believes that there will be time to work out the financing somewhat later in the process.

Mr. Watts-Vial explained that moving the proposed amendment forward does not lock any one agency in at this point. The request is to move the recommendation forward to the original governing bodies for review and final action.

Mr. Atwell restated previous concerns about not being able to review actual end user costs without have reviewed the contract beforehand.

It was moved by Tracy Moore, seconded by Karl Holden, to recommend that the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Truckee meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County School District and Nevada Department of Transportation approve the amended language as presented.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried: with Members Atwell – UNR and Baker – TMWA, dissenting.

Member Atwell asked for a roll call vote.

Members Wiley – Reno; Mullen – Sparks; Curtis – NV NAG; Whalen – NDOT; Hunkup – RSIC; Boren – VA; Holden – WCSO; and Moore - WCSD assenting; Member Atwell – UNR and Baker - TMWA dissenting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Robert Plant - Nevada Division of Emergency Management, noted that cross band repeater project sites within Washoe County are functional and will be certified for use after verification by NDEM. Paperwork would be forwarded to 800 users and stakeholders. Mr. Plant introduced Melissa Friend – Statewide Interoperability Coordinator.

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Vice-chair Mullen adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz USERS COMMITTEE IN SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2018.