

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

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

Thursday ~ September 20, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
5195 SPECTRUM BOULEVARD, RENO, NEVADA

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

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Charles Atkinson – TMWA; Steve Baker – TMWA; Bryan Boren – VA; Richard Burger – NDOT; Todd Curtis – NvANG; Dave Hunkup – RSIC; Seth Daniels – NDOT; Karl Holden – WCSO; Chris Ketring – TMFPD; Rob Larson – Reno; Nicole Lacap – RTAA; Tracy Moore – WCSD; Keith Mullen – Sparks; Jim Whalen; and Paul Wiley – Reno.

ABSENT: Ed Atwell – UNR; Lance Avansino – RSIC; Jeff Byrne – NLTFPD; Jason Edmondson – Sparks; Ray Guzman – RTAA; Jon Kelley – WCSD; Rafael Leal – VA; Anthony Masten – NvANG; Tom Nelson – RTAA; Darrell Norman – VA; David Paulon – PLPT; Don Pelt – PLPT; Jason Reynolds – UNR; Brent Smith - TMWA; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; Kirt Warren – WCSD; and Ron Wilson – FBI.

VACANT: DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration).

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY 19, 2018 MINUTES [For possible action]

It was moved by Keith Mullen, seconded by Paul Wiley, to approve the July 19, 2018, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. 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.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that as of today (September 20, 2018) there are ten LID's available up from three a few days ago. Mr. Tayler noted that the WCSD (Washoe County School District) had released seven LID's with a move from EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) to the P25 radios.

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

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – Minutes

September 20, 2018

Page 2 of 4

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that there were some minor operational issues with uploads and replication related to the CSD statewide that Harris Corporation has been retained by NDOT to correct. It is anticipated that a system reset will be needed with technical staff working with PSAP's in that event. Mr. Tayler noted that the conversion to DC power at the water tank site at Incline village, Nevada, has been installed and that the new battery system coupled with additional batteries should now provide up to 30-hours of operation. Mr. Tayler noted that some sites will migrate to a 48-volt system with updates provided as they become available.

- 6. 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

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that the contract with Harris Corporation has been completed with Washoe County, NDOT and NV Energy and will be coming to the Washoe County BCC (Board of County Commissioners) on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Details on the contract may be found on the Washoe County website www.washoecounty.us.

- 7. 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, commented that the Red Rock area is part of the contract as well as a location being considered for the Spanish Springs and Smokey Quartz. Additionally, a new site is being considered in the Cold Springs area to facilitate the Stonegate development. Other areas being considered include Vya.

- 8. REQUEST TO RENAME PSFIRE 1 TO REGIONAL COMMAND** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the 800 MHz JOC approve, deny or otherwise modify a request to rename PS FIRE 1 to Regional Command.*

Robert Leighton – Reno Fire, explained that the name change request was met to improve communications during large scale events and pointed out that it appears law enforcement are reluctant to use PSFIRE 1. Therefore, Mr. Leighton is requesting that the 800 MHz Users Committee recommend that the 800 MHz JOC authorize the change to Regional Command.

Shawn Taylor – Regional Communications Coordinator, explained that this is not a simple reprogramming as approximately 3,000 radios will have to be manually reprogrammed and could take up to 3-months using full time staff.

Mr. Leighton noted that he had discussed the idea with some radio technicians and recalled his discussions with Las Vegas Police and others. Mr. Leighton explained that there was no specific timeline for the requested change and commented that he believes the implementation of the renaming to Regional Command would be enhance the safety of all first responders.

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – Minutes

September 20, 2018

Page 3 of 4

Mr. Tayler commented that he can see the need and pointed out that the request already fits with the current usage of PSFire 1. While some of the reprogramming can be accomplished over-air, the majority would require hands-on reprogramming.

Tracy Moore commented see both sides and pointed out that he too believes it would be a logistical nightmare to reprogram as well as training of field personnel. Mr. Moore believes that the renaming change should wait until the P25 system is built out.

Responding to Keith Mullen's inquiry about regional command on the radios, Mr. Tayler explained that the Regional Command on the P25 console will be underscored and may need to be revised as the move to the P25 system moves forward.

In response to Dave Hunkup's question about an informational sheet on the channel descriptions, Mr. Tayler commented that there is one for PSLE 1 and PSLE 2 in addition to some after action reports from previous active shooter some five or six years ago. Mr. Tayler noted that the document was created at the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) level and would fall under the direct control of the operating agency such as RP Green for the Reno Police Department. Typically, the naming is not done on a regional basis.

Chair Larson pointed out that the City of Reno has located (Public Safety Law Enforcement) in a manner that make its easily accessible to officers in an active shooter or other emergency situation.

Mr. Leighton commented that the intent was to develop something that would easily work for all agencies and that he was not aware that it would be a major undertaking.

Chair Larson noted the need for additional regional training and discussion about the best use of talk groups by users

Keith Mullen commented that he believes the training should come from each agency and training is up to the individual agencies.

Mr. Leighton noted that there is some online training that can be shared but it is not all that comprehensive on scanning talk groups.

There were no public comments.

Tracy Moore suggested that Washoe County share the frequency talk groups and their intent with the member of the 800 MHz Users and suggested that shared frequencies be provided with the group.

Mr. Tayler stated he would provide that information.

Responding to Mr. Moore's question about whether that was any federal mandate to rename frequencies, Mr. Leighton explained that he was not aware of any such mandate and that the intent was to provide a more unified command during an active assailant situation.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the Member of the 800 MHz Users group might not have the authority to approve the suggested modification.

800 MHz Communications System Users Committee – Minutes

September 20, 2018

Page 4 of 4

Chair Larson continued the agenda item to the next quarterly meeting.

- 9. PURCHASE OF POLARIS GENERAL** [For possible action] – *A review discussion and possible action to recommend that the 800 MHz JOC approve, deny or otherwise modify a request to utilize non-capital equipment funds to purchase a Polaris General 1000 to replace the existing WCRCS utility vehicle for a cost not to exceed \$24,191.43.*

John Byerly – Senior Network Engineer, outlined the need to replace the existing Polaris Ranger that is used to access various mountain top sites. Over the past year more than \$3,100.00 has been expended on repairs to the vehicle. The request is to authorize the purchase of a Polaris General 1000 to replace the existing vehicle. Mr. Byerly pointed out that the existing tracks used on the existing vehicle can also be used on the Polaris General 1000.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Keith Mullen, seconded by Chris Ketring, to recommend that the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee approve the purchase of a Polaris General 1000 at a cost not to exceed \$24,191.43.

Mr. Byerly noted that Search and Rescue has indicated a desire to take the existing equipment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. 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 2:00 p.m. December 20, 2018.*

No new items identified.

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

- 12. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Larson adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz USERS COMMITTEE IN SESSION ON JANUARY 10, 2019.