

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Keith Mullen, Chair
Austin Mills, Vice-chair
Robert Allen, Secretary

****Draft Meeting Minutes****

Thursday, March 16, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**Washoe County Administration Complex
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, 89512
Building A, Second Floor Caucus Room**

This meeting was held at and physical location with a teleconference option.

Committee website: https://www.washoecounty.gov/technology/board_committees/800mhz_users/index.php

Committee Members

Robert Allen, City of Reno	Joe Schum, Truckee Meadows FPD (Alternate)
Keith Mullen, City of Sparks	Ian Dasmann, TMWA
Vacant, Incline Village GID	Chuck Atkinson, TMWA (Alternate)
Matthew Lund, Nevada Air National Guard	Ed Atwell, UNR
Richard Burger, Nevada Dept. of Transportation	Jeremy Irwin, UNR (Alternate)
Jeff Byrne, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	Vacant, US DEA
Don Pelt, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Bryan Boren, US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Vacant, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	Amelia Galicia, Washoe County
Tracy Moore, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority	Darrin Rice, Washoe County (Alternate)
Nicole Lacap, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (Alternate)	Jenn Felter, Washoe County (Alternate)
Shane Akerson, Truckee Meadow FPD	Austin Mills, Washoe County School District

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** [Non-Action Item]

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Present

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • City of Reno | Robert Allen |
| • City of Sparks | Keith Mullen |
| • Nevada Dept. of Transportation | Richard Burger |
| • North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District | Jeff Byrne |
| • Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Don Pelt |
| • Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority | Nicole Lacap |
| • Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District | Shane Akerson |
| • Truckee Meadows Water Authority | Chuck Atkinson |



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- UNR Ed Atwell
- Washoe County Darrin Rice
- Washoe County School District Austin Mills

Absent

- Incline Village GID (vacant)
- Nevada Air National Guard
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (vacant)
- US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- US DEA (vacant)

Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Brandon Price was present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** [Non-Action Item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Users Committee agenda. However, action may not be taken on any matter raised during this public comment period until the matter is specifically listed on an agenda as an action item. Each person addressing the Committee shall give their first and last name. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Users Committee as a whole.

There was no response to the call for public comment; no emails had been submitted prior to the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 15, 2022, MINUTES** [For Possible Action] – Committee members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Due to the late posting of the minutes, it was requested to continue this item to allow for time to review. Shane Akerson, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, moved to continue the item to the next meeting. Austin Mills, Washoe County School District, seconded the motion. There was no further Committee discussion or response to the call for public comment. Upon a call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously. Member Atwell out of the room for the vote.

[Ed Atwell, UNR, left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.]

4. **LID (LOGICAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER) STATUS UPDATE & RADIO COUNTS** [Non-Action Item] – An ongoing review and status update on the issue of limited LID availability on the current contractual obligations of our end users and current remaining radio counts. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 2-4) reviewing the current status of LIDs, radio purchase progress, Harris sales representative contact information. There are 25 LIDs available; now is the time to submit requests for LIDs. 76.9 percent of the contracted radios have been purchased. For those that need it for grant or other funding, the documentation showing the items were competitively bid.

5. **SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** [Non-Action Item] – An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

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Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 5-7) for this item. She shared a list of examples of the unplanned outages. There have been a lot of unplanned outages and will likely continue to due to the weather. Communication HT to HT or mobile to mobile has been subject to a timing-sync issue on the simulcast system. There are currently two cores, one for the EDACS system and one for the P25 system that should be talking within ten seconds but instead has been taking a minute and a half; dispatch consoles begin to fail at two minutes. Harris is aware of the issue. The EMG gateway has been reset. Please continue to report issues with the specific repeater site, location and details of issue (i.e. key up and no sound on one or both sides). She reviewed a list of sample issues that have been experienced. Color-coded daily status reports are being provided to the dispatch centers.

System Status Update

- Unplanned Outages
 - System & Site:
 - 3/15/2023- Reset on EMG, convergence between Cores lessened
 - 3/14/2023- Time sync issues between A.1 & A.7 cores- consoles issues
 - 2/24/2023- Washoe County TAHOE Simulcast Outage.
 - 2/19/2023- Shaffer Outage
 - 1/19/2023- Virginia Peak power amplifier replacement and channel repairs
 - 1/20/2023- 7705 DS1 cards failure at Slide
 - 1/18/2023- Slide Mountain power outage
 - 1/11/2023- Slide Mountain in Stand-Along conditions
 - 1/9/2023- Slide Mountain power outage
 - 1/6/2023-Peavine power outage
 - 1/4/2023- Power outage to Mt Rose, Peavine, Red Peak, Virginia Peak, Slide & HT to HT issues on Metro simulcast
 - 1/3/2023- Mom PC reset & rebuilt
 - 1/4/2023- All consoles heard static on all talk channels, lost time synchronization to the GVIU cards. Cards reset- issue resolved.

System Status Update

- Unplanned Outages
 - System & Site:
 - 1/1/2023- Outages for Chimney, Slide, and Mt Rose
 - 12/28/2022- All Consoles heard static on all talk channels, lost time synchronization to the GVIU cards. Cards replaced. HT to HT & Mobile to Mobile issues.
 - 12/27/2022- Virginia peak VHF failure & console failures
 - 12/28/2022- Virginia Peak power outage
 - 12/21/2022- RSM site activity monitor failure, R7750uWARA logging errors on RNM, and ExaCom recorder playbacks failed.
 - Weather Outages
 - Fox Mountain to Virginia Peak inversion affecting microwaves, and extreme weather caused damage to microwave dishes causing alignment issues. Fox was forced into stand alone to prevent further System outages.
 - Tahoe Region also affected by poor weather conditions. We believe some of the data corruption is coming from communication links going up and down.
 - SUMS- Software updates conducted monthly

[Ed Atwell returned to the meeting 10:16 a.m.]

Chair Mullen shared it had been identified that the XL-185 and XL-200 are starting to unglue at 200-300 degrees which is easily reached in a structure fire. Harris is recommending XL-400 Extreme, the first NFPA communications certified radio. A presentation is planned to be shared

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with the fire agencies soon. While there is relief at being able to identify the issue prior to purchase, the cost will likely be considerably more, even with the contract pricing. It was noted that turnout coats will likely need to be altered to accommodate the radio size.

It was noted that Carson City had also expressed issues with the XL-400's durability and functionality resulting in going back to the XL-200 model.

- 6. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT UPDATE** [Non-Action Item] – An ongoing review and status update of maintenance and replacement needs for WCRCS Infrastructure. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 8-10) sharing weather has prohibited regular maintenance schedule but have tried to complete maintenance and alignments while attending to sites for outages.

- 7. RADIO SYSTEM INTERFERENCE** [Non-Action Item] – A review and discussion regarding radio interference issues, bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs), and current Washoe County policies and practices related to these issues. The review and discussion may include, but not be limited to, creation or amendment of County processes to address interference issues, including but not limited to, FCC licensing requirements in accordance with 47 CFR 90.219, FCC rules governing use of signal boosters, BDA registration requirements, and various technologies related to in-building radio system coverage. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 11-17) providing a summary of the interference timeline, what has been learned and next steps. A major focus is to create and adopt updated code requirements for the permitting process, installation and maintenance of both Class A and Class B bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs). She noted radio systems don't adjust to the noise floor like cell technologies. Issues with interference will always be something that agencies need to be aware of and able to address. While the current Federal Communication Commission (FCC) requirements only require Class B devices to be registered, there is interest in being proactive for both classes. There was discussion and general support for requiring both to be registered within Washoe County. Ms. Lawney encouraged members to review the presentation for Item Six of the P25 TAC agenda for more information ([presentation](#) slides 16-31) and encouraged sharing the anticipated new requirements with interested stakeholders.

She reviewed that the major interference issue that was experienced last fall was the result of the radio system grabbing a signal and rebroadcasting it on the radios on the system. An entire call lasted three to four seconds longer than normal which led to an interpretation that the BDA was configured backwards with inputs and outputs switched. In the EDACs system, there are three pulses to terminate call. It was likely this end of call message that was being rebroadcast. The FCC has issued a sanction to the business owner. It was shared that it would be helpful to have an option provided for in the code provisions to allow for dissection of the device to diagnose the issues. It is expected more trouble BDAs will be discovered.

Ms. Lawney shared they had been able to see the functionality of a software program used by the Department of Emergency Management, CASM. The software provides a real-time tool with directional finding that can find interference within a city block and allows for a very quick diagnosis. It is estimated that the cost to fit all site would be approximately \$200,000; alternative are being sought.

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There was discussion of the process for drafting and circulating proposed code amendments for review and to solicit input from stakeholders. Ms. Lawney shared the Safer Building Coalition was a great resource she had found and been working with as there are several other states that are also experiencing these same concerns and issues. She noted membership is free to all government agencies and encouraged others to join. There was also discussion of the steps and tools that may be helpful for initial review and subsequent inspections. Chair Mullen questioned if there was an option for private entities to be involved in the annual inspection and maintenance process. Ms. Lawney replied that vendors with the correct qualifications (professional engineers or those with General Radio Operator License (GROL) could possibly be hired by device owners. It could be an option to create a list of local vendors that have been vetted against the County requirements.

January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Begin meeting with County & City Code Enforcement to determine the process for changing County Codes. Create BDA Standard for our community, utilizing resources like Safer Building coalition, and NRPC member recommendations. Bring Pericle Engineering back to assist in Writing these procedures.	Create education program to begin getting community members: Fire and Code Enforcement folks to understand what is being asked. Begin changing County code.	Finish Interference Reporting Section of the Website. Begin Layer mapping to assist with troubleshooting for WCRCS and NSRS partners. Implement new County Websites for BDA registration.	Implement Community Public Service announcement educating people about BDA/DAS. Amend and adjust any documentation that needs adjustment. Make sure codes are enforceable and have teeth.	Finalize County Codes processes through accelera, and make sure to start implementing and enforcing new BDA and DAS policies.

8. **XG-75 FEATURE LISTS** [Non-Action Item] – A review of the feature codes needed for P25 Upgrade and how to find the features codes on your XG-75 to verify that the radio is P25 compliant. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 18-20) focusing on the features that are required to operate on the system and how to find the Feature Codes on the XG75. She warned there is a small group of XG-75 that were sold 2017-2019 that may not have been featured correctly. The radios will only show the numbers, not the descriptions. She reviewed each of the required functions (as noted below in yellow) and what each does. It was stressed that over-the-air-programming is not available, largely due to lack of open sky. Feature 60 (Situational Awareness – a map of people nearby) is not a functional requirement, but it is recommended to add now as it may be expensive to add later. She led the group through the steps on the radio to access the Feature screen. She recommended taking photos of the features as the XG goes through them very quickly. Handhelds and mobiles are the same.

Ed Atwell, UNR, expressed concern with the cost of the features and requested a list of only what's necessary.

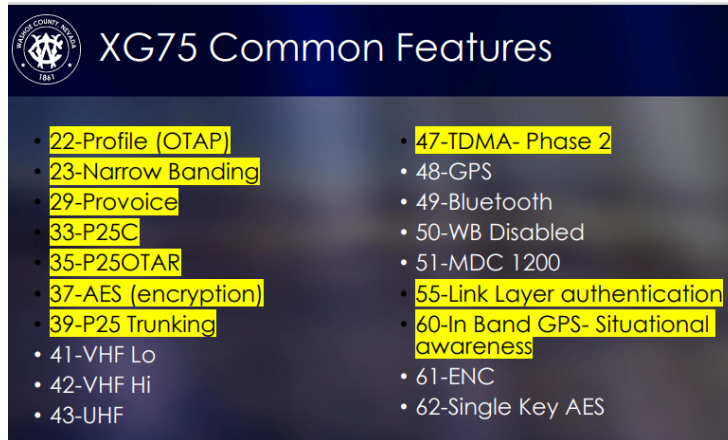
Chair Mullen expressed concern that there was an ability to prevent unauthorized people from being able to see where responding agency personnel are. Ms. Lawney agreed noting screens can be locked-down or encrypted but would work with Harris to ensure that's available for Situational Awareness.

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9. **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 for June 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

None

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT** [Non-Action Item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Users Committee agenda. However, action may not be taken on any matter raised during this public comment period until the matter is specifically listed on an agenda as an action item. Each person addressing the Committee shall give their first and last name. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Users Committee as a whole.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** [Non-Action Item]

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.