

**Radio System User Committee
Minutes
September 15, 2011**

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order, by Chairman James L. Albrinck at 3:00 pm in Room 240 of the Justice Center of Ozaukee County, Port Washington. Roll Call was taken and present were committee members: James Albrinck (Chairman), Supervisor Gerald Walker, Chief Daniel Birenbaum, Wendy Maechtle, Patrick Pryor and Chief William Meloy. Committee member Bill Tackes was excused. Others in attendance: Mark Owen; Supervisor Thomas Richart; Bob Sehmer, Village of Grafton Emergency Management and Police Reserve Officer; Shawn Anderson, Technology Resources/Radio Services; and John Mesich, Technology Resources/Radio Services.

2. Per Chairman Albrinck, meeting was properly noticed and Agenda was adopted.

3. Public Comments/Correspondence and Communications. Per Chairman Albrinck, one item received and will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Approval of June 2, 2011 Minutes. Motion by Chief Meloy, second by Supervisor Walker to approve the minutes, motion carried.

5. Interoperability – Ozaukee County Agencies and MATC-Mequon Campus. Discussion ensued regarding MATC's request in June to be authorized access to the County's 800 radio system.

Mequon PD and Fire departments are reluctant to allow MATC to have direct and unlimited access to their respective talk groups.

Mark Owen stated that MATC Emergency Management Project Manager, Ben Schliesman, who approached the Radio User Group on this issue in June, has left the employ of MATC.

Due to no other contact by MATC to the Radio User Group the item will be removed from future agendas, until such time that MATC once again approaches the Group.

6. Additional Channels for Coast Guard Loaned radios and status. Mark Owen initiated discussion in regards to two joint exercises, which the Coast Guard participated in, and the need for additional mutually shared radio channels with Emergency Management's Rescue Boat.

Mark Owen was seeking direction from the Radio User Group. Would additional channels be approved for Coast Guard use? Would the Radio User Group extend the loan of the 800 radios to the Coast Guard, or recommend that the Coast Guard purchase 800 radios?

Shawn Anderson stated that both the Rescue Boat and the Coast Guard radios are programmed with the Mutual Aid Channels. It was the Committee's consensus, reiterated by Chairman Albrinck, that the Mutual Aid Channels be utilized for interoperability between the Coast Guard, Rescue Boat and Fire agencies, and Mark Owen was directed to speak to Ray Meyer, Rescue Boat Captain, in regards to this protocol.

Chairman Albrinck asked the Committee their opinion on the current loan status of the 800 radios to the Coast Guard. Chief Meloy recommended an extension on the loan of the radios to the Coast Guard to which the Committee unanimously agreed.

7. Update on Grafton DPW coming onto the Ozaukee 800 System. No update to report. There has been no further communication by Grafton DPW to the Committee on this issue.

*****Committee moved to Item 11 of the Agenda*****

11. Report on Plan for System Failure Drill. On September 8, 800 Radio System Maintenance was scheduled resulting in the System being taken down and out of service for approximately one hour.

All Users received notification of the outage one week in advance along with a copy of the Radio Users' Group '800-Trunking Radio System Backup Procedure' letter issued to all Users December 3, 2009.

Per Shawn Anderson, the maintenance went well and took approximately one hour.

General discussion by the Committee on the success of the back-up procedure indicated that the Users had no issues during the outage, and the transition to the back-up Mutual Aid Channels went well.

The Committee views this scheduled outage as a successful drill of the Radio System Backup Procedure, and will drop this item from future agendas, until such time another drill is to be scheduled.

8. Presentation on Ozaukee County 800 Mhz. Potential P25 conversion.

Chairman Albrinck led the discussion regarding information he received to the possible conversion of our 800 Radio System from an EDACS type to P25.

Shawn Anderson provided the Committee with background to this P25 conversion study. Shawn stated the 2006 upgrade to the Radio System included discussions to replace the EDACS system with the APCO standard P25 system. Harris has submitted 'End Of Life' dates for mobiles, portables and console equipment to Radio Services with some equipment having a 2015 end of life date.

The Current EDACS consoles cannot be cross-muted to P25 consoles. Therefore if additional consoles are required EDACS consoles are no longer manufactured and P25 consoles cannot occupy the same room as EDACS consoles.

Shawn stated that our current base equipment can be upgraded to Phase 1 P25, but Phase 2 P25 is already an option, therefore to upgrade to an obsolete Phase 1 P25 would not be a practical option.

Chairman Albrinck stated the importance of establishing a strategic plan for this probable conversion.

John Mesich stated that Harris has completed an evaluation of our Radio System. Recommendations have been made to include possible partnerships. One possibility being looked into is the partnership with the state's state-wide radio system, WISCOM.

Additional radio towers would be required with the P25 system. Currently we have 3 towers, one leased and two owned. The 2 owned towers are over loaded and over stressed structurally. A partnership with WISCOM would tie our 800 Radio System with the WISCOM System with an 800 overlay on a WISCOM tower.

John further stated that the P25 type allows greater flexibility for the end user. Any manufacturer's equipment which is P25 compatible may be used on the system. The end user is not locked into one vendor. When asked by the Committee if radios needed to be purchased in the future what would be recommended, John stated a multi-band radio.

Discussion ensued by Committee members regarding the costs to the end users to migrate to a P25 system. Chairman Albrinck stated to the Supervisors in attendance that when the time came to seriously consider the re-implementation of the one-half percent sales tax increase that funded the current EDACS system.

Shawn Anderson stated that the P25 and EDACS systems can operate in parallel with each other being seamless to the end user. The 'Dream Migration' would be to move Public Safety to P25; acquiring a cache of EDACS radios which were just recently replaced with the Nextel re-banding from Public Safety to keep DPW on the EDACS system until such time they would gradually migrate to the P25 system.

John Mesich further stated that at this point, Radio Services was still in the information gathering stage of this probable conversion with no plan of action in place to be presented. Once a package is put together with outside vendor quotes, Harris quotes, and possible partnerships, the package and recommendations will be presented to Tom Meaux and the process will begin.

Chairman Albrinck requested John Mesich to attend all Radio User Group future meetings to keep the Committee updated and informed.

9. MABAS Update and IFERN.

Chief Birenbaum reported that the annual MABAS box card review has begun. The cards need to be ready for department review by October 1; ready for review by the State MABAS Coordinator, Bill Rice by November 1; to be implemented January 1, 2012.

Wendy Maechtle reported to the Committee that the Sheriff's Department IFERN Alert Receiver was not engaging, when certain agencies were sending their tones. It was determined that the tones were too short in duration to activate the S.O.'s Alert Receiver. A modification will be made to the receiver to accept the shorter tones.

10. Narrow Banding project update/Paging System Relicensing Paging channels in the County.

The Committee was reminded that the narrow banding must be completed by December 31, 2012. Both Shawn Anderson and John Mesich stated that we are on track.

Chairman Albrinck stated the reprogramming to narrow band of Cedarburg Fire and Emergency Management pagers have been started and should be completed by the end of the year.

12. Update on Southeast Wisconsin Interoperability Council and Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan. (TICP)

Chief Meloy presented the Committee with an update. Along with himself, John Schrader, Washington County Radio Services and John Mesich were in attendance at the last regional SEIC meeting.

Gene Oldenburg is working on the regional TICP.

James Westover, OJA, presented on the state-wide radio system, WISCOM.

13. Washington County Update.

John Schrader not present.

Shawn Anderson stated that Duane Willborn, GenCom, reported that they were close to having all end users on the system.

Pat Pryor stated that Jackson PD officers were complaining of dropped transmissions.

*****Agenda Item 3*****

3. Public Comments/Correspondence and Communications

Chairman Albrinck led a discussion on a listing of talk groups programmed in the IP Gateway providing Ozaukee and Washington County Sheriff's Departments with communications interoperability. Who decided what Talk Groups would be shared between the two departments.

Shawn Anderson stated that a meeting would need to be arranged with the two Departments to establish a protocol for the use and programming of the IP Gateway. The current programmed talk groups were randomly selected by the Radio Services divisions of both departments.

14. The next Radio User Group meeting was set for January 19, 2012 at 3:00pm in room 240 at the Justice Center.

There being no further business, motion by Supervisor Walker, second by Pat Pryor to adjourn at 4:48 p.m.
Motion carried.

Cc: County Clerk
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