

Radio System User Committee

Minutes May 19, 2022

Draft minutes pending committee approval.

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman, Dan Birenbaum at 2:32 p.m. in the Ozaukee Sheriff's Office Lobby Conference Room of the Justice Center of Ozaukee County, Port Washington. Roll Call was taken and present were committee members: James Albrinck, Dan Birenbaum, Mark Kastens, Bob Ramthun (arrived at 2:37 p.m.), Joseph Laurin, and Rick Nelson. Others in attendance: Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Jason Dzwinel, Ozaukee County Administrator; Matt Karpinski, Grafton Fire Department; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Jack Sculley, L3 Harris; Rodney Philgren, L3 Harris; Jeff Vahsholtz, Cedarburg Fire Department; Brandon Boettcher, Mequon Fire Department; Jessica Wolff, Village of Grafton Community Development Director; and Lindsay Graycarek, Mequon Police Department.

Excused: Josh Borden

2. Per Chairman, Dan Birenbaum, meeting was properly noticed. Agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes.

Motion by Rick Nelson, second by Jim Albrinck to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence/Communications

Rick Nelson noted that Port Washington Fire Chief Mark Mitchell is pleased that the radios have been distributed.

Mark Kastens introduced Sgt. Lindsay Graycarek with the Mequon Police Department who is expected to replace him on the committee upon his retirement in June.

5. Update on Radio Services, Condition of the Radio System, Planning for the Future of the Radio System

Dennis Buchholtz stated he was asked about the disposal of old radio equipment. On May 25th Shawn Anderson will start accepting old equipment. Each department will be emailed a specific date and time to drop off their items. Discussion regarding old EDACS equipment that was loaned to North Shore departments and the disposal of such when it is returned.

Dennis is working on getting quotes for control stations and accessories. Some equipment will be used with the new pinnacle site. Jim Albrinck asked where the pinnacle site will be located and Rick Nelson asked if the site is on Ozaukee County property. Jason Dzwinel stated it is on county property along County Highway Y at the Ozaukee Fish and Game site.

Matt Karpinski asked when the county will switch from the EDACS to the P25 system. Shawn stated July at the earliest.

Jim Albrinck asked about interoperability agreements with Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. Shawn stated discussions have been held and it is part of the future plan.

Matt Karpinski remarked that his department has experienced issues with belt clips on the portable radios breaking and also had a couple of radios that died. Rodney Philgren will look in to both issues. Discussion regarding the dead radios possibly being a firmware issue.

Rodney stated that 99.9% of the radios have been issued with just Cedarburg waiting on one radio. He is looking at the maintenance agreement which would include firmware updates which usually take place 2-3 times per year. Discussion regarding the equipment warranty. Rodney stated it will now be 2 years from the time the radios are placed in service per agency instead of 1 year as originally advised.

Dan Birenbaum reported issues with portable radio batteries falling off the radios. Rodney requested one of the batteries so it can be inspected to determine the issue.

Dan Birenbaum asked about the radios for the Random Lake Fire Department due to having service area in Ozaukee County. Shawn Anderson stated it's being worked on.

Jim Albrinck asked about the status of Concordia University. Shawn Anderson stated Concordia staff contacted Harris for a radio quote. Discussion regarding access to the county P25 system.

Jim Albrinck asked about radios for the Cedarburg Schools. Shawn Anderson stated General Communications is working on an interop solution to connect their radios to the P25 system. Matt Karpinski stated the Grafton Schools are doing the same.

Rick Nelson left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Brandon Boettcher reported additional issues with some portable radios: Not powering on and having to turn the radio off and back on again, low battery life, and some radios not receiving transmissions when others in close proximity do. Rodney Philgren will look in to these issues.

6. Status of Harrington State Park Tower

Shawn Anderson stated the tower is still off-line. Once the new pinnacle site tower is operational the Harrington Beach Tower can become part of the Simulcast system. Shawn stated the tower on Willow Valley Rd will no longer be used once the pinnacle site is operational. The Harrington Beach tower will be operational once the switch to the P25 system is complete.

7. MABAS Update

Matt Karpinski stated Ozaukee County Dispatch will become the primary MABAS dispatch center and radio drills had recently been held. Joe Laurin stated Cedarburg Dispatch will remain the primary MABAS dispatch center on 1st and 2nd shift until the end of the month and the Sheriff's Office will take over for all three shifts starting June 1st.

8. Washington County Update

Dennis stated work is being done on the civil agreement with further discussions to be held in August.

10. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for September 15, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Mark Kastens, second by Joe Laurin to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group