

Region 43 (Washington)
700 MHz/4.9 GHz Regional Planning Committee

September 28, 2005 - 1000 to 1200
Yakima Probation Services – 207 S. 3rd Street
Yakima, Washington

Meeting Summary:

The RPC met to discuss 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues and the status of the 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz Plan documents, SIEC, NPSTC and NARPC updates and actions in other RPCs.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair (King County ITS)
David Mendel – King County ITS
Ken Rhodes – KCSO
Cammie Enslow – KCSO
Ken Rhodes – KCSO
Dave Brush – City of Yakima
Dean Heinen – City of Yakima
Steve Taylor – City of Tacoma
Gary Baker – Grant County
Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle
Jay Morrison – SERS
Rhein Etscheid – Motorola
Jon Gallagher – Motorola
Bob Bushey – Dataradio
Peter Burnside - Futurecom
Phone:
Valerie Eveland – Benton County Emergency Services
Fred Radovich – Motorola
Doug Kerr - Consultant

Attendees are again reminded to verify their contact information on the sign-in sheet and, if interested in staying abreast of Region 43 activities, to self-subscribe to the 700 MHz Committee Listserv on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of 700 MHz/4.9 GHz Minutes of August 31, 2005

There was a motion by Dave Brush and a 2nd by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell, and the minutes were approved.

3. Information Updates

- **SIEC Activities – Kevin Kearns**

The SIEC website has recently been redesigned and can be accessed at:

<http://isb.wa.gov/committees/siec/index.aspx>

The work of the SIEC and the SIEC Advisory Working (SAW) Group has progressed and at last week's SIEC meeting they approved the System Architecture Report. This 120 page document defines the basic architecture for a statewide interoperability system. It takes a "system of systems" approach, networking different systems, including legacy systems, to honor the substantial investments agencies have in existing equipment. There are still conflicting views on the pros and cons on the alternative strategies for operation and management of the system, and those will be debated at the SIEC level. A letter was sent to the SIEC from Washington Association of Counties asking the state to consider forming a single entity to deal with radio systems for state agencies. The SIEC acknowledged the letter and said they would discuss and debate the issue. The Chair will provide a copy of the letter to attendees upon request. The October SIEC meeting has been postponed until November and will be held in the DIS Boardroom in the Forum Building in Olympia. The date and time is posted on the SIEC website. RPC attendees are encouraged to track issues of interest through the meeting minutes or attend the meetings in person as they are open to the public. Documents of interest are also available on the SIEC website and are best read through in chronological order. The key deliverables in this process have been::

- December 2004 - High-Level Final Statewide Public Safety Communications Interoperability Plan
- January 2005 - Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Radio Network – RFI
- February 2005 - Inventory of Public Safety Communications Systems Phase 2 Report
- March 2005 - System Capabilities and User Needs Report
- May 2005 - Alternatives Report
- August 2005 - System Architecture Report
- September 2005 - Technical Implementation Plan

- **Actions in Other RPCs – Kevin Kearns**

Region 43 (Washington) and Region 35 (Oregon)

Region 43 Chair, Kevin Kearns, spent some time with Region 35 Chair, David Brooks, discussing standard language regarding turnaround time for disputes of assignments in the border area. A 10 day window to respond was specified in the current form of the Interregional Dispute Resolution Agreement. The goal of setting a short time was that any "no" would be received in a short time so problematic issues could be quickly addressed. The alternative proposed by Region 35 is 30 days. The Chair revised the Agreement and sent it to Region 35 for signature.

Idaho – Region 12: Nothing new to report

Region 19 (New England)

The Region 19 Plan was approved at the end of August. For details see:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/700MHz/regions/region19.html>

Summary

Four Plans have now been approved. The most recent is Region 19. The FCC has specified a goal of 120 days for clearing Plans. Approval of the Region 43 Plan is expected to occur after the first of the year.

Filed plans for the 700 MHz band are available on the ECFS search page at:

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi

Note: search on Proceeding 02-378

- **NPSTC Organizational Update – Kevin Kearns**

The Chair expects that the NPSTC RPC committee process will provide a good voice for RPC interests into the NPSTC process. He has been in communications with the Chair confirming support from our region. The National Association of Regional Planning Committees continues to try and establish itself as an alternative voice for RPC interests and recently filed comments to the FCC on an issue related to the handling of 800 MHz spectrum in the Expansion Band after rebanding is complete.

There continues to be a lot of energy regarding DTV migration nationwide, to free the rest of the upper 700 MHz band for use by Public Safety and auction for commercial uses. There has been discussion about making some portion of the band available for nationwide broadband use. Some suspect that Nextel may be creating this buzz as a way of offloading the nationwide IDEN network. Whether this is true or not, there are pros and cons to this way of thinking. A nationwide infrastructure could potentially provide interoperable communication. In that regard the constant focus has been that nothing can occur until all TV uses are out of the band. This issue was getting a lot of attention previously, but since the hurricane there is increased interest. This spectrum was allocated in 1997, but is still is not available for use by public safety. There is a need to remove the 85% waiver consideration. Senator Burns of Montana and Public Safety agencies such as IACP, APCO, etc. have all raised this issue. See the following website for an article regarding this issue:

http://burns.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Articles.Detail&Article_id=236

Washington State Congressman, Jay Inslee, recently held a forum on the issue. The Chair sent us his comments from the session regarding the interest of Public Safety entities in moving ahead with spectrum availability. The rest of the panel expressed commonality of interest (including TMobile, etc., from the wireless arena) in moving TV out of the band. They agreed that we need a date certain. The consensus view is that even though TV is already supposed to be gone, nobody will be able to prove that the 85% waiver has been met. There is a proposed date certain of the end of 2008 (2008 may be sooner than 2006 with the 85% waiver in effect). The bottom line issue is the financial subsidy for DTV tuner boxes for those unable to buy the converter box. There are substantial political ramifications around this issue (a form of welfare?). Interested entities are lining up to support a date certain of 2008. The Chair invited comments from the group:

- Jon Gallagher – commented that all interested parties are pretty much in agreement on this issue. He added that it's neat that Congressman Inslee is

supporting our interests. He noted that someone had asked, if those frequencies were available in New Orleans, couldn't they have helped? The reply was that the event was so catastrophic that all the systems went down and those might have failed as well.

- Kevin Kearns – added that many in Congress and the public think we already have interoperability because they gave us spectrum in the 700 MHz band. However, there are public safety operations all across the band and we still need to stitch together VHF, UHF, 700 MHz and 800 MHz systems. Even a nationwide network will not solve all the issues in the band. We need to make it clear that these huge problems will not be solved by single legislative moves.
- Jon Gallagher – responded, there are examples, such as in Ohio, of bandwidth shared with TV. The band is occupied by full service TV (and LPTV and translators which are secondary) and is still available for specialized uses.
- Kevin Kearns – replied, in Washington State we are unencumbered by full power TVs. We only have LPTV and translators to worry about. He added that a bill was introduced in the House last week to establish an office to manage interoperability.

4. 700 MHz Regional Planning Process - Status Update

The proposed revisions to the Interoperability section of the Region 43 Plan were reviewed and approved by the SIEC Advisory Working Group agenda at their August 10th meeting. The SAW group recommended approval of the edits to the SIEC and they were reviewed and approved by the SIEC at their August 15th meeting. What remains is to obtain the Concurrence Letter and Inter-Regional Dispute Resolution Agreement from Region 35. The Plan will then be submitted to the FCC. If the FCC sticks to their stated 120 day turnaround cycle we can expect the Plan to be approved by the end of the year. It should be noted that all comments filed have to be responded to prior to approval so comments may delay approval.

5. 4.9 GHz Regional Plan Subcommittee - Status Update and Discussion

The Region 43 4.9 GHz Plan has been posted to the web site and will be submitted at the same time as the 700 MHz Plan.

Discussion followed:

- Doug Kerr - commented that there are now nine vendors offering equipment for 4.9 GHz operation.
- Dean Heinen – noted that Airpath & Firetide are now entering the 4.9 GHz market. Of note in the wireless arena, Clearwire is offering 23 GHz residential broadband (limited by frequency availability).

6. Good of the Order

None.

7. Future Meeting Dates

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz meetings will be scheduled to occur on the last Wednesdays of the month from 1000 to 1200 hours, followed by the 800 MHz meeting from 1300 to 1500 hours. Vendor presentations will occur directly following the 800 MHz meeting, ending at 1630 or earlier.

- **October 26th – Meeting via Conference Call**
- **November 30th – Yakima Probation Services, Yakima**
- **December 28th – no meeting.**

8. Adjourn

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz portion of the meeting adjourned for lunch.