

MINUTES
NCC Region 43 (Washington)
700 MHz and 4.9 GHz
Regional Planning Committee
April 28, 2004 1000 to 1200
City of Yakima Probation Services Office, Yakima, WA

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns	Dan Rehfield
Cammie Enslow	Bill Silvers
Dave Brush	Bob Richey
Dean Heinen	Steve Dunnagan
Bob Wentworth	Rick McCowan
Valerie Eveland	Dale Hill
Bob Lincoln	Gary Amundson
Tom Eckels	Jon (Wiz) Wiswell
Keith Flewelling	Fred Radovich
Kit Eldredge	Bill Campbell
Tom Kehm	Dennis Hausman (phone)
Alan Hull (phone)	Spencer Bahner (phone)
Bruce Branlund (phone)	Doug Kerr (phone)

During introductions participants were asked to identify any known or expected interest by their agency or agencies around them in either the 700 MHz or the 4.9 GHz band in the next couple of years. Since this has been done at past meetings (see previous minutes for details) only new information is noted in these Minutes.

Tom Eckels expressed interest in 700 MHz for use by Sound Transit.

Bob Richey expressed an interest in 4.9 GHz for wireless projects.

Steve Dunnagan of Kittitas PD, & Dale Hill & Rick McCowan of Goldendale PD said they were interested in finding out more about 700 MHz and its potential application for their agencies.

Allan Hull (sitting in for Terry Miller of the WSDOT) said his agency is looking at a statewide infrastructure for 700 MHz mobile data with an interconnect to 4.9 GHz.

Spencer Bahner said his agency continues to consider 700 MHz for data applications.

Doug Kerr of LPN Wireless reported that type acceptance on their equipment is expected by July.

2. **Agenda Modifications** – None. Powerpoint slides were used to discuss agenda topics. These may be viewed on the Region 43 webpage at www.region43.org

3. **Approval of Minutes of March 31, 2004**

Motioned to Approve by Bob Wentworth, 2nd by Dave Brush. The minutes were approved.

Secretary position: The Chair noted that Cammie Enslow is unable to officially accept the position of group secretary because she is not a voting member as required by the bylaws. Jon (Wiz) Wiswell offered to fill the position, with Cammie assisting.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Spencer Bahner reviewed the treasurer's report. He noted that there has been no change since the last report. The invoices from the Spokane meeting have now been received (except the APCO room bill). Spencer reported that he is expecting changes in his employment situation and may need to surrender the treasurer's position.

5. **Information Updates**

SIEC Updates & Activities - Dennis Hausman

The SIEC approved the modifications to Section 6 of the 700 MHz Plan suggested by the RPC, and these have been incorporated into the new Draft, Version 7. The Interim Report has been sent to the legislature and is posted on the list server, <http://siec.wa.gov>. The SIEC has received grant money to assist with their survey and inventory of state assets and preparation of a statewide interoperability plan. The RFP will be out this coming Monday. The timeline for the contractor/ survey is going out to local jurisdictions. The RFP has a 7/31 deadline for submission to the legislature, but will probably miss that deadline by a month or two. The contractor is scheduled for the 1st or 2nd week of June? It is probably safe to say that the survey should be completed by June 15th. The inventory will cover state and local government systems including applicable frequencies and sites to enhance partnering and sharing. It is the responsibility of the SIEC to create a series of standards for the state to follow.

Actions in Other RPCs – Kevin Kearns

Region 24 – the Missouri plan was returned for further work. The region is surrounded by a number of other states, which requires state-to-state coordination. This creates a heavy administrative burden on this RPC. The group drafted a suggestion to lighten the burden, but it was declined by the FCC. The problem worsens when neighboring RPCs are not fully

formed. The FCC requires that each RPC provide a full report of meeting notifications, etc.

Region 35 – the planning committee for Oregon has been meeting at the Sunriver Resort. We are timing the threshold approval of our plan for next month's meeting on May 28th to get it into the hands of the Region 35 RPC for their agenda on June 2nd. We hope to make approval by the June meeting to enter the cycle of comments.

Region 12 – Idaho has held several meetings. Washington and Oregon are moving ahead on schedule.

Region 5 (Southern California) and Region 24 (Missouri) have formally filed. The Region 5 plan has been approved (see http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-04-1247A1.pdf).

Coordination with Region 25 - Alan Hull mentioned that during the 800 MHz planning process we ignored Montana (Region 25) and Idaho (Region 12) and ended up with problems. He asked if we should consider coordination with Montana. Montana filed their plan without properly consulting Idaho, causing Idaho to be short of channels for allocation in their panhandle. Kevin Kearns said that he will contact Montana, but since all states are staying with the CAPRAD pre-pack, there should be no problem.

Outreach Workgroup Issues - Kit Eldredge

Kit sent out an email to the distribution list asking for information on how many email addresses are receiving our mailings. He received 3 responses from 30 requests. He is assuming that the distribution list is effective and will continue to disseminate information on our process to the distribution list.

Other Issues - None.

7. Draft Plan Review and Editing (see slides for further details)

Sections still needing work:

Section 3.2 – Existing Interoperability

LERN paragraph – Clark Palmer will provide this paragraph. Kevin Kearns will follow up with Clark on this section.

NLEC paragraph – Clark Palmer will provide this paragraph. Kevin Kearns will follow up with Clark on this section. The FCC asked that the 700 MHz plan show an overview of interoperability in the region so the intent was to come up with a brief paragraph to help planners be aware of interoperability in other bands. This was not intended to replace the work of the SIEC.

Detailed input was received from the hospital community about the medical channels for page 11. This section was simplified and specific language replaced with more general language. Bob Wentworth asked if an edit was missed on the HEAR frequency section. It was also suggested that the OSCAR channel section may need further editing. During the national coordinating committee process, working with the FCC, it was thought that they were solving the interoperability problems. However, allocating only one band may not be enough to solve all the interoperability problems. Each region was asked to be aware of potential interoperability challenges.

Section 3.3 – Impacts on Existing Plans

This section needs final word-smithing. Kevin plans to put together a paragraph concerning potential impacts as the state begins to migrate to the 700 MHz channels. The FCC wants to make sure that the population served is understood by the 53 to 54 RPCs around the country and that population density statistics determine the allocation of channels on a proportionality basis.

Section 3.4.2 – State Agencies

Clark Palmer agreed to put together a paragraph on how the state plans on using the state government designated channels. The state has already submitted and received a license for the 2.4 MHz of spectrum designated for state use.

Section 3.4.6 – Tribal Lands

Cammie Enslow has written a paragraph concerning the diversity of tribal lands in the region for inclusion in the planning process. This section was sent to Kevin Kearns for revision and inclusion in the Draft.

Section 4 – Information and Notification Process

The ongoing outreach effort includes the presentation at APCO, articles posted in news letters concerning the availability of spectrum, notices on the Region 43 and FCC websites and phone numbers to call. The main message to get across is that **agencies do not have to participate in the planning process to be eligible for allocation of spectrum. Everyone is eligible, no matter what level of participation in the planning process.** During the 800 MHz planning process frequencies were allocated as a need developed. Kevin will prepare paragraphs needed for these sections. The timetable of what has occurred will be presented, and as the plan is finished, adopted, and implemented. The notification process will be expanded to ensure all eligible public safety entities are informed.

Section 5 – Regional Plan Summary

The language in this section will be developed as the plan is adopted and will include the fact that our RPC learned from the experience of other RFPs and the 800 MHz planning experience and accepted the CAPRAD pre-packing approach.

Section 8 - Allocation of General Use Spectrum (see slides)

Discussion ensued on the merits of two possible concepts:

Option 1, which would establish eight six month long filing windows, with the final window closing at the end of 2007, with any valid request meeting co-channel and adjacent-channel interference criteria considered after the close of the final window.

Option 2, wherein the RPC would process any application submitted during the first two years after plan approval, per the pre-coordinated CAPRAD database. Beginning with the third year, the RPC would consider allocations for all channels meeting co-channel and adjacent-channel interference criteria. Additionally, it was suggested that the trigger for considering applications should perhaps be when Canadian television stations have cleared the band.

There was concern that the four year window may be too short for public agencies that have difficulty procuring funding and there were suggestions that more filing windows might have to be added. During the March meeting it was generally felt that Option 1 was the better choice and that during the 7th filing window, consideration be given to determine if additional windows would be needed.

Section 9 – Scoring of competitive apps

There was discussion of whether a separate category should be added to encourage shared systems. It was noted that this might already be reflected in existing scoring benefits for efficiency and interoperability. The consensus was that no new criteria are needed.

Section 10 – How needs of eligibles were considered

Kevin noted that a section should be included with a description of counties in the Canadian protection area and the extent to which this was considered in the original CAPRAD packing. During discussion it was noted that not a single entity has said that it disagreed with the CAPRAD packing, so it is fair to feel confident that the pre-pack is ok.

Section 11 – Adjacent Region Coordination

To be written following coordination with neighboring regions.

Section 12 – Future Planning Process

8. 4.9 GHz Regional Planning

The working group chair and participants were identified and the location of the public safety spectrum was identified (see slides). Desired general concepts were identified and a general timeline for the planning process proposed (see slides).

Other Items for the Good of the Order

There was discussion of merging the 700 MHz/4.9 GHz with the 800 RRC. It was noted that the 800 MHz group is shifting to a quarterly meeting in 2005 (instead of 6 months) and it will be open season for the remaining channels. It was proposed that as of the end of 04 and beyond, we form one committee. Everyone agreed.

Project SAFECOM Statement of Requirements was discussed. The purpose is to get into one document the scenarios - day-to-day and critical events to work toward a statement of requirements, routine dispatch, state, feds, etc. in voice and data communications.

List server Maintenance was discussed and the group was asked to take ownership of keeping our info updated as it changes.

9. Future Meetings

May 26, 2004 Meeting will be in Everett
June 30, 2004 Meeting will be in Yakima

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1200 hours.