

MINUTES
NCC Region 43 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee
January 29, 2003
1000-1330
Department of Information Services, Forum Building

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Kevin Kearns called the meeting to order at 1015. The following individuals attended the meeting.

Kevin Kearns	Jason Palmer
Allan Josue	Emory Washington
Jon (Wiz) Wiswell	Babu Parayil
Dave Brush	Hai Phung
Spencer Bahner	Fred Radovich
Terry Miller	Gary Amundson
Dennis Hausman	Bruce Branlund
Joe Kurran (Region 35)	

2. Agenda Modifications – None

3. Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2002

It was noted that Jon Wiswell's name was spelled incorrectly and that in future documents he will be referred to as Jon (Wiz) Wiswell or simply Wiz. Voicing no objections by members, minutes were approved.

4. Review of the brief conference call on November 20, 2002 (no minutes)

Kevin briefly informed the members that the NCC was to have posted an updated Regional Planning Guidebook, which would have been the focus of discussion. However, since at the time of this conference call that had not been accomplished, the call was terminated.

5. Information Updates

Regional Planning Guidebook, Version 2.01

NCC has posted Version 2.1 on their website <http://rmlectc.dri.du.edu/documents.html>. A CD and paper copy of the guidebook is to be provided to each region soon. To date, neither has been received. Kevin indicated he would continue to press NCC for these items. Joe Kurran, from Region 35 indicated that they had not received

them either. Some changes noted concerned the administration of the interoperability channels. Members should download and review.

CAPRAD Training

This is a train-the-trainer course that focuses on the use of the pre-coordinated 700 MHz frequency database for assignment and allocation of channels to requesting public safety agencies. Attendance to the course is fully funded by the RPC. Currently, one member (Hai Phunng) is scheduled to attend training in Colorado. The region would like to have two persons trained, so a second volunteer is being sought. It's desired that individuals being trained be willing to devote time and effort for training others and coordinating frequency assignments with users and with the data center. It was discussed and was accepted that a representative within the state agencies could serve as the second RPC trainer. Even though it is not mandated that state agencies use the pre-coordinated database, it was generally felt that it would be prudent for state agencies planning to use the state agency designated spectrum be knowledgeable with its use. Dennis Hausman will bring this up at the next SIEC state agency meeting. Region 35 is training one individual.

Initial CAPRAD Frequency Assignments/Packing

Kevin reported that initial packing has been accomplished and loaded into CAPRAD. Per CAPRAD, frequency assignments are to be made based on population data, which would then determine the number of channels to assigned within a geographic area. Kevin has requested written documentation on how it is supposed to work.

FCC DA 02-3497 – 700 MHz Public Safety Band General Use Channels.

Kevin briefed that per this document, as region plans are submitted to the FCC for filing, the plans will be announced and assigned with new docket numbers.

FCC DA 03-46 – Freeze on Filing of TV and DTV “maximization” applications in channels 60-69.

Kevin briefed that this document established the date when TV manufacturers would have to have digital receivers available. The current date is 2006. Once digital receivers are available, TV broadcasters would not be permitted to further expand their operations in channels 60-69 and would be encouraged to move off these channels as required.

Concerning the posting of all FCC Dockets on the 700 MHz RPC server, Kevin indicated that he has not done that and prefers not to, as the load would greatly impact the server. Wiz recommended that a links to the FCC and the NCC documents pages be in the server. Spencer Bahner recommended that an Index be posted on the server that would provide

people with basic information about a posted FCC Docket. It was accepted that an index would be good, as such; Spencer indicated he would work developing a “Index to FCC Doc’s” that would be posted for review of the dockets.

6. Education/Outreach Committee

Dennis Hausman reported that the committee has not been active. Needs volunteers to work with him in putting something together explaining what the RPC is all about, what it is planning to do, and encouraging participants to support the effort. Motorola and MA/COM both offered to provide information and presentations that they have prepared/given about the 700 MHz planning process to Dennis. Dennis and Motorola will develop a first cut on an outreach program and put together a “one page” document about the RPC and meeting schedule. MA/COM agreed to help in the distribution of the document.

7. Review and Discussion of Documents

Kevin distributed copies of the Region 43 draft plan, version 1.0. a draft unverified pilot of the channel assignments based on CAPRAD for Washington, and a color copy of the 700 MHz Band Plan. Version 1.0 is framed around the current version of the NCC guidebook. The region plan will continue to be titled as a draft plan until such time as the final plan is submitted to FCC. From this day, upcoming meetings will focus on reviewing, modifying, and editing the plan. It’s encouraged that potential 700 MHz users participate in the process and begin to identify channel needs and requirements.

Kevin reviewed the unverified, test packing, that he completed using the pre-coordinated CAPRAD database. The test packing was only done for just the voice channels assigned within the general use portion of the spectrum. Test packing was done based on no issues existing with Canada and no TV broadcasters on any of the assigned channels. In reviewing the test packing results, it was noted that assignments did not reflect the population density of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. It appears that the number of channel assignments for the three counties were basically the same. Further, their respective assignments were similar to some of the rural counties with less population. Kevin is seeking information and documentation from the CAPRAD office to clarify how assignments are to be made.

A section-by-section review of the plan was not initiated, however, some general questions and comments about the plan were brought forth by attendees. Following is a brief summary of comments noted.

- Plan should indicate a timeline for possible availability of spectrum based on current incumbent use by Canada and broadcasters.
- Plan should briefly describe or talk about the spectrum assigned for state agencies.
- Add somewhere in the beginning of the plan some background or history about the allocation of the spectrum for public safety use.
- Plan should consider or reflect how state and local systems can be integrated.
- Will users only wanting to use wideband data channels be required to implement calling channels? This needs to be addressed with SIEC.
- Comments about Section 6 should be forwarded to the SIEC for review and changes.

Discussion was held about the numbering and posting of changes to the draft plan on the RPC listserv. Generally agreed that each updated version of the draft plan be assigned a new number. Draft version 1 as it is will be posted on the server. As changes are made during the upcoming meetings, they will be noted and a new draft version (#2) will be posted. It was proposed that an index be created that people could use to get a brief summation of what changes were made in each version. The index would be posted and updated on the server as well. The review/change process will continue through the upcoming meetings, agencies will be provided opportunities to make final changes, and hopefully by November, the plan will be prepared in its final form, approved by the committee and submitted to FCC.

8. Meeting Schedule for plan editing/reviews

February 26, 2003 – Location TBD

March 26, 2003 – WSDOT in Selah, WA

April 30, 2003 – To be held after 800 MHz RPC meeting, location TBD

May 28, 2003 – WSEMD, Camp Murray

June 25, 2003 – Conference Call

July 30, 2003 – Location TBD in central WA. Final plan editing by RPC

August 27, 2003 – Conference Call

September 24, 2003 – Location TBD in western WA. Review and final edit by all interested parties.

October 29, 2003 – Location TBD in eastern WA. Review and final edit by all interested parties.

November 26, 2003 – Final RPC Plan Approval and transmittal to FCC

9. Other Items

Dennis Hausman briefly discussed the formation of the Northwest Radio Alliance. This alliance will be comprised of 15 western states for the purpose of keeping each state informed on issues, activities, projects, and

other items of interest that affect each state. The alliance will also look at what the states could do to assist each other or partner on projects particularly involving interoperability. The first meeting of the alliance will be at the Western Region APCO in Las Vegas this month.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM