

MINUTES
NCC Region 43 700 MHz Regional Planning committee
March 31, 2004
1000 – 1400
Washington State DIS Boardroom, Olympia, WA

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting. During self introductions, each participant was asked to provide an overview of any plans their agency had to utilize the 700 MHz band or the 4.9 GHz band in the next couple of years, or any knowledge of plans by others.

Spencer Bahner (Phone)	Jon (Wiz) Wiswell
Dave Brush	Gary Amundson (Phone)
Guy Cranor (Phone)	Keith Cook (Phone)
Dennis Hausman	Kit Eldredge
Dean Heinen	Cammie Enslow
Terry Miller	Doug Kerr (Phone)
Hai Phung	Babu Parayil
Bob Wentworth (Phone)	Fred Radovich (Phone)
Marc Johnson	Mike Akin
Nat Dickinson	Clark Meek
	Keith Flewelling

In addition to information on potential or planned uses of these bands from previous meetings, the following additional observations were made.

Nat Dickinson - Northwest Washington Law Enforcement Administrative Radio Network (NW LEARN) noted that there is no specific interest in his area at this time but there may be some interest for data use in the future.

Mike Akin - Shelton PD noted no plans in his area at this time

Clark Meek - City of Bothell noted no plans at this time but evaluating opportunities

2. Agenda Modifications

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2004

Motion to approve by Dave Brush, 2nd by Dean Heinen. Minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report – Kevin Kearns reporting for Spencer Bahner

Kevin reported that there are pending costs in the amount of \$170.00 in printing costs and an unspecified amount for the bill from APCO for the March RPC meeting room that will be deducted from the balance.

5. Information Updates:

SIEC Updates and Activities – Dennis Hausman

Section 6 of the Draft, as amended by SIEC, was approved with one modification, to clearly indicate that the command and control structure that the state will be using is NIMS (National Incident Management System). This change was mandated by the fact that all federal, state and local agencies must participate in this system if requesting federal funding. The group did not discuss any of the other issues presented in letter. Dennis stated that he did not receive a letter. He assured the RPC that the wording of their document allows them to make a determination on these issues in the future. He noted that the section was discussed late in the meeting. The SIEC could find no good business reason to delegate authority. Terry Miller was to

be sent to CAPRAD training, which would remove the reason to delegate authority. Kevin pointed out that the letter was sent out right after the last meeting, not sure where the breakdown occurred. He stated that the reason to delegate is that the SIEC does not meet often enough (quarterly) to deal with applicant needs, interoperability requirements. He feels that it is appropriate to do this work during the planning process. Dennis says that there is a SIEC body that meets biweekly that might be able to handle this work.

General SIEC – Regional Activity

The SIEC is in the process of completing an inventory of state assets to create an interim interoperability plan for submission to the Information Services Board at the State Legislature (see SIEC.wa.gov for more info). They hope to have completed a Public Safety inventory by 7/30. They plan to contact each of DHS specified regions and gather info via surveys. These surveys took about 30 – 45 minutes the 1st time, but they had to redo them a half dozen times to add additional info. They are customizing the surveys regionally to assist DHS in obtaining additional info. The SIEC applied for some Homeland Security grant funds to complete this task. They received \$850,000 to assist with the project, which may be enough. Dennis suggested our group look at the interim plan.

Miscellaneous Updates – Kevin Kearns

SDR Forum (Software Defined Radio Forum, see <http://www.sdrforum.org/> for more info) – Kevin noted that NPSTC has several individuals who are working within the SDR Forum process to make sure public safety interests are represented. In concept the idea of radios that are fully functional across multiple bands and operating standards based only on software loads is quite promising from an interoperability standpoint. Concerns regarding security, control, form-factor, battery life, etc. are being worked and great success is already present in fixed base and military applications.

NPSTC Board of Governor's Meeting – there is currently a proceeding before the Federal Communications Commission regarding BPL (broadband across power lines). This is seen as a potential threat to public safety and amateur radio operators in the low frequency bands. NPSTC and APCO are taking a "general concern" viewpoint, but not objecting outright, as BPL is seen as a potential means of supplying broadband to the general public. The ARRL--The National Association for Amateur Radio-- is supportive of broadband access for all Americans; however, it opposes the use of BPL as a solution to achieving this goal unless all interference concerns can be addressed.

TV Clearing – Kevin Kearns

Kevin pointed out that a small number of TV stations cause a large nationwide blockage, although our region is relatively unaffected by this issue. Relative to the effect of Canadian operations on US operations, Cammie Enslow passed out copies of an article from the March 2004 issue of Mission Critical Communications (magazine) written by Keith McIntosh, manager of regulatory affairs at the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) indicating Canada's desire to align with the US band plan as much as possible.

Spectrum Coalition - Dennis Hausman

This group is advocating stopping the auctioning of an additional 10 Mhz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band that could be allocated for Public Safety use (see <http://www.spectrumcoalition.org/html/home.html>). The FCC is unable to respond to this issue, as acting on it would require a Congressional mandate. Dennis asked if our group wished to get involved. Kevin cautioned against complicating the RPC process by getting involved in this additional issue. He asked Dennis to send him the link so he could see if other RPCs are currently involved. He noted that NPSTC and APCO are generally supportive of this effort but just want to make sure that congressional focus doesn't weaken on the more critical issue of TV clearing out of the band. Our group will monitor the activity of the Spectrum Coalition for further developments.
<http://www.spectrumcoalition.org/>

National Law Enforcement Training Center Study – Kevin Kearns

A study was commissioned and a report was delivered to look at the feasibility of creating a nationwide public safety domain and IP addressing block using IP V6, to allow for better interoperability, a national IP database and registry. The conclusion was that it is unrealistic to attempt to set this up and that other methods of multi-tier authentication were probably more reasonable to pursue. The final recommendation was not to go forward with this.

Notification Process - Kit Eldredge

Kit reported that we have created a distribution list of 20 organizations that have agreed to distribute meeting notification and information to their list serve and/or membership. Dennis commented that he had gotten many phone calls from police agencies that were not sure about the background and legitimacy of our work. Kevin commented that the good news is that the message is obviously getting out and agencies are becoming aware of the development of the spectrum and the potential for their use.

4.9 GHz Workgroup news – Kevin Kearns

Kevin asked about the status of this work. Nothing has been accomplished since last meeting. Regarding the 7/30 Deadline for plan completion, there is ambiguity from the FCC when asked directly about the deadline. Questions include, how can groups that have not started the process possibly meet the deadline? Also, would they be eligible, since they did not start in the designated six-month window? The FCC would not commit one way or another. Region 5 and 6 are working collaboratively on 4.9 GHz planning and NPSTC has created a template for that planning.

LPN Report – Doug Kerr

Doug reports that FCC type acceptance on his equipment is taking longer than expected. He is now looking at May or June availability.

6. Draft Plan Version 7 – Kevin Kearns

Draft plan Version 6 is currently posted on the website. Kevin will be working as hard as he can to get Draft Plan Version 7 posted as soon as possible.

7. Future Meetings

April 28th 2004 meeting will be in Yakima at the Probation Services Center

May 26th 2004 meeting will be in Everett at the Snohomish County PUD

June 30th 2004 meeting will be in Yakima at the Probation Services Center

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours.