

MINUTES
Region 43 (Washington)
700 MHz & 4.9 GHz Regional Planning Committee
November 17, 2004 - 1000 to 1200
Snohomish Public Utility Operations Center
1802 75th Street SW, Everett

Meeting Summary:

The RPC met to discuss 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues, SIEC updates, actions in other RPCs and NPSTC and FCC documents of interest. The Regional Plan for the Public Safety 700 MHz Band in Region 43 was reviewed and discussed and a schedule was outlined for final edits and publication. 4.9 GHz planning and activity was reviewed and discussed.

Reminders/ Action Items:

Voting status – attendees are reminded that the Regional Planning Committee needs more voting members. Only a small percentage of current participants are formally designated as voting members. When the planning document is completed and ready to be sent to the FCC, only voting members will be eligible to participate in the vote. A letter or an email sent to the Chair by someone one level above you in your agency naming you as the agency designated voting member is all that is required to be a voting member. This should be done right away as the final vote is imminent.

Participation in the December and January Meetings – participation in these meetings is strongly encouraged as this is the final opportunity for input to the Plan document as well as the date to vote for transmittal of the Final Draft to Oregon and Idaho for comment and consent.

Discussion with E-Comm and CREST personnel regarding Cross Border Issues – RPC members are reminded to contact the Chair regarding their interest in participating or providing input for a meeting or conference call at E-Comm in Vancouver regarding international planning issues.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns	Kit Eldredge
Cammie Enslow	Brad Barber
Capt. Deborah Huntsinger	Peter Hambuch
Ken Rhodes	Jay Morrison
Spencer Bahner	Steve Dittore
Jon (Wiz) Wiswell	Walt Pierce
Tom Howell	Doug Kerr – phone
Gary Amundson	Dave Brush - phone
Ron Solemsaas	Keith Flewelling - phone

During introductions participants were asked to identify themselves and their agencies and provide information (in general terms) on any known or expected interest by their agency or agencies around them in either the 700 MHz and/or the 4.9 GHz band in 2005 and 2006. Since this has been done at past meetings (see previous minutes for details) only new information is noted herein.

Capt. Deborah Huntsinger – first meeting, learning about allocations

Ken Rhodes – involved in KCSO pending wireless data project, interested in 700 MHz, 4.9 GHz for data applications

Tom Howell – SNOPAC, looking at coordinating wireless data communication; their Public Safety Technical Committee is currently mapping a strategy

Steve Dittore - Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, investigating wide band data opportunities, looking at possibilities for a cooperative venture

Peter Hambuch – Motorola, presenting 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz data opportunities today following the 800 MHz meeting.

Jay Morrison – SERS, Snohomish County Radio and APCO advisor, here with Ron Solemsaas, interested in 700 MHz spectrum for data.

Doug Kerr – phone, has spoken with Mike Doble (who is unable to be on the phone today) & will provide an update on the 4.9 GHz event in California.

Attendees were reminded to verify their contact information on the sign-in sheet and to self-subscribe to the Listserver on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2004

Jon (Wiz) Wiswell made a motion to approve the October minutes. Spencer Bahner seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

3. Financial Report

The current balance is approximately \$175.00, which is expected to cover publication expenses for the December meeting and final vote on the plan. The account has remained in the Snohomish County accounting system during the time that the RPC has operated without a formal treasurer. Ron Solemsaas has advised that he will be joining the RPC as the SERS voting member and is able to serve in the position of Treasurer. Kevin asked for a formal nomination. Jon (Wiz) Wiswell nominated Ron and Walt Pierce seconded the motion. Ron was elected Treasurer.

4. General Information Updates – All

• SIEC updates – Kevin Kearns for Dennis Hausman

Surveys of local systems are almost complete. Agencies have been contacted by Federal Engineering to ensure that surveys are returned. Brad commented that Federal wants the information for the 1st meeting of the work group in December. An initial draft of 150 pages has been circulated to the SIEC Advisory Working Group for review and comment. The final draft will be voted on by the SIEC at their December 13th meeting.

• Actions in other RPCs and NPSTC – Kevin Kearns

Other RPCs:

- Oregon - Region 35 is meeting on December 1st. The Chair will attend the meeting and formally introduce Plan for coordination with Region 35. The Oregon meeting will be held at the Salishan Resort, near Lincoln city.
- Idaho - Region 12 is meeting on the 18th and will vote on their final draft for submission to our RPC for coordination. We will review their current plan at our meeting on the 17th and they will review ours on the 18th. No problems are expected as coordination will take place through the pre-pack, or individually. Kevin will send our notes to them, as he is unable to attend.
- Missouri – Region 24 has still not been approved.

NPSTC:

- NPSTC is meeting on the 18th & 19th in New York. Kevin is unable to attend as King County is in the middle of its budget process. He suggests that we review postings of activity on their web site. NPSTC is monitoring many areas of interest. Details of proceedings are listed on the NPSTC website, <http://www.npstc.org/meetings.htm>.
- Motorola's Spectrum Newsletter - Kevin posted current and back issues of the Newsletter on the Listserver. They provide interesting reading on several issues of interest and balanced information on several topics.
- NPSTC Spectrum Newsletter- the latest issue of this newsletter is available at <http://www.npstc.org/newsletter/v4issue1.pdf>.

- **General FCC or Industry Documents of Interest – Kevin Kearns**

- The US 700 MHz Band Plan – the slide of the plan was reviewed for the benefit of new attendees. 24 MHz of spectrum was allocated for use by Public Safety (12 for transmit, 12 for receive); 30 MHz was allocated for use by Commercial entities; and 6 MHz was reserved for use as guard bands (see attachments to the Plan documents on the website for details). There was heated debate around the issue of the 6 MHz allocated for use as guard bands. After the problems in the 800 MHz band it was felt that guard bands would be highly appropriate. There will be controlled use of the guard bands. It was noted that the Mobile Transmit and Base Transmit frequencies have been swapped to avoid interference with existing assignments:

Higher = mobile transmit

Lower = base transmit

- Canadian 700 MHz Band Allocation Decision – the Industry Canada proposed rulemaking for use of the 700 MHz band has been released and is available at: [http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapj/sp746e.pdf/\\$FILE/sp746e.pdf](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapj/sp746e.pdf/$FILE/sp746e.pdf)

Their approach is a co-primary use of the band by LMR and TV. They have allocated TV channel pair 63 and 68 for use by public safety and may consider channel pairs 64 and 69 for future use. They recognize the need for interoperability. However, their plan raises questions regarding technical standards, planning approaches, etc. The Chair sent Mike Webb of ICT Consulting a quick note asking about the procedure for Region 43 (non Canadian citizens) to file comments. He responded that our comments would be useful and that E-Comm and CREST personnel would like to meet with us to discuss issues with the intent of aligning viewpoints. Kevin asked for discussion of group

interest in a face-to-face meeting or conference call and asked who would like to participate in this activity and what would we like to say:

- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell - we need to participate so we can explore common problems. He would like to attend and would wish to discuss signal levels at the border, the need to refine/revise existing mechanisms, and interoperability for mutual aid. Spencer Bahner – interested in the impact the outcome will have on the CAPRAD project as some will be treated as primary and some secondary, which will affect signal levels and system design.
- Kevin Kearns – remarked that we could say we are primary on 63 & 68 and they can be secondary on 64 & 69 and asked if it can be co-primary if coordinated.
- Spencer Bahner - when all are clamoring for the last 2 channels, there may be reconsideration of when a channel is called primary or secondary. Currently with high sites, 140 km has been called primary but if sites were lower perhaps 80 km could be called primary (a site on Mt. Constitution is different than a site in downtown Bellingham).
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell - with low sites and low power a showing could be made that there is no interference. Industry Canada is using a different prediction model.
- Kevin Kearns – in the 800 MHz band, the rulemaking embraces a new approach. Protection requirements are based more on a carrier to interference approach rather than a power/flux density approach. The signal may not cause a problem with this approach, but is this too complicated?
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell – the current 800 MHz approach is complex, maybe a combination approach might work.
- Kevin Kearns – how about sharing CAPRAD? 700 MHz spectrum is packed based on population, transmitter location and assumed AHAAT. This provides a plan for allocation. It looks at the amount of signal separation required to protect channels. The number of available channels is determined by population distribution. He noted that Hai Phung (Metro Transit) and Terry Miller (WSDOT) have attended the CAPRAD training.
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell – we could offer use of CAPRAD to Canada if they are interested as it makes sense to use a common computer program.
- Kevin Kearns – what about the technical standards for interoperability? Should P25 be the standard? Also, what about channelization? Should we suggest 25 kHz blocks, eventually migrating to 6.25 kHz blocks?
- Spencer Bahner – yes, as there are not enough differing circumstances to necessitate a different channel structure.
- Kevin Kearns – how about suggesting that they adopt a similar structure to our RPC to allow for official discussion?
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell – this would be in order and we could invite them to our meetings without the necessity of coordination with the State Department.
- Kevin Kearns – other thoughts on these issues?
- Spencer Bahner – what is the deadline and is similar discussion by other US RPCs currently occurring regarding these issues?
- Kevin Kearns – has not checked the Gazette for the date. There is a consensus that we would like to meet with the Canadians in person or via a conference line.

5. 700 MHz Regional Planning Process

- Proposed edits to Draft Version 10 from the October meeting:
 - Language needs to be beefed up clarifying administrative changes to spectrum requiring a full blown planning processes vs. simple spectrum reassignments not requiring coordination with neighboring regions.
 - A section needs to be added specifying the implications of TV utilization (there are not currently any primary use, but some secondary that will be asked to move).
 - More needs to be added regarding Canadian border issues, i.e. the channel in Victoria has been reassigned, but there are LPTV and translator issues to deal with. The date certain issue has not been resolved and may be punted to the next congress (next year). Date certain is probably 2007, 2008 or 2009.
- Pyramid Communications Letter– sent to RPCs recommending the designation of low-power channels for vehicular repeaters and interoperability radio equipment (see slides for text of 90.531 (b)(3) and 90.531 (b)(4). The Chair asked for debate regarding whether we want to make specific mention of this in our plans (like the approach in the 800 MHz plan for state ops) or do we prefer to ignore this in the current plan and modify the plan in the future if interest surfaces:
 - Jon (Wiz) Wiswell - is there any reason to mention this at this time?
 - Kevin Kearns - if we are silent, and someone wants to use them, they will be returned to the RPC.
 - Spencer Bahner - in the 1st draft of our plan we should make sure that entities come to the Regional Planning Committee. It's worthwhile doing.
 - Jon (Wiz) Wiswell - if we specifically designate the channels as itinerant low power channels and someone builds a case for his agency to use the channels, i.e. for a hostage incident, and then someone else rolls in and turns on a vehicular repeater, who takes priority?
 - Kevin Kearns - in the 800 MHz band there was designated use so there is an expectation established.
 - Peter Hambuch – the ability to aggregate channels is worth considering
 - Kevin Kearns - since we haven't heard from prospective users, we may want to stay silent or put in one paragraph that we will deal with these channels as the need arises. We will have ample opportunity to address this as things move forward.
 - Jon (Wiz) Wiswell - let's keep silent until interest is expressed.

6. 700 MHz Regional Plan Review & Editing

- Work remaining:
 - Checklist Review – Spencer Bahner, Cammie Enslow and Valerie Eveland will review the checklist and proofread the Draft.
 - The Region 43 Draft will be provided to Idaho for review at their November 18th meeting, with a cover letter identifying items still being revised or incomplete.
 - Edits identified in Section 5 and changes and edits from the checklist review will be incorporated in the final draft of the Plan (Draft Version 11).
 - Regions 35 and 12 (Oregon and Idaho) will be asked to provide feedback by December 10th, to be incorporated into the final draft along with feedback received at the December 15th RPC meeting.

- The Final Draft will be circulated for the month prior to the January 26th meeting and will then be transmitted to Regions 35 and 12 for comments and consent.
- Additional comments will be considered at the January 26th meeting and the RPC will then vote to forward the Plan to the FCC.

7. 4.9 GHz Regional Planning Workgroup

FCC Release of their Memorandum Opinion & Order - the FCC adopted the NPSTC recommendation to use the DSRC-C emission mask for high power operations and the DSRC-A emission mask for low power operations. Concurrence was achieved on most issues with 20 dBm established as the breakpoint between high and low power. The FCC declined to address interoperability due to the diversity of potential use and chose not to mandate regional planning or engage in resolution of disputes about band usage. Should the RPC decide to adopt a 4.9 GHz plan it will need to be completed within six months from the publication of the MO&O (by the April 2005 meeting). See http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-265A1.pdf.

Draft Survey – the approval of the 4.9 GHz survey was postponed due to the absence of the workgroup Chair, Dean Heinen. Kevin will contact Dean by email and the survey may not be sent out until the 1st of December, with a target return date of January 31st. 4.9 GHz Demonstration Event in California – see slides or website for details: <http://publicsafetycommunications.org/Wi-Fi-1.php>

Doug Kerr commented that Mike Doble has requested that anyone wanting to attend sign up quickly. There is a registration fee of \$1.50 to verify the identity of attendees.

8. 700 MHz/4.9 GHz Future Meeting Dates

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

- **December 15th meeting - Snohomish County Public Utility**
- **January 26th meeting – location TBD (likely on the Eastside)**
- **February 23rd meeting – location TBD (likely on the Westside)**
- **March 30th meeting – location TBD (likely on the Eastside)**
- **Continuing on the last Wednesday of each month if needed, or switching back to the last Wednesday on the odd numbered months pursuant to the 700 MHz RPC Bylaws**

9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the 700 MHz/4.9 GHz portion of the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.