

MINUTES
NCC Region 43 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee
November 19, 2003
1000 - 1300
Valley Communications Center, Kent

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in 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 – Snohomish County

Snohomish County is just completing implementation of their 800 MHz system and has no near-term plans for the 700 MHz general use spectrum. More interested in the 700 MHz wideband data channels, but no active planning underway. May have some interest in the 4.9 GHz band for some campus “WiFi-like” uses or for point-to-point backhaul for temporary repeater sites.

Dave Brush – City of Yakima

While no active planning is underway, some early discussions have been underway on the potential of using the 700 MHz wideband channels to replace current commercial wireless data transport.

Kevin Kearns – King County

Most of the interest by King County seems to be in the use of the 700 MHz wideband data channels as an alternative to commercial services. No active planning underway on this however.

Terry Miller – WSDOT

Significant planning and work underway to use the State Licensed 700 MHz narrowband channels for incremental expansion of the WSDOT trunked radio system. WSDOT is also interested in deployment of a wideband data infrastructure. Not much thinking has taken place yet on applicability of the 4.9 GHz spectrum

Hai Phung – King County Metro Transit

Metro is actively engaged in designing a 700 MHz system to replace it's current integrated voice and data system in the UHF band. They plan on beginning construction later in 2004.

Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane

There seems to be no interest in the 700 MHz band at this time in his area of the state. Maybe some interest in the urban area for wideband data or 4.9 GHz type applications, but no active planning underway.

Jon Wiswell – City of Seattle

Some preliminary discussion on use of 700 MHz wideband channels as a replacement for commercial carrier wireless data. Also some interest in

using 4.9 GHz for temporary point-to-point links to incident command posts and similar tactical needs.

Gary Amundson – Motorola

Others from Motorola provided information.

Travis Boettcher – Motorola

Others from Motorola provided information.

Bruce Branlund – Motorola

Besides what has been noted in this meeting by others, Bruce noted a three-county planning effort in Idaho (Ada, Bonner, Bannock) to use the State 700 MHz spectrum in a system. He also noted that most of the interest he's hearing is in use of narrowband and wideband data, but not as much in voice.

Keith Cook – Motorola

Advises that there may be some interest in Benton County for wideband data channels.

Dean Heinen – Yakima County

Interested in using 700 MHz wideband data channels to replace current technologies. Sees the most value in the 4.9 GHz band to be for point-to-point backhaul, including to support the deployment of the 700 MHz data sites if at all possible, it seems like it could be ideal in some urban settings where no other 4.9 uses to interfere with.

Joe Kuran – Washington County Oregon and Region 35

Indicates that most interest in his area is in 700 MHz wideband data, but everyone seems to be sticking to VHF/UHF/800 for their voice planning. Sees high value in 4.9 GHz for point-to-point connectivity to temporary sites in rural areas or tactical situations.

Fred Radovich – Motorola

Noted that the SIEC is still sorting out how it will fulfill its role in state spectrum management. Seems to be some interest in integrating VHF/700/800 at state sites.

Emory Washington – SatCom Systems

Nothing to report

Cammie Enslow – King County Sheriff's Office

Thinks there will be interest in the wideband data channels.

John Lapham – Community Transit

No obvious needs for 700 MHz for voice, but interested in exploring it further for data.

Doug Kerr – LPN Wireless

Developing a product for point-to-point use and sitting in on RPC meetings to learn more about our needs and interests.

2. Agenda Modifications – None

3. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2003

Motion by Jon Wiswell, 2nd by Spencer Bahner, to Approve the Minutes. Motion Passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Spencer Bahner presented the current status of our regional planning funds. Current balance available is \$1,285.52. Motion by Jon Wiswell, 2nd by Hai Phung, to accept the report. Motion Passed.

5. Information Updates

- **SIEC Updates** – Kevin Kearns advised that the SIEC held their first formal meeting on October 13th. WSP Chief Ronal Serpas is the Chair, and Jim Broman representing the State Fire Chiefs is the Vice-Chair. They will attempt to hold one more meeting in 2003 and then quarterly meetings in 2004. Key deliverables include:
 - An inventory of state government-operated public safety communications systems by 12/31/03
 - An interim statewide public safety communications plan by 03/31/04
 - An inventory of all public safety communications systems in the state by 07/31/04
 - A final statewide public safety communications plan by 12/31/04Kevin also noted that the NPSTC web site (www.npstc.org) has established a set of pages with SIEC information from around the country.
- **Actions in other RPCs** – Kevin Kearns noted that Region 5 (Southern California) got their Plan refiled in August. Region 24 (Missouri) filed their plan in September. It has numerous border-region coordinations so will be a good test of what the FCC will accept in inter-region coordination effort. Region 35 (Oregon) is progressing and has formally decided to undertake a 4.9 planning process. He also noted the web address to see any filed plans from the other regions http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi and search on Proceeding 02-378.
- **Formation of a national RPC Association** – Kevin Kearns updated the group on how regional planning committees have had a voice in the NPSTC processes. NPSTC is willing to continue funding “zone” representatives from multiple RPCs, and it has been suggested that a more formal association of all RPCs be formed to better focus and represent the interests of the regional planning efforts. There was considerable discussion on this and the consensus was that such an association would be of value and that Region 43 should support the effort.

- **LPTV Notification Letters** – Kevin Kearns noted that the FCC continues to issue secondary LPTV and Translator licenses in the 700 MHz band. While these are secondary licenses, continuing to issue these licenses can create political problems further down the road when an individual jurisdiction has to tell them to shut down for interference reasons. NPSTC recommends that each RPC send letter to all current licensees reminding them of their secondary status, advising them of the active planning in the band, and the likelihood of public safety uses in the band that may impact their secondary use. Dean Heinen, Dave Brush and Cammie Enslow agreed to do some research in the FCC database and develop the appropriate letters for the Chair to send.

5. Draft Plan Review and Editing

Kevin Kearns noted that he'd received no further input from anyone so there were very minor changes in Version 5 of the Draft Plan. He will be taking this draft and trying to get to a near-final version for review at the December meeting. There was considerable discussion on the existing CAPRAD channel allocation model and whether it was satisfactory as a starting point. The consensus was that it is, and nobody felt there was any value in trying to out-smart the pre-packing. The CAPRAD data will be used in the initial version of the Plan. Our planning timeline will be adjusted with anticipated final adoption and transmittal to the FCC at the end of March 2004.

There was also considerable discussion on the impact our schedule will be having on the project schedule for Metro Transit. Hai Phung advised that they plan on getting their RFP on the street soon, and would prefer to at least have preliminary channel designations to work from for the initial design and bidding work. They recognize any action by the Committee now would be subject to modification as the plan reaches final adoption, but they request we at least assign channels on a preliminary basis so their planning and design process can continue. Dean Heinen made a Motion, 2nd by Jon Wiswell, to go ahead and assign up to eight (8) 25 kHz blocks to Metro Transit and for them to advise us of the blocks that make the best sense from a system design and Canadian interference-avoidance standpoint. Motion Passed.

6. 4.9 GHz Regional Planning

Kevin Kearns reported that considerable effort has been spent by the NPSTC 4.9 GHz Taskforce dealing with the petition for reconsideration and the whole realm of technology standards for the band. Work will begin soon on guidelines for regional plans in this band. Joe Kuran noted that Region 35 has decided to proceed with a regional planning effort in this band. There was discussion on this issue and it was the consensus of all participants that Region 43 should conduct a regional planning effort for the 4.9 GHz band as well. January will be

used as the convening meeting and the Chair will begin the notification process ASAP. Jon Wiswell, Dean Heinen, Cammie Enslow, and Doug Kerr agreed to serve as a subcommittee to work this issue directly.

7. Other Items/Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on December 17th at Valley Communications Center in Kent.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1300