

MINUTES
Region 43 (Washington)
700 MHz & 4.9 GHz Regional Planning Committee
October 27, 2004 - 1000 to 1200
Yakima Police Department
200 South 3rd Street
Yakima

Meeting Summary:

The RPC met to discuss 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues, SIEC updates, and actions in other RPCs and NPSTC. The Regional Plan for the Public Safety 700 MHz Band in Region 43 (Draft Plan Version 10) was reviewed and discussed and a schedule was outlined for final edits and publication. Regional planning for 4.9 GHz and the 4.9 GHz survey were 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 voting members. When the planning document is completed 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 anyone 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 November 17th Meeting – participation is strongly encouraged as this is an opportunity for final input to the document and the date to vote for transmittal of the Final Draft to Oregon and Idaho for comment and consent.

Final Planning Document scrub – the Chair is seeking editors to participate in a review of the plan checklist and final scrub of the RPC document. Send the Chair an email indicating your interest in participating in this important project.

Review and input on 4.9 GHz survey – 4.9 GHz workgroup chairman, Dean Heinen presented the revised 4.9 GHz survey and requested comments be sent to him by November 10th to allow for further discussion at the next meeting.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns	Brad Barber
Cammie Enslow	Bob Bushey
Dean Heinen	Raymond Pache
David Brush	Damon Vetsch
Bob Bushey	Spencer Bahner
Valerie Eveland	Doug Kerr - phone
Jon (Wiz) Wiswell	Tom Howell – phone
Bill Campbell	Terry Miller - phone

Keith Cook
Kit Eldredge

Mike Doble – phone

During introductions participants were asked to identify themselves and their agencies and provide information 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 (in general terms). Since this has been done at past meetings (see previous minutes for details) only new information is noted herein.

- Cammie Enslow - KCSO Technology Services Division Chief, Denise Turner, has designated Captain Deborah Huntsinger, of the King County RCECC, to become involved with our group respect to 700 MHz/4.9 GHz planning and 800 MHz re-banding issues.
- Dean Heinen – Yakima County Technical Services, using 700 MHz for wide area networks for the Sheriff’s vehicles, excited about 4.9 GHz for hotspots.
- Valerie Eveland – Benton County Emergency Services, looking at 700 MHz for possible data use.
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell – no change
- Doug Kerr – phone, recently left LPN Wireless.
- Tom Howell – phone, SNOPAC interested in 700 MHz for wide area networks and 4.9 GHz for hot spots

2. Agenda Modifications

Per the FCC requirements, the 700 MHz/4.9 GHz and 800 MHz Committees cannot be combined. Therefore the 800 MHz meeting will be called to order following the lunch break. The Agenda has been revised to comply with this requirement.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2004

There was a brief discussion regarding the length and format of the minutes. Dave Brush said he appreciated the detail. Jon (Wiz) Wiswell made a motion to approve the minutes. Dean Heinen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Financial Report

The Chair reported that the Treasurer’s office remains vacant. The current balance is \$1113, with \$938 due to be withdrawn for travel and lodging expenses incurred for Terry Miller’s CAPRAD training. This will leave a remaining balance of \$175 to cover publication expenses for the December meeting and final vote on the plan.

5. General Information Updates – All

• SIEC updates – Kevin Kearns for Dennis Hausman

The Chair reported that the SIEC has completed surveys for almost all 9 of the state regions. See <http://emd.wa.gov/site-general/wahsas/reg-coord-districts.PDF> for a map of the Washington Statewide Regional Homeland Security Coordination Districts (RHSCD). Meetings have been well attended, with 60 or more at the King County (Region 2) meeting and 15 at the Everett (Region 1) meeting, providing good feedback to SIEC consultant, Federal Engineering. Valerie Eveland commented that

there was a good turnout for their meeting (Region 8). Kevin Kearns asked Brad Barber about their working group mtg. He commented that he is not seeing the coalescence of state agencies envisioned "in a perfect world ". As for how they would feel about the state doing spectrum management, he has seen this become a very political process. Kevin remarked that he has heard from the local level a general tone along the lines of 'It's fine if they want to do spectrum management to pull something together for State agencies, but not when it goes one step further and starts interfering with management of local interests'. One issue of concern in King County is getting everyone to understand how regions have managed spectrum for interoperability. Valerie Eveland said that issue came up for them as well; the smaller counties worried that the solutions would be too expensive to implement. Region 9 in Spokane was poorly attended; Region 7 was better attended. Tom Howell remarked that most of the attendees were from Snohomish County. The meeting occurred on a Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock without much notice and the fire chiefs and others were unavailable. He spoke to EMS regarding their need, and found there was no energy to move ahead to create interoperability. They have been expecting the 800 MHz systems to move north, and are waiting to buy radios. Tom told them there was no spectrum. Wiz remarked that interest in interoperability is high in populated areas and wanes sharply as you move into rural areas, as the need is not recognized and funds are unavailable. Valerie agreed that funding is the problem in Region 8. It is hoped that Federal Engineering will hold a symposium defining the problem and describing possible solutions so everyone better understands the issues. Kevin remarked that it is hard to comprehend how a statewide solution can be implemented that works for all. The role of local government vs. federal came up in the Region 9 meetings. In real life events such as TOPOFF, the locals are always the first to arrive and the last to leave. Valerie remarked that there is a need to consider Oregon. Klickitat, Benton and Walla Walla counties would be likely to rely on Oregon firefighters in a major emergency. They use a 450 MHz trunked environment.

- **Actions in other RPCs and NPSTC – Kevin Kearns**

Other RPCs:

- Oregon - Region 35 is meeting on December 1st. The Chair will present our Plan for coordination with Region 35.
- Idaho - Region 12 is meeting on the 18th, we will review their 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.
- Missouri – Region 24 has still not been approved.
- Reminder: to see any plans filed for the 700 MHz band search on Proceeding 02-378 at http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi

NPSTC:

NPSTC meetings occurred on September 21st and 22nd. Kevin was unable to attend. Presentation information is available on the NPSTC website at <http://www.npstc.org/meetings.htm>. The latest issue of the Spectrum newsletter contains information about 800 MHz re-banding, 4.9 GHz issues, CAPRAD, etc. and is available at <http://www.npstc.org/newsletter/v4issue1.pdf>.

Reserved Wideband Channel Allocation Discussion:

During the September meeting a discussion was begun regarding the feasibility of filing a Petition for Rulemaking to allocate some of the currently reserved wideband spectrum for state licensing. A general consensus was reached that the idea makes sense but that the spectrum is not intended solely for use by State agencies and that some spectrum should be used locally (see page 8 of the meeting slides for further details/requirements of this issue).

- Tom Howell asked, will the state be this flexible when the SIEC process is undefined? He thinks that the state may not be willing to consider non-state needs.
- Kevin Kearns remarked that the state would probably not say no if the plan is undefined. He thinks that assuming that one system would solve all the issues is unrealistic. It is important to make sure that the locals have an influence on the SIEC process, and that the people sitting on the SIEC know what our needs are and represent them correctly.
- Jon (Wiz) Wiswell added that one band may not work but it is necessary to do what works when the chips are down.

TV Band Clearing:

Senator Cantwell's office has been addressing the issue of US and Canadian use of the 700 MHz band. A letter containing questions pertinent to this issue was sent to the FCC and responses were received in a letter dated October 22nd. See link:

<http://www.region43.org/docs/700mhz/ResponsestoQforRecordSenatorCantwell.pdf>.

- Question 1 - addressed the issue of the potential for interference to public safety communications in the border regions from Canadian and Mexican TV stations operating on channels 63, 64, 68 and 69. The Commission responded that they are avoiding making any additional new allotments or accepting new notifications from Canada or Mexico on these channels in the border regions.
- Question 2 - addressed the issue of potential interference to public safety communications from Canadian and Mexican TV stations operating on channels 62, 65, and 67. The Commission again responded that they are avoiding making any additional new allotments or accepting new notifications from Canada or Mexico on these channels in the border regions.
- Question 3 - asked whether there are currently any Canadian TV stations operating on co-channel or adjacent channels in the 700 MHz bands slated for allocation to public safety, that might interfere with public safety communications. The Commission responded that there are currently no operational Canadian TV stations that can interfere with public safety communications on channels 63, 64, 68 or 69. Further, they stated that the Commission has worked closely with Industry Canada to protect US public safety operations in the future.
- Question 8 - addressed the DTV transition for translator and LPTV stations currently scheduled to conclude by December 31, 2006. Kevin Kearns remarked that even though the rules are clear that these stations are secondary, it puts the local jurisdictions in an awkward political position when they need to notify of the intent to use the band and force the TV station to move or cease operation. Ideally this would be handled through FCC actions prospectively so local

jurisdictions don't have to be the bearer of bad news. There are currently 350 LPTV and TV translator licensees operating on channels 63, 64, 68 and 69. The Commission noted that these stations are, and always have been considered secondary services and are required to yield to new commercial wireless and public safety operations. The Seattle station voluntarily moved off the channel.

- Remaining Questions - Further issues were addressed regarding interference mitigation, international frameworks and/or treaties, negotiations, DTV transition for translators and LPTV stations and the deadline for DTV transition.

6. 700 MHz Plan Review & Editing

- Updates in Draft Version 10:
 - Section 8 – Allocation of General Use Spectrum: removed the paragraph in the previous draft so that the event that triggers the clock will be approval of the Plan by the FCC plus roughly 6 months for close of 1st filing window. At that point we can make a decisions regarding subsequent filing windows.
 - The band plan graphic was reinserted into document. Kevin Kearns was able to locate a cleaner copy. The graphic will be added as an appendix.
 - Language regarding the administration of allocations in the narrowband channels, and the lack of county-area pre-allocations of general use wideband data channels was clarified. The goal was to avoid creating orphans. Kit Eldredge suggested adding a header to the section so it stands out more. Kevin Kearns agreed to work on breaking up the section to increase clarity.
 - Section 13.1 – Future Planning & Minutes: the text of the Plan was edited to clarify plan revision methodology and identify the website where pertinent plan documents, such as the Bylaws, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and filing procedures will be maintained. Kevin will add language regarding administrative changes vs. changes affecting neighboring regions. The Bylaws were edited to synchronize with the language of the Plan.
 - Discussion: We need to add text that this is initial information only and the document is out of date upon issue. The only place to look at what is allocated is the CAPRAD database.
 - Jon (Wiz) Wiswell remarked that the actual allocation/spectrum usage is in CAPRAD and that allocations on a county area basis are in CAPRAD, but assignments are specific. The way it's currently written we refer to an area of jurisdiction but if it covers several counties, allocations may come out of more than one county. What the plan doesn't do is give us the ability to move allocations between counties without coordinating with other regions. The FCC does not want spectrum moved around without coordination between regions.
 - Valerie Eveland said that we need to identify counties where there is a problem and asked if you could reference MOUs.
 - Dean Heinen says that the system contour is the only way to identify it. There are small margins if you rely on borders and counties.
 - Kevin Kearns doesn't think we will have the authority to make this decision and believes the commission will not want to see anything in our plan avoiding coordination with neighboring regions.

- Work Remaining:
 - Final Planning Document scrub – the Chair is seeking editors to participate in a review of the plan checklist and final scrub of the RPC document. Send the Chair an email indicating your interest in participating in this important project.
 - Participation in the November 17th Meeting – participation is strongly encouraged as this is an opportunity for final input to the document, and the date to vote for transmittal of the Final Draft to Oregon and Idaho for comment and consent.
 - Presentation of the Plan to Oregon, Region 35 - the Chair will present our Plan for coordination with Region 35 at the December 1st meeting.
 - Mutual Plan Review with Idaho, Region 12 - we will review the Region 12 plan at our meeting on the 17th and they will review ours at their meeting on the 18th.
 - Final Draft for Region 43 adoption, voting at the December 15th meeting or in January if further debate regarding edits is required.

7. 4.9 GHz Event & Regional Planning – Mike Doble & Dean Heinen

- **4.9 GHz Wireless Broadband Event – Mike Doble**

Mike Doble reminded the RPC of the upcoming live 4.9 GHz demonstration/exercise to be held in California on January 27th. He mentioned that we are now able to register online at <http://www.4.9GHz.org>. He has been talking to regional managers regarding scheduling EOC events. He will add information to the registration page. There is a charge of \$1.50 to register. This is just a formality, charged by the outside agency doing the registration. In this way the EOCs can verify who is attending by a credit card check. He is currently adding more vendors, and is trying to nail the event down prior to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference scheduled for November 13th to 15th. There will be 10 different 4.9 GHz networks and one operating at 900 MHz. Motorola plans to showcase mesh networks and is talking with Proxim, trying to speed up development of 4.9 GHz and 802.11 G, so that the two entities can fund the system.

- **4.9 GHz Planning – Dean Heinen**

History:

The emission mask that will be required by the FCC for 4.9 GHz equipment has been a major issue under consideration. Public safety is hoping to be able to leverage the COTS equipment used in the unlicensed band at 5 GHz, but will be unable to do so if the FCC insists on too restrictive a mask in the interest of avoiding interference. The other issue has been the timeline for developing a plan for use of the band. The original date was too demanding and a stay has been issued. When these issues are resolved RPCs will have 6 months to file a plan. Mike Doble has spoken to the Commission and a final date has yet to be set. They are hoping for resolution of these issues by the end of the year. Vendors are designing equipment to a loose mask, hoping for FCC acceptance. The IEEE has adopted standards for 802.11J, the Japanese standard. With these issues pending and a framework for a standard, the Committee previously voted to create a Subcommittee to create a plan.

4.9 GHz Survey:

The Survey was originally developed by Northern California, Region 6. It is 26 pages in length and there was some discussion about whether it is too complex. We discussed borrowing the document and revising it for our use and asked whether they would change anything. They said that they would shorten the response request window. Included with the survey request are 2 other documents: Safecom scenarios were added in March. Dean suggested adding the 4.9 GHz section from the latest Spectrum (NPSTC) newsletter. It contained a list of specific ways to use 4.9 GHz technologies. The Notification Committee will send the survey out via email to a list of approximately 200. Mike Doble said he sent it to city managers, police chiefs, etc., to put pressure on recipients to return it. Dean Heinen suggested we add a cover letter suggesting sending it to IT departments, managers, etc. Doug Kerr suggested that bridging the gap between IT and Public Safety is good. Dean asked for review and input on the survey. Spencer Bahner noted that the SIEC survey asks for info that may be applicable. Dean said that the concept of frequency coordination may be very difficult to apply and we may have to decide whether we are approaching this from a coordination or mitigation aspect.

- Schedule for Completion:
 - Get comments to dean by Nov 10th
 - Final draft for approval at the Nov 17th meeting
 - Send to the world by December 1st
 - Responses due by January 31st

8. Future Meeting Dates

- **November 17th meeting will be at Snohomish County Public Utility**
- **December 15th meeting will be at 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

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