

NPSPAC Region 43 Regional Review Committee

Date: April 25, 2000

Time: 10:00 AM

Where: KITTCOM, Ellensburg, WA

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Kearns at 10:05 AM**1. Introductions:**

Attending:	Agency:	Email Address:	Phone:
Kevin Kearns	King Co EMD	kevin.kearns@metrokc.gov	206-979-1313
Jay Morrison	SNOPAC 911	morrison@snopac.snohomish.wa.us	425-388-0508
Pat Buller	WA State Patrol	pbuller@wsp.wa.gov	425-649-4654
Alan Hull	WA State DOT	hulla@wasdot.wa.gov	360-705-7013
Jon Wiswell	City of Seattle	jon.wiswell@seattle.wa.us	206-684-0187
Bob Wentworth	City of Spokane	bwentworth@spokanecity.org	509-625-7720
Wayne Wantland	City of Yakima	wwantlan@ci.yakima.wa.us	509-575-6048
Dean Heistand	Kitsap Co, CENCOM	mdh14@tscnet.com	360-478-5269
Attending Guests:			
Clark Palmer	WA State Patrol	cpalmer@wsp.wa.gov	360-705-5383
Spencer Bahner	Snohomish Co SERS	sbahner@ci.everett.wa.us	425-257-8538
Tami Bernstein	Snohomish Co SERS	tbernstein@ci.everett.wa.us	425-257-8538

2. Appointment of a Secretary

Jay Morrison accepted the appointment as committee Secretary, a function that has been carried out by the Chair since Duncan Stewart retired over four years ago. Jay will fill the position until the next election of officers.

3. Zone Representative Vacancies and Re-Elections

All zones are encouraged to have 2 representatives with an alternate to serve on the committee for a period of two years. Four out of six Region 43 zones have no representation. Kevin Kearns will advertise in the WA APCO Communicator for interested parties to step forward. The information will also be made available on the WA APCO website. Radio background is desirable for zone leadership. Efforts will also be made to make personal contact with individuals in Zones 1, 3, 4 and 5. Volunteering to make contacts are Wiz (Zone-1), Dean Heistand (Zone 3), Bob Wentworth (Zone 4) and Wayne Wantland (Zone 5).

Discussion followed about a re-structure to existing zones as outline in the current Region 43 plan. It was felt that more participants involved in a plan re-write would better reflect the public safety needs severed by the plan. If a lack of response exists from a zone(s) then other non-resident eligibles could seve as zone members for a non-response zone(s). Representation will require selection that is consistent with the "Eligibility for Membership" within the Region 43 By-laws.

Motion by Bob Wentworth: "The Committee interprets the plan/by-laws to allow zone representatives to be on the committee who are otherwise eligible, but may not be employed by eligibles within the zone, as long as they are selected by eligibles within the zone. Alternates can also be selected outside the zone." Motion passed.

4. Update on Recent Application Processing Activities by the Chair

Due to a variety of factors, no meetings were held in 1999. Several applications were received during this time and the Chair worked with the applicants in late 1999 and early this year to get these processed. The Chair provided email updates to the Committee on these actions and reviewed them again today for the record.

Motion by Alan Hull: "Motion to ratify action of Chair to process past applications". Motion passed.

To facilitate better flow of information to all members, two websites will be available as an information resource. Information will include, but not limited to, Regional Plan and By-Laws, current frequency coordination list, past meeting minutes and information on the new 700 MHz band plan process.

www.metrokc.gov/emd/npspac/reg43800mhz.htm
www.metrokc.gov/emd/700mhz/reg43700mhz.htm

5. Snohomish County and King County Letters re Spectrum Availability

Spencer Bahner, Radio Systems Manager for Snohomish County Emergency Radio Service (SERS) has requested 20 unassigned simplex channels, which are adjacent state wide to WADOT licenses be assigned for tactical simplex use. WADOT currently uses these channels for medium and low power radio-to-radio communications and it's believed that Snohomish County will have little impact on WADOT. Alan Hull added, "... in the spirit of NPSAC and interoperability it makes sense to use these channels cooperatively." Alan was concerned that radio users might consider any channel on their radio as exclusive and offered to reprogram the channel mnemonics with "shared". Pat Buller added that the Region 43 plan shows many channels as unassigned or guard channels. "This is embarrassing when asking the FCC for additional spectrum".

The committee supports the concept of assigning available unassigned and guard channels for low powered simplex communications. However no policy exists on how the channels might be used. It was felt that testing for potential harmful interference to wide area systems be conducted.

Bob Wentworth assumed the Chair position.

Motion made by Kevin Kearns: WADOT and agencies in the greater King and Snohomish counties should conduct empirical testing to determine if simplex radios can co-exist with adjacent wide area licensees. The test results should be reported back to the Region 43 committee for further action. Motion passed.

Kevin Kearns resumed as Chair.

6. Snohomish County and King County Letters re Spectrum Availability

King and Snohomish county letters breach the issue of NPSAC channels being made available from those counties that have not made progress toward 800 MHz. The Chair encouraged the committee members to read the letters and become familiar with the issues.

7. WADOC Future Need for 2 Additional Channels for McNeil Island

Up to now, we have been able to meet the needs of the Department of Corrections with their three assigned state-wide channels and a common two additional channels where they needed a total of five channels at their larger facilities. WSDOC has advised that McNeil Island may be expanding their operations and have a need to move from the three channel to the five channel configuration. However, the two additional channels used at other facilities around the state will not work at McNeil due to co- or adjacent-channel interference issues. Therefore, when WSDOC reaches this point, the Committee will need to look to channels assigned in the Plan to the counties around McNeil. No action is necessary at this time, but the Chair just wanted the Committee to be aware of this as they consider other spectrum availability issues and a potential Plan re-write.

8. Appointment of a Plan Re-Write Sub-Committee

Forces are driving the Regional Review Committee to consider a Plan re-write. Additional channels are needed to meet the capacity needs of existing trunked users. The bullet points for a re-write are as follows;

- Encourage other ways of assignment of spectrum other than the original packing plan.
- Maximize spectrum reuse
- The greatest need is in the Puget Sound Basin

Motion by Wayne Wantland: Appoint a sub-committee to a write a draft Plan revision for the Committee's review. Following discussion recommended that the sub-committee be kept to a small workgroup and that as a sub-committee the By-laws allow non-member appointments. Motion passed.

Spencer Bahner accepted the sub-committee chair position. Kevin Kearns handed out copies for the FCC web page "how to modify a Plan".

9. Discussion on the Implementation of Interoperability Repeaters and Appointment of a Sub-Committee

Plans need to be developed on how to implement the Regions Interoperable Repeaters. Better information is needed as to where the repeaters are and what their coverage is. Implementation needs to begin in the urbanized Puget Sound Basin specifically between King and Snohomish County. Canada has expressed an interest in Interoperability across borders. Jon Wiswell offered to Chair the sub-committee with assistance from Alan Hull and Spencer Bahner.

10. Discussion of Regional Planning Effort for the 700 MHz Band

Kevin Kearns provided a condensed review of the 700 MHz First Report and Order and Third notice of Proposed Rule Making. Regional NPSPAC 800 MHz and the 700 MHz Plans will need to be kept separate. Washington APCO has agreed to provide up to \$5,000 to support the 700 MHz regional planning effort.

11. Other Items

WWCIC has planned its US/Canadian luncheon for June 8th, 2000

12. Establishment of Annual Meeting Date – Election of Officers

Next filing window is September 30, 2000. A tentative date of October 17, 2000 is set for the next meeting at the Palace Restaurant in Ellensburg, WA.

Meeting Adjourn at 13:12