

Region 43 (Washington)
800 MHz Regional Planning Committee

July 27, 2005 - 1300 to 1630
Benton County Emergency Services
651 Truman Avenue, Richland

1. Sign-in and Introductions

Introductions were brief since attendees had previously introduced themselves during the 700 MHz portion of the meeting

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair
Cammie Enslow – KCSO
Dean Heinen – Yakima County
Ron Solemsaas – SERS
Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle
Valerie Eveland – Benton County Emergency Services
Bob Bushey – Dataradio
Travis Boetcher – Motorola
Dave Brush - City of Yakima
John Melvin - Grant County Sheriff’s Office
Gary Baker - Grant County
Steve Taylor – City of Tacoma
Jose Zuniga – WSDOC
Phone:
Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane
Hai Phung – King County Metro Transit
Doug Kerr –
Jim Cole – CRESA
Babu Parayil – Port of Seattle

Attendees were reminded to verify their contact information on the sign-in sheet and, if interested in staying abreast of Region 43 activities, to self-subscribe to the 800 MHz Committee Listserver on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 29, 2005

There was a motion by Dave Brush and a 2nd by Dean Heinen and the minutes were approved.

3. General information updates

Washington State Homeland Security Region IV Interoperability Project:
Coordination work with Region 35 has been delayed pending notification of the channels they intend to use.

Status of WSDOT Applications:

WSDOT has been sent letters confirming approval of applications that could be acted on administratively. Requested confirmations were received from Regions 35 and 12. However, Region 35 requested WSDOT to select another channel than the one they were using as a statewide channel in their regional Plan.

Rebanding:

A map showing the 4 rebanding Waves was displayed (see page 23 of meeting slides) and dates of major milestones (as summarized in Motorola's newsletter dated May 31, 2005) were reviewed for the benefit of the group:

- May 27, 2005 – Freeze on new non-NPSPAC (851.0125 – 861.9875) 800 MHz applications in Wave 1 Regions and any site within 70 miles of the border of a Wave 1 Region. Modifications that do not add frequencies or change the footprint of existing systems will continue to be accepted. Applications filed to accomplish re-banding in the region will continue to be accepted.

- June 27, 2005 – Start of voluntary relocation negotiations for incumbents on Channels 1-120 (851.0125 – 853.9875) in Wave 1 Regions.
Note: during this period voluntary negotiation with Nextel to relocate out of channels 1 to 120 will begin for Wave 1. Clackamas County has two channels in this category but has not yet been contacted.

- September 26, 2005 – End of voluntary negotiations, start of mandatory negotiations for 1-120 incumbents.

- December 26, 2005 – End of mandatory negotiations for Wave 1 Channel 1-120 incumbents.
Note: as this is the end date for mandatory negotiations everyone located in channels 1 to 120 should be ready to move.

- February 8, 2006 – End of non-NPSPAC application freeze in Wave 1 Regions and sites within 70 miles of Wave 1 borders.
Note: the freeze was intended to avoid someone within 70 miles of the border area making a change that affects someone previously moved. More information on the licensing freeze is available on the APCO site at: <http://www.apco911.org/frequency/800RB/800licensefreeze.htm>

- December 26, 2006 – 18 month benchmark. Nextel must have relocated all 1-120 incumbents in 20 NPSPAC Regions and initiated negotiations with all NPSPAC incumbents in those same regions.

4. Status of Plan modifications to eliminate filing windows

The Committee previously passed a motion to come up with a plan modification for dealing with applications received outside the semi-annual filing windows from areas within 75 miles of the Oregon border. The current Plan lacks language to allow for flexibility in the dates without a formal plan modification. Assuming that the group will come up with a full plan rewrite, a focused plan amendment can be filed to only address this issue. The Chair has drafted a Plan Amendment to end the filing

window approach (see page 26 of the meeting slides for the proposed text). He requested review of the text and a confirming vote to demonstrate agreement on the approach from current members and attendees.

There was a Motion by Jon "Wiz" Wiswell and a 2nd by Dave Brush. This Motion passed unanimously.

5. Plan Amendment to End Zone Membership

A map showing current 800 MHz Committee membership by location was displayed for the benefit of the group (see page 27 of the meeting slides). The Region is currently divided up into 6 Zones with designated representatives from each zone. This creates a problem when positions become vacant. The 800 MHz Committee has decided it would be best to remove the zone requirements to broaden participation in the group, following the same model used in the 700 MHz Plan. An Amendment to the Plan was drafted to end Zone representation (see page 28 of the meeting slides for the proposed text). The Chair requested review of the text and a confirming vote to demonstrate agreement on the approach from current members and attendees. The Chair invited discussion on this issue:

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell - responded that he thought that somewhere in the Plan we had addressed the issue of quorum. He asked if this needs to be addressed here.

Kevin Kearns – responded that we addressed it in the bylaws, not in the Plan.

However, the bylaws are changed concurrently with the Plan. He showed the group the proposed language, which basically stated, if you are eligible, you can designate a voting member. The 700 MHz RPC currently has 18 voting members.

Valerie Eveland – agreed that this is a good plan.

There was a Motion by Jon "Wiz" Wiswell and a 2nd by Dave Brush. This Motion passed unanimously.

6. Full Plan Revision

The Chair sent out two versions of the same document, including notes, and Spencer Bahner's document, etc. The colored document handed out in the meeting is the source document (to track changes made to the Plan document). The other document has incorporated the edits and changes to make it easier to read. He intends to take the clean version and call it Draft Version 1, to be edited in several meetings and presented to the group as Draft Version 2, etc. This document will be posted to the web site and circulated via the listserver and an editing process will be initiated. The goal is to adopt the Plan once the Zone concept is ended and a large pool of voting members can participate in the voting process. Edits were discussed:

I. PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A. INTRODUCTION: still needs some editing to update the language regarding the history and why we're doing this plan revision.

C. NOTIFICATION: history of the notification process has to be completed prior to sending the Plan out for revision. This should include comments received and date of receipt, etc.

D. REVISIONS: new revisions need to be described.

II. REGIONAL DESCRIPTION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

C. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS:

This section needs to be condensed. It should be boiled down to the Washington State map, County boundaries and population density.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURES

B. GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION:

3. Reassignment of Frequencies:

The marked up version of the Plan document shows the changes.

D. APPLICATION FILING WINDOWS AND CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION:

Several changes may need to be made to this section. For instance, we need to consider whether we might want to modify the scoring criteria.

G. FREQUENCY ALLOCATION PROCESS:

We will need to insert a Table showing the assignments and keep the original Plan designated area as a guide. We need to specify that it is a guide, noting that some of the channels originally allocated were never used and that is why we are going to open season on those channels.

IV. TECHNICAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

B. SYSTEM DESIGN STANDARDS:

14. Coded squelch:

The issue of the use of p25 conventional signaling was raised as there are significant changes/issues to be dealt with. The group was asked to read the text of the section and be prepared to discuss the issue at subsequent meeting(s).

V. INTEROPERABILITY

No changes were needed in Sections B and C; some will be needed in D and E.

The goal at the next meeting will be to discuss these changes and agree/disagree about accepting or rejecting them. Ideally we should use the clean version of the document as the starting point for the next round. The Chair noted that he is willing to abide by the will of the group on the revision mode. Discussion followed:

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – remarked that he wants to look at the issue further.

Dave Brush – replied that we can bring back both versions of the document.

Kevin Kearns – responded that he prefers to freeze the black and white document as a starting point for subsequent revisions.

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – added, we can use both as a reference without bringing them.

Kevin Kearns – responded that he can save the change document as a .pdf and put it on the website and use Plan Draft 1 to continue with the editing.

Dave Brush – noted that in the membership paragraph, the method of becoming a member is buried in the middle of the paragraph. He suggested that it might be better to split it out as a separate item.

These issues will be brought up at the August meeting.

7. Vendor Presentation by Cisco:

Public Safety Networks Using 4.9 GHz Technology

Presentation Summary:

Recently the FCC allocated spectrum in the 4.9 GHz band for use by public safety agencies for data communications networks. The objective was to enable licensed, high speed data networks to improve communications in and among agencies. Vendors are now releasing networking products based on the FCC's specifications for 4.9 GHz equipment. As standards based technology, 4.9 GHz

has the advantage of multiple vendor support which gives customers a choice in the vendors they choose and helping drive down the total solution cost.

4.9 GHz provides a new tool in helping public safety agencies deploy reliable, high speed data networks for mobile and fixed applications. Whether connecting an officer in a patrol car with a laptop, dashboard camera, and a PDA, or connecting surveillance and sensor equipment around facilities, 4.9 GHz helps alleviate some of the issues around interference with competing commercial or consumer wireless technologies. 4.9 GHz can compliment other existing wireless technologies such as 802.11 and cellular networks as well as future wireless technologies that may emerge. It's important for public safety agencies to consider long term wireless strategies that use standards based technologies which can interoperate with other networks and ensure the proper layers of security are integrated throughout.

Some public safety agencies in the US have already implemented standards-based data technologies using equipment in the unlicensed band at 2.4 GHz. Some agencies have begun using the 4.9 GHz band now as well. These agencies are learning about how best to implement high speed data communications. Cisco will review some of the different implementations, which will help you understand better the benefits of 4.9 GHz compared to other wireless technologies.

8. Future Meeting Dates

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz meetings will be scheduled to occur from 1000 to 1200 hours, followed by the 800 MHz meeting from 1300 to 1500 hours. The 800 MHz Regional Review Committee will continue meeting on a monthly basis during 2005 to complete a plan re-write process and deal with issues surrounding the re-banding process. Vendor presentations will occur directly following the 800 MHz meeting, ending at 1630 or earlier.

- **August 31st – Portland Emergency Communications**
Note: this will be a joint meeting with Region 35
- **September 28th – Yakima Probation Services, Yakima, WA**
- **October 26th – Vancouver/Portland area, location TBD**
- **November 30th – Eastside, location TBD**
- **December 28th - ???**

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1445 hours.