

Joint meeting of the Region 43 (Washington) & Region 35 (Oregon)
800 MHz Regional Planning Committees

August 31, 2005 - 1300 to 1500
Portland Emergency Communications Center
3732 S.E. 99th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

1. Sign-in and Introductions

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

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Region 43:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair	Valerie Eveland – Benton County
Cammie Enslow – KCSO	Emergency Services
Ken Rhodes – KCSO	Dave Brush – City of Yakima
Tom Howell - SNOPAC 911	Ron Solemsaas – SERS
Harlan Ohlson – WSDOT	Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle
Jeremy Millman – CRESA	David Mendel – King County Radio
Jim Cole – CRESA	Steve Taylor – City of Tacoma

Region 35:

David Brooks – Region 35 Chair	Michael Soots - Tillamook County
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Vendors and Consultants Supporting both Regions:

Gary Amundson – Motorola	Bob Bushey – Dataradio
Jim Switzer - Motorola	Angela Quinn – Proxim Wireless
Joe Farias – Motorola	Kevin Carlson – NetVersant
Rhein Etscheid – Motorola	Warren Johnson Netversant
Duane Forman – Motorola	Stan Bryan – Day Wireless Systems
Joel Harrington – Adcomm Engineering	Steve Davey - EZ Wireless
Tom Blanchard – American Communications	

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 Listserv on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2005

There was a motion by Dave Brush and a 2nd by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell and the minutes were approved.

3. General information updates

Information from the APCO National Conference

At the APCO Conference held in Denver the FCC panel provided information regarding the 800 MHz re-banding effort. They feel that things are moving along as expected. However, there are still some outstanding appeals and petitions for reconsideration that are being dealt with in established timelines. The general tenor

is to let the appeals and petitions for reconsideration run and in the end the accomplishment will outweigh the obstructions. All resident in this band agreed that there is a problem and it must be fixed as the interleaved band plan was creating interference issues that needed to be addressed.

The FCC has been communicating with the Transition Administrator (TA) and with Nextel to track the progress of the re-banding effort. They have all stressed that agreements between licensees and Nextel must be reasonable and bargaining must be carried on in good faith. Participants cannot expect to "gold plate" their systems or create systems that do not exist at the present time. Replacement must be on a like-for-like basis to create comparable service. The TA acts as the middleman to make sure good faith bargaining takes place, funds are released, and as much of the remaining funds as possible are returned to the federal treasury. A mandate has been established to get the work done and insure that public safety and Nextel deal in good faith with each other.

There is an ongoing debate regarding the issue of reasonable/allowable costs. Anything that can be done to reach agreement about costs up front will expedite the process. The TA is in an oversight role over negotiations between Nextel and public safety entities. Until Nextel acts it will be difficult to determine with certainty what costs will be reimbursed. The biggest issue is how to deal with internal costs. A burdened rate needs to be established to include service vehicles, service equipment, etc. Reimbursement for salaries alone will not be a true measure of costs. The appropriate billing rate for managers, supervisors etc. needs to be determined. Agencies also need to agree on what kind of model would be acceptable. Keeping records of all expenditures is essential.

Wave 4 licensees are interested in the status of border negotiations. The general impression is that there is greater progress on Canadian negotiations than Mexican. If Canada does not participate in a re-banding effort there is a question about how to deal with coordination issues. There is interest in getting negotiations moving along as quickly as possible. The State Department and FCC are coordinating this effort and it is expected that they will be done in time to meet the Wave 4 schedule. The Region 43 Chair has met with staff members for Senators Cantwell and Murray and asked them to inquire with the State Department about the status of the border areas. APCO is working on issues related to their petition on freeze and frequency coordination issues. It is expected that they will be handled at the same time as other petitions.

Concern has been expressed in some states that entities having the staff to work licensing issues will grab the Expansion Band channels. It has been suggested that these issues might be handled by RPCs. The FCC has not expressed any preference in this matter. Although this is not an immediate issue for Region 43, it may be for Region 35. This is an issue to keep on the radar screen for future consideration. The Expansion Band is located between the PS and CMRS systems. This would be good spectrum for a campus, or a low filler site using an interference limited design. Discussion followed on this issue:

- Harlan Ohlson – commented that he has been concerned about how we guard against interference. He wondered if we need to use the mid-space for interference issues and suggested that we may need direction on that issue. He added that perhaps a subcommittee could handle these issues.
- Kevin Kearns – asked Harlan if he would chair a committee dealing with how to use spectrum without causing a problem.
- Harlan Ohlson – responded that he would accept the role upon approval of his management. He added that we need to be respectful of other licensees.
- Dave Brush – noted that he has spectrum in the expansion band and has not received funding to move.

Re-banding information from recent APCO meetings with the Transition Administrator

The Transition Administrator recognizes that there's confusion about forms, whom to contact, etc and is doing more and more to get the information out. They are encouraging public safety entities to take advantage of the information and materials available on their expanded website:

<http://www.800ta.org/default.asp>

Forms, slide decks and webinars are available to assist licensees with the process. The webinars will be posted both as slide decks and presentations. Licensees are encouraged to contact the TA if they still have questions. The TA is continuing to hire personnel with contemporary public safety system experience to work directly with licensees (Dave Buchanan, Joe Blair, Emory Reynolds, etc.).

Discussion ensued on this issue:

- Valerie Eveland – remarked that she has questions on all the webinars and training and people are coming out of the woodwork. How can you tell what's good and what is not?
- Kevin Kearns – responded that you can start with the TA and your manufacturer, supported by your legal counsel once you are into the process. He wondered if attending a webinar would be considered a reimbursable cost. He noted that there is building frustration with the slowness of the process with respect to Nextel. Wave 1 clients have submitted planning requests and have heard nothing. In some cases Nextel has told them "It's not your time yet". This does not work for large, complex systems. He suggested contacting the TA with problems/issues and copying them on written communication. The TA emphasized the need for licensees to send in their POC form ASAP. He asked that licensees provide additional info about who they are as the info in the FCC database may be inaccurate. They can infer, but it is better to supply the info. Everyone does business differently. The TA needs to know these details.
- Joel Harrington – added that licensees should not assume that if you made changes Nextel will know about it. He suggested that licensees update their info.
- Kevin Kearns – added that the message they try to convey is, don't assume that they get it, or the info is right. Actively work to confirm the data is right, the understanding is there, etc.

- Harlan Ohlson – asked if the cost of the time to correct the FCC database is reimbursable.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that we should make reasonable arguments about reimbursement. Track it, submit it, arbitrate and resolve it. Accounting will be the most important piece of this process. Until there is further guidance, track everything. He emphasized that licensees should go to the TA website, make sure they have the right forms, view former webinars and slide decks and sign up for new webinars.
- Harlan Ohlson – asked if there are preplanning contracts with Nextel?
- Kevin Kearns – responded that there are none he is aware of.
- Joel Harrington – added that as of this morning there are none.
- David Mendel – asked how the merger with Sprint will impact re-banding.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that there should be no impact, but there is speculation regarding the movement of customers into different bands. However, the re-banding is already funded and arranged.

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

Region 35 requested WSDOT to select another channel than the one they were using as a statewide channel in their regional Plan (see page 18 of the meeting slides for text from the memo to WSDOT). A replacement has yet to be proposed.

WSDOT ICALL Applications

WSDOT has implemented a single ICALL station on Mt. Spokane, and are proposing to implement 10 additional stations (see the meeting slides for a complete list and coverage maps). There will be a total of 11 sites with ICALL working with entities to establish monitoring facilities. With the exception of Tumwater Hill, all are in non-urban locations. These were reviewed and discussed individually:

Mt. Spokane

King Mountain in Whatcom Co.

- Harlan Ohlson – noted that they reduced ERP to be a good neighbor to Canada.

Birch Mountain in Kittitas Co.

Haystack

- David Brooks – asked whether there might be ICALL deployment in Region 35 to consider and whether a mobile could key both of the repeaters.
- Kevin Kearns – asked if anyone was aware of any ICALL deployment.
- Valerie Eveland – requested to put an ICALL channel on Golgotha in Klickitat Co.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that we will take a look at that one.
- Harlan Ohlson – noted that it's an omni-directional antenna and we need a plan to operate together.
- Kevin Kearns – noted that we just want to get this before the RPC and we can deal with it at the Region 43 meeting next month.

Magnuson Butte

- Harlan Ohlson – asked if there is path obstruction from windmills under construction.

Octopus Mountain

Sky Meadows

It was noted that this site hits the I-90 corridor.

Skyline Lake

Kevin Kearns – asked, what does this cover?

- Harlan Ohlson – noted that we may have a split region issue as the focus point is in a sensitive area (skiing, etc.) down from the summit.

Tumwater Hill

There was discussion there may be some footprint issues to resolve with the ICALL being considered in the urban area consortium

Manastash

- Kevin Kearns – noted that we may need to look at this one further.

Alpowa Summit

- Kevin Kearns – noted that we will look at potential issues next month.

4. Region 43 Plan Amendments

The interim Plan amendments discussed in previous meetings to allow monthly filing of applications and eliminate the zone concept will be filed with the FCC soon.

The first draft of the Region 43 800 MHz Plan has been posted to the web site and will be the starting point for editing at the September Region 43 meeting. RPC members are encouraged to edit the draft and bring their edits to the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on pertinent issues:

- Joe Farias – noted that the NPSPAC freeze is not so far away. There are unlicensed/incorrectly licensed sites. He asked if Regions 35 and 43 will be flexible on preplanning issues.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that we previously made an amendment to do away with filing windows. The FCC responded positively about dealing with this quickly.
- Harlan Ohlson – added, looking at it from a priority issue, we should make a commitment to our plans for the instance that might occur.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that if we have to prioritize, we would do so on the basis of hard deadlines. If licensees are just cleaning up channels this could be done administratively, i.e., we won't have to go back to committee. Assuming the licensing is correct, there is no work for the Regional Planning Committee. It's the same plan moved down. However, there may be some work if the licensee realizes there are problems with their sites. He added that his perception is that there are more issues in 1 to 120 than in the NPSPAC channels.

5. Region 35 Plan Status

David Brooks, Region 35 Chair provided updates on what Clackamas County licensees went through. They have now signed off on the Region 12 Plan.

- Kevin Kearns – asked, are you doing an administrative update?
- David Brooks – responded that they are not as there will be enough issues around picking it up and moving it down.

6. 800 MHz Issues of Mutual Interest

Information sharing on re-banding experiences in Region 35

- David Brooks – remarked that there are big infrastructure change-outs; they are trying to get approval to start this now. He added that there is a “black hole” when you put in anything for the upper 240.
- Kevin Kearns – asked, is there any commonality of approach, or individually? He also asked, are you sharing regional counsel?
- David Brooks – responded that it is being approached individually. He added that the issue of voice in the upper 240 is being looked at regionally, as no one can do this individually. He noted that they are not sharing regional counsel.
- Kevin Kearns – suggested that everyone consider having their counsel subcontract some of this work to expert counsel that specializes in this work or outsource the work entirely.
- Harlan Ohlson – noted that is where the State of Washington is in the process, and they are subcontracting.

Standardizing Interoperability channels, National, Oregon, Washington aliases

Page 35 of the meeting slides lists the 800 MHz interoperability channels as identified in the Region 43 Plan. The Chair invited discussion on this issue:

- David Brooks – remarked that they did the same thing with the Oregon channels, but they limited their names to six characters. For the Region 43 State Ops channels they used WSOps 1-5 to stay within this framework.
- There was general discussion about the potential for using the same 5 channels for simplex and temporary repeaters. This would increase border area tactical interoperability as well as eliminate any problems with co-channel and adjacent-channel interference analysis between the 5 in Region 43 and the 5 in Region 35.
- There was consensus that this would be a good idea, but it was not clear whether Region 43 should change to the Region 35 channels or the other way around. The leaning was to use the Region 43 channels since they are clustered right after ITAC-3 and are all US Primary nationwide. This would improve the opportunity for them to continue to be used nationwide without causing problems to Canada (assuming treaty changes preserve this relationship)
- Further discussions between the RPCs will need to take place, and since Region 35 had very low attendance, they will need to focus on this first and then advise Region 43 of their thoughts.

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. Vendor presentations will occur directly following the 800 MHz meeting, ending at 1630 or earlier.

- The Chair invited discussion/debate on future meeting locations, asking if the group might want to have a meeting in the Seattle area.
- Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – suggested moving the October meeting north and keep the November meeting on the eastside.
- Kevin Kearns – Proposed we forgo the meeting on December 28th.

- David Brooks – remarked that Region 35 members could travel north to attend the joint meeting.
- Kevin Kearns – suggested holding a joint Region 43/Region 35 meeting in the Tacoma/Olympia area. The proposed schedule is as follows.
 - **September 28th – Yakima Probation Services, Yakima, WA**
 - **October 26th – Joint issues in the Tacoma/Olympia area, location TBD**
 - **November 30th – Eastside, location TBD**
 - **December 28th – no meeting scheduled for December**

Note: Region 43 members are again reminded to download the first draft of the 800 MHz Plan and review it for discussion at the September 28th meeting.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1315 hours.