

Region 43 (Washington)
800 MHz Regional Planning Committee

October 26, 2005 - 1030 to 1130
Conference Call Only
253-512-7310

1. Sign-in and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair	Dave Brush – City of Yakima
Cammie Enslow – KCSO	Ken Rhodes – KCSO
Keith Flewelling – CRESA	Jim Cole - CRESA
Ron Solemsaas – SERS	Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – City of Seattle
Harlan Ohlson – WSDOT	Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane
Babu Parayil – Port of Seattle	Tom Howell – SNOPAC
Spencer Bahner - Sparling	

Any interested in activities of the Committee are reminded to self-subscribe to the 800 MHz Committee Listserver on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2005

There was a motion by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell and a 2nd by Bob Wentworth and the minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2 – correct the third bullet to add the missing word, “are”.

Page 3 - strike the dangling “it would” in the first bullet.

Page 3 - strike the extra “that” further down in the first bullet.

3. General information updates – Kevin Kearns

Common Naming Conventions for Interoperability Channels

The Chair sent a letter to Region 35 regarding establishing a common naming approach for our Regional Interoperability channels. Proposal details and a copy of the letter are included on page 15 of the meeting slides. To summarize, the letter stated agreement with the use of a common naming convention, even with the limitations of the 6-character format. It suggested using the same five channels in both states to increase simplicity of tactical interoperability and channel assignment flexibility in border areas. It encouraged use of the five channels identified in the Region 43 Plan, if possible, as they are U.S. primary in the current treaty agreement with Canada. Establishing common names without state designators was proposed, perhaps using ‘NW’ for Northwest, with the possibility of including Region 12, if they are interested. Finally, Region 35 was encouraged to attempt to adopt at least some of the Region 43 channels to improve the simplicity of tactical interoperability in the border area, if reassigning all Region 35 users to the five Region 43 channels is not feasible.

Debate continues nationally on ICALL and ITAC channel naming conventions. A survey was done through a Motorola user group and the results mirrored the results of the NPSTC survey. Most Regional Plans use the same conventions for the ICALL/ITAC channels, but there are differences for repeater talkaround, etc., some use "D" for direct. It is the hope of the Chair that consensus may be reached at the November NPSTC meeting with groups such as APCO, IACP, AASHTO, etc., and that national guidance on this issue will be supplied to the RPCs.

The Chair invited questions/discussion on this issue:

- Harlan Ohlson - noted that the DOT supports this approach.
- Kevin Kearns – added that the way we are doing it seems the most logical.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – added that he agrees with Harlan that this should be pushed. ICALL/ITAC with a number seems to be the most prevalent convention.
- Keith Flewelling – commented that we are working through standard nomenclature and should use it whenever possible.
- Kevin Kearns – asked for group opinion on including direct mode.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – responded that you can flip a switch on some radios so the display change would not be problematic. If you are going to have a separate entry for talkaround it would be OK unless you have a separate switch.

Timing of Re-banding Waves

Rebanding Wave timing was reviewed for the benefit of the group (page 17 of the meeting slides). So far no one in Wave 1 has gotten through the planning/funding phase. There is growing concern that Wave 2 will be delayed if more timely decisions on planning funding can't be accomplished.

- Harlan Ohlson – asked if anyone other than the TA is providing nationwide coordination of rebanding activities.
Kevin Kearns – noted that all official coordination is with Nextel and the TA, and that adding too many voices could just confuse things. He agreed that maybe APCO or NPSTC could play a role in serving as a clearing-house for best practices and actual experiences. He also referred the group to the planning and negotiation windows reviewed on page 18 of the meeting slides
- Harlan Ohlson – suggested that between the end of the mandatory negotiation period and the end of the freeze there should be a column that states that at the end of 30 days there is a mandatory mediation period.

The next slide summarized dispute resolution procedure:

"The three-month "mandatory" negotiation period for Wave 1, Stage 1 licensees commences on September 27, 2005. If reconfiguring Wave 1, Stage 1 licensees and Sprint Nextel have not executed a Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement by December 26, 2005, they will enter into mediation as of December 27, 2005, as defined by the TA's Alternative Dispute Resolution Plan" (<http://www.800ta.org/content/PDF/policy/ADRPlan.pdf>).

Upcoming APCO meeting with the Transition Administrator and Nextel

- The Chair will participate in follow up meetings with the Transition Administrator and Nextel on Monday, October 31st as a part of an APCO delegation. This meeting is expected to provide an opportunity for mutual feedback on rebanding issues public safety licensees are facing. Even though licensees need to deal

first with Nextel to get planning funding and final rebanding agreements in place, the TA needs to know how things are going and be pulled in quickly by licensees who feel Nextel isn't moving things along as needed. To the best of our knowledge no requests for planning funding have been approved yet. All interested parties are encouraged to send feedback to the Chair by October 30th at kevin.kearns@metrokc.gov for inclusion in his comments. He also asked Keith Flewelling to reach out to Joe Kuran as he wants feedback from Wave 1 entities. General discussion followed.

Reporting Interference Until Rebanding is Complete

The group was reminded that public safety licensees are entitled to interference protection as long as certain signal-strength thresholds are met. It isn't necessary to tolerate interference for the next 3 years. We can begin interference mitigation now. The wireless industry has established the following web site for reporting interference:

<http://www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com/CTIAWeb/index.aspx>

Discussion followed:

- Harlan Ohlson – noted that he had received a request from Nextel for a quiet time at a site to investigate potential interference from a WSDOT site to Nextel, but they have not yet asked for mitigation. He noted that Nextel has been very professional in all the technical interactions he has had with them.
- Spencer Bahner – asked if questions regarding the status of border negotiations would be appropriate for the meeting with the TA.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that the FCC will probably not be there but that he will try and surface that issue.
- Spencer Bahner – added that the TA had indicated they would support the border negotiations, and would hope that they would be involved.

4. Outstanding Channel Requests – Kevin Kearns

Washington State Homeland Security Region IV Interoperability Project – Status Update Information on final sites and channels that will be used in this system has been received. Sites at Cascade Locks and Rainier Hill site will be used in their plan. Cascade Locks – channels 612, 632, 674, 694 and 714, already in use in CRESA's system, are proposed for re-use at Cascade Locks. The upper-adjacent channel to 612 is a Guard channel in our plan, protecting a WSDOT statewide assignment. However, this channel is unused in Skamania County and shouldn't be an issue. The lower-adjacent to #714 is ITAC-3 and doesn't seem to be a concern. The Chair recommended approval as proposed. Discussion ensued:

- Harlan Ohlson – noted that he would like to discuss channel 612 with Terry Miller at a later date as he can't officially confirm that WSDOT has no objection, although he doubts they do.
- Spencer Bahner – asked if they need all five at this time.
- Kevin Kearns – responded he doesn't think we need to defer action.
- Harlan Ohlson – reiterated that he wants his exception noted.

- Keith Flewelling – noted that this is really a CRESA project, the funding for the project comes from Region 4 to increase Interoperability by extending their 800 MHz footprint.
- Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – commented, since the frequencies are already in use, there is little possibility for problems and he would move to accept this.

There was a Motion by Wiz, and a 2nd by Keith Flewelling. The Motion was approved (with Harlan Ohlson noting that he can’t officially confirm that WSDOT has no objection, but he doubts they do).

Rainier Hill - channels 616, 671, 739, 781 and 826 from the pool are proposed.

Channel 616 is used in King and Benton counties and is assigned in the Plan to Skamania County. Operating stations on the adjacent channels are assigned in the Plan to Wahkiakum and Pacific counties.

Channels 671 and 739 are unassigned in the Plan and the upper and lower adjacent channels are used in King County.

Channel 781 is used in Pierce County and the upper and lower adjacent channels are used in Snohomish County.

Channel 826 is unassigned in the Plan. The upper adjacent channel is used in Thurston and Snohomish counties and the lower adjacent is used in King County.

Since there are no apparent co-channel or adjacent channel issues with any of these the Chair recommended approval. Discussion followed:

- Spencer Bahner – noted that it appeared that the contour from 616 extended into Wahkiakum County.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that acceptance could be conditioned on approval of use of channel 616 by Wahkiakum County.

There was a Motion by Wiz, and a 2nd by Harlan Ohlson, to approve with the requirement for CRESA to provide a letter to the Chair from Wahkiakum County confirming they have no objection to use of channel 616. The Motion was approved.

Status of WSDOT Applications

Region 35 objected to use of channel 784 due to it being a statewide channel in their Plan, and WSDOT was requested to seek a different channel. WSDOT has not yet proposed a replacement for 784. The text from the memo to WSDOT follows:

Klickitat (Klickitat County) – Channel 758 is already approved in the Plan for statewide use by WSDOT, so this is approved administratively for full licensing.

Channel 829 is approved for STA filing and we have concurrence from Region 35.

Channel 784 was objected to by Region 35 since channel 783 is assigned in the Region 35 Plan as a region wide channel. While they acknowledge that there is currently no equipment operating in this area, they request that an alternate channel be identified instead of using 784.

WSDOT ICALL Applications

A single ICALL station has been implemented on Mt. Spokane which is monitored by WSDOT Spokane. Page 32 and 33 of the meeting slides contain a list and map of the 10 additional stations proposed for implementation. A letter to WSDOT is being prepared advising them of the Committee’s recommendations from the last meeting.

These recommendations are summarized on page 34 of the meeting slides and listed below.

- King Mountain – OK to proceed
- Burch Mountain – OK to proceed
- Haystack – There is concern that this site may interfere with the operation of the ICALL station Benton County is building at Golgotha. WSDOT will be asked to conduct interference testing with Benton County before proceeding with this site
- Magnuson Butte – OK to proceed
- Octopus – OK to proceed
- Sky Meadows – Needs to have further analysis done with Manashtash since simultaneous keying is likely
- Skyline – OK to proceed
- Tumwater Hill – This may conflict with planning for a central Puget Sound simulcast system for ICALL, so WSDOT will be asked to either join that effort or defer this site until final simulcast system design is complete and interference analysis can be done
- Manashtash – Needs further analysis with Sky Meadows
- Alpowa – OK to proceed

5. Region 43 Plan Amendments

The Chair has had no time to work on the Plan since the last meeting. He expects to integrate comments from the September meeting into a 2nd Draft version of the Plan prior to the next meeting, post it to the website and circulate it via the listserver. Further editing will be conducted at the November meeting in Yakima.

6. Good of the Order

None

7. Vendor Presentations

None scheduled since this was a conference call only.

7. 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. It is expected that we will be continuing with our standing meeting on the last Wednesday of each month through at least the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2006.

- **November 30th – Yakima Probation Services**
207 S. 3rd Street, Yakima, Washington
- **December 28th – no meeting scheduled for December**

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours.