

Region 43 (Washington)
800 MHz Regional Planning Committee

November 30, 2005 - 1200 to 1500
Yakima Probation Services – 207 S. 3rd Street
Yakima, Washington

1. Sign-in and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair (King County ITS)

Ken Rhodes – KCSO

Cammie Enslow – KCSO

Dave Brush – City of Yakima

Ron Solemsaas - SERS

Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane

Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle

Phone:

Spencer Bahner – Sparling

Steve Taylor – City of Tacoma

Alan Josue - EMD

Harlan Ohlson – WSDOT

Terry Miller - WSDOT

Keith Flewelling – CRESA

Marjean Penny – CT

Rhein Etscheid – Motorola

Babu Parayil – Port of Seattle

Brooke Flynn - Motorola

Jim Cole – CRESA

Dennis Hausman - DIS

David Mendel – King County ITS

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 October 26, 2005

There was a motion by Dean Heinen and a 2nd by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell, and the minutes were approved.

3. General information updates – Kevin Kearns

• NPSTC Update – RPC Committee

The NPSTC RPC Committee is attempting to increase coordination and collaboration between Regions throughout the re-banding process by providing forums to share best practice information and the experience of early re-banders as previously suggested by Harlan Ohlson in our RPC meetings (see meeting slides for details).

- **NPSTC Update – Re-banding information**

Dave Buchanan (working with the TA) provided further information on the re-banding process. He is very familiar with border issues as he has gone through the re-banding process in California with respect to the Mexican border.

Planning & Negotiation Windows

Planning and negotiation windows are reviewed in the meeting slides.

Cost Classification Hard Costs

Hard costs, as defined by the FCC, include actual costs to provide a replacement system, such as equipment and engineering expenses. These include equipment, engineering costs, management, training, filing costs, towers and tower modifications, site costs, transition expenses, system inventory and design.

Cost Classification Transactional Costs

Transactional costs include expenses associated with reconfiguration, such as attorney and consultant fees, education, negotiation, costs associated with the bidding process and relocation of Economic Area licenses of non-ESMR EA licensees that elect to relocate to the ESMR band.

Incumbent Labor Rate Reimbursement

Costs for incumbent internal labor incurred during normal business hours or overtime hours to support 800 MHz reconfiguration is reimbursable at established market based rates if they meet the following criteria:

Regular and OT rates are based on established market based bill rates that the licensee currently charges for similar work. Documentation for established rates should be provided to the TA and to Sprint Nextel during the reconciliation process upon request. Costs must be incremental to the licensee, i.e., incurred due to the FCC 800 MHz reconfiguration mandate. Additionally, it is assumed that work done as overtime could not be accomplished during normal business hours. Finally, the costs incurred must be the minimum necessary to obtain comparable facilities.

Actual Labor Cost Plus Overhead Reimbursement

In the event that an established market based rate cannot be substantiated, incumbent internal labor incurred to support 800 MHz reconfiguration is reimbursable at base hourly rates plus reasonable overhead, whether incurred during normal business hours or overtime hours, subject to the following criteria: Base hourly rates for salaried employees are determined by dividing an employee's annual salary by 2,080 hours. Base hourly rates for hourly employees are the rates paid by the employer to the employee (supported by payroll and human resources records). The TA will consider an entity's previously established and documented alternatives to calculating base hourly rates, so long as those alternatives are reasonable and prudent. Overhead rates are based on established internal rates and calculations (supported by payroll, human resources and accounting records) and should be reasonable and prudent. Licensees should be prepared to provide all records to the TA upon request. Additionally, licensees should provide calculations to the TA for complex overhead rate structures when submitting cost estimates for review and approval. Sprint Nextel will require actual cost documentation, including calculations of actual licensee labor and overhead rates during the reconciliation process. Overtime, loaded with overhead is reimbursable, if the employer pays overtime. If the employer does not pay overtime, it will not be an allowable cost.

Contact Information

TA & Wave Points of Contact:

Phone: 1-888-800-8220

Fax: 1-888-701-4380

Email: comments@800ta.org

Website: www.800TA.org

Wave Points of Contact:

Each contact is responsible for a particular Wave and will ensure that Public Safety entities are contacted and have the right information, etc.

Shane Satterland – Wave 1

Weldon “Joe” Blair – Wave 2

Tom Brooks, Jr. – Wave 3

David Buchanan – Wave 4

Sprint Nextel Contact:

Fax: 678-405-8252

Email: 800MHz@Nextel.com

The Chair invited questions/discussion regarding this information. There were none.

- **APCO meeting with the Transition Administrator and Nextel**

There was a meeting on October 31st, attended by the Chair, 7 or 8 people from APCO, the Transition Administrator and Nextel. Prior to the meeting the Chair had sent letters to Wave 1 licensees in border areas asking for feedback on their interactions with the TA and Nextel to this point. The feedback he received was similar to that from the Northeast and Midwest, “We filed our requests and haven’t heard anything”. Licensees were told their applications were incomplete, and they felt like they were being challenged on too many points. The meeting helped the TA and Nextel recognize the level of frustration in the public safety community with the lack of response to requests for planning funding. It appears that Nextel is dragging their feet and the TA isn’t pressuring them to act. Nextel responded that many of the requests they’ve received were incomplete or didn’t provide enough detail. Nextel noted an example of one of the requests that was a two page letter without enough background, or structure. They noted that they need to know exactly how many radios, interoperability requirements, etc. The group agreed that Nextel could do more but the TA needs to make it clear what is expected to get the process moving. The consensus was that more detailed, pre-approved processes for requesting planning funding would result in faster turn-around times. On November 21st the TA released forms and guidance on requests for planning funding.

Discussion followed:

- Ron Solemsaas – asked, has any money been approved?
- Kevin Kearns – responded, yes some requests have been approved - 46 in hand.
- Cammie Enslow – asked, will this throw the schedule off?
- Kevin Kearns – responded, officially, “no”. There are questions about whether the treaty issues will be resolved. Canada will probably not re-band. Canadian NPSPAC channels are used on a secondary basis and will be impacted by Nextel.
- Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – noted that use will be problematic because it will be necessary to figure out site and channel usage.
- Kevin Kearns – added, “And what level of interference we will be entitled to. They can make up the time in subsequent waves. The good news is that some

systems have successfully been re-banded (not including large trunked systems) without the necessity of any planning”.

- **TA Released Request for Planning Funding Forms on November 21st.**
The Press Release announcing the release of a new Request for Planning Funding (RFPF) package consisting of four documents providing further guidance to licensees preparing for negotiation with Sprint Nextel with the intent of reaching a Planning Funding Agreement (PFA) is included in the meeting slides. Forms are available at: http://www.800ta.org/content/documents/rfpf_forms.asp
- **Reporting Interference Until Rebanding is Complete**
Licensees still have an obligation to resolve interference issues until re-banding is complete under FCC Order. The wireless industry has established a web site for reporting interference. They have an obligation to follow up on reports and determine if mitigation can be accomplished until re-banding is complete. The reporting web site is at: <http://www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com/CTIAWeb/index.aspx>
- **Common Naming Conventions for Interoperability Channels**
There has been no response to the letter sent to Region 35 on October 19th proposing a common approach on for Regional Interoperability channels. It does not appear that NPSTC can formally address this issue on a national basis, except to work through the RPC Committee and encourage all RPCs to adopt the recommendations of the NCC. NPSTC's blessing on a naming structure might encourage 85 to 90% compliance. The RPC committee will put some weight to this.
- **Status of WSDOT Applications**
Region 35 had previously objected to a channel on one site because it was a statewide channel in the Region 35 plan, and WSDOT has been requested to seek a different channel. WSDOT has not yet proposed a replacement for Channel 784. Harlan Ohlson requested that we hold off on this issue until it can be addressed at a subsequent meeting.
- **Region 43 Plan Amendments**
The Chair noted that we have received a concurrence letter from Region 35 on our interim changes to end filing windows and the Zone Representative concepts but are still waiting for a similar letter from Region 12. Draft Version 2 of the Plan re-write has not been completed due to the time pressures the Chair is facing as he changes jobs. He added that he will work with the incoming Chair to get this out in the next couple of weeks and will support further drafting work as needed.
- **Current 800 MHz Committee Membership**
Zone 4 has been vacant for some time and the Chair has not had time to reach out and try to identify replacements. The Zone concept will soon be ending. Currently, only Zone representatives can vote or hold office. Today, 7 voting members plus the Chair were present. Current leadership was reviewed. Kevin Kearns is the Chair. Bob Wentworth is Vice Chair. The Secretary position is currently vacant. Discussion ensued:
 - Terry Miller – commented that 700 MHz is the wave of the future; 800 MHz activities will wind down, so it might work well if Wiz were nominated for Chair.
 - Kevin Kearns – added that he thinks the workload will be substantially lower but because the FCC has made it clear that the committees must be separated, feels that there may be a wave of short-spacings and reuse intended to squeeze in

channels, and there may be more complex filings. Also, ending the Zone concept may get more people involved.

- Terry Miller – responded, “This organization is not intended to be a frequency coordinating body”.
- Kevin Kearns – noted that he does not feel that we are a frequency coordinating body. However, the approval of the RPC is required to install sites and we need a basis for saying no. He added, “NPSPAC moves intact. Our role is not being subverted but we can agree that the workload is coming down”.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Since RPC Chair, Kevin Kearns, is departing it was necessary to elect a new Chair and a Vice Chair. Nominations for Chair were opened and Bob Wentworth nominated Steve Taylor for the position. There was a Motion by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell for a unanimous ballot, seconded by Bob Wentworth. Steve Taylor was unanimously elected to the position of Chair. Nominations for Vice Chair were opened and Jon “Wiz” Wiswell nominated Bob Wentworth for the position. There was a Motion by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell for a unanimous ballot, seconded by Steve Taylor. Bob Wentworth was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chair. Kevin offered to “shadow” the new Chairs and to notify David Mendel of the changes. Kevin also suggested that we negotiate meeting locations one quarter at a time, and then to notify the FCC. He offered to show the new Chairs how to file meeting information. Cammie Enslow volunteered to help with web postings.

5. Good of the Order

None

6. 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. Meetings will generally be held on the same dates as the 700 MHz/4.9 GHz meetings (usually the last Wednesday of each month) to limit travel to regional planning related meetings to once a month.

- **December 28th – no meeting scheduled for December**
- **January 25th – Westside location TBD.**

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours.

8. Vendor Presentations

None were scheduled for the November meeting due to elections and travel conditions.