

**Region 43 (Washington)**  
**800 MHz Regional Planning Committee**

**May 31, 2006 - 1200 to 1400**  
**Yakima Police Department**  
**200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Yakima, WA**

**1. Sign-in and Introductions**

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

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Steve Taylor, RPC Chair – City of Tacoma  
Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle  
Ken Rhodes – KCSO  
Cammie Enslow – KCSO  
Dave Brush – City of Yakima  
Marjean Penny - Community Transit  
Tom Eckels – Hatfield & Dawson  
Jay Morrison - SERS  
Dean Heinen – Yakima County  
John Melvin - Grant County Sheriff's Office  
Gary Baker - Grant County  
Phone:  
James White – Clackamas Co  
Alan Josue - EMD  
Harlan Ohlson - WSDOT  
Ron Solemsaas – SERS  
Gary Amundson - Motorola  
Ron Moyer - Pierce Transit  
Tom Samuelson – Bellingham FD  
Hai Phung – King County Metro Transit  
Jim Cole -CRESA  
Michael Marusich - DIS  
Spencer Bahner – Sparling

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](http://www.region43.org).

**2. Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2006**

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

### 3. Plan Rewrite

Draft #2 of the 800 MHz Regional Plan has been completed and posted on the Region 43 website as of March 27th, 2006. The interim change requests eliminating zones and filing windows were sent to the FCC on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The final rewrite of the Plan is expected to be ready for the next RPC meeting on June 28th.

### 4. Rebanding Subcommittee Update

A rebanding subcommittee consisting of Chair, Harlan Ohlson, and members David Mendel, and Ron Solemsaas, was formed at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The goal of the subcommittee is to act as a communication forum and provide timely and relevant informational updates on the rebanding process to the rest of the Region 43 membership. The Chair invited others interested in this process to join the subcommittee. Cammie Enslow volunteered. Harlan is posting everything of current interest on the RPC website. He introduced his new Rebanding Project Manager, Michael Marusich of DIS (attending by phone). Michael mentioned the issue of product qualification, given the fact that "Rebanding radios" have not been tested and proven acceptable. He further suggested that everyone needs to validate and verify their site licenses prior to rebanding. He also emphasized the need for clarifying the equipment type and certification acceptance issue (exactly what is type accepted by the FCC). He noted that there have been problems getting vendors to be responsive, with only two weeks away from their deadline vendors have yet to respond with specific replacement radio information.

Discussion followed:

- The Chair – noted that as far as the TA is concerned, service is supposed to remain intact.
- Michael Marusich – responded that if you don't have enough time you may be forced to move ahead with uncertain equipment.
- Spencer Bahner – asked if it is the certification or FCC type acceptance of equipment that is the concern or if there is another issue.
- Michael Marusich – replied that they must have FCC type acceptance but also need the manufacturer's information on how the radios will operate in their specific environment.
- Spencer Bahner – responded that for software changes to radios type acceptance may not be required. Some manufacturers have already stated clearly that their equipment is compatible with existing radios. Motorola provides detailed charts that show equipment crossover.
- Gary Baker – commented that he would investigate those claims, but agreed that the charts are very thorough. He added that his agency will address this issue.
- Michael Marusich – noted that he is attempting to be very vendor neutral because he doesn't want to imply vendor bias. However, he is within two weeks of the deadline.
- The Chair – responded that if a vendor can't provide equivalent product functionality it is not necessary to stay with any specific vendor.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – responded that if there isn't a RB product that meets your needs the vendor should pull something equivalent off the shelf.

- Michael Marusich – replied that they haven't yet had their vendor meeting. He added that if the vendor is unresponsive they will have to address the issue of equipment availability with other vendors.
- Spencer Bahner – replied that Michael had raised a good point. He wondered if the manufacturers have really debugged the RB products. He has suggested to his clients that they buy some of the RB radios and test them on their specific systems.
- Michael Marusich – replied that this is a good option to consider, as these costs can be legitimately covered by Sprint Nextel.
- Harlan Ohlson – suggested a freeze on software versioning.
- The Chair – asked Michael to stay in touch on the process of these discussions.
- Michael Marusich – replied that he will establish a formal process for contact with the RPC Chair.

Cammie Enslow gave a brief presentation of rebanding highlights from the IWCE in Las Vegas the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. She noted the announcement by the Transition Administrator of the Planning Funding Agreement (PFA) **Fast Track Option** for licensees who meet certain criteria and wish to request planning funding. See the press release:

[http://www.800ta.org/content/PDF/press\\_releases/05\\_23\\_06.pdf](http://www.800ta.org/content/PDF/press_releases/05_23_06.pdf)

She added that application templates and detailed instructions for applying for planning funding are also available at the TA's website:

[http://www.800ta.org/content/documents/rfpf\\_forms.asp](http://www.800ta.org/content/documents/rfpf_forms.asp)

She suggested signing up for the alerts provided by the TA at:

<http://www.800ta.org/content/news/taalerts.asp>

The Chair reviewed the Canadian perspective on rebanding and noted that the Transition Administrator is scheduled to participate in next month's RPC meeting at Sparling in Lynnwood.

## 5. Applications

### SERS Update of WPYR879 at Location 5:

Jay Morrison submitted this request but the attachments were unreadable. The Chair noted that this is a simple move, and added that he has a hard copy. He noted that there is an existing site to the north. SERS was unable to use the original site even though it was licensed, but found another site 0.4 miles distant, with topography similar enough to make almost no difference. The AHAAT, power, etc. are pretty much the same. The Chair remarked that since it is such a short move he has no issue with it as long as it doesn't change anything substantive.

Discussion followed:

- Spencer Bahner – asked if there was a 180' drop in the site location.
- Jay Morrison – responded that it was slight, approximately 6 meters.

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell moved to approve the SERS request. Dave Brush seconded. The Chair invited further discussion. There was none and the matter was brought to a vote. There were no objections and the motion was approved.

### Clackamas County Request:

At the April meeting the Chair mentioned that he had received an email from Clackamas County indicating that they want to move from channel 782 to 827. They are co-channel with EPSCA and adjacent with DOC and DOT on 828. There is no issue with Douglas or Pierce counties, but he is unsure about Yakima County. He noted that the 25 dBu contours don't show signal in any of these areas and added that they may need a letter of concurrence. Action on this request was tabled until the May meeting to allow Harlan Ohlson time to obtain further information to enable him to run the contours. Discussion followed:

- James White – noted the reason for this change is that most of the frequencies making up the five channels are simplex channels for on-ground fire, and that the Mayday channel was inadvertently selected. He added that WSDOT made a point that channels 827 and 828 are at the same site so they are looking for a replacement channel for 828. The site is designed so it's not a site issue but rather a subscriber issue.
- The Chair – asked if WSDOT is online with this (they operate in Ferry, Douglas, Spokane and Yakima counties) as he must make sure they have no issues.
- Harlan Ohlson – responded that they have no issues, but if channel 827 is used and does interfere with DOT on 828 they will require a letter of concurrence that the new licensee will mitigate the interference.

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell moved to approve the substitution with the condition that any interference will be corrected by Clackamas County in coordination with DOT. Dave Brush seconded. The Chair invited further discussion. There was none and the matter was brought to a vote. There were no objections and the motion was approved. Harlan Ohlson noted that he wanted the minutes to reflect that DOT had shown no bias and had abstained from voting on this issue.

### Request to add Channel 614 to Pilchuck:

This request would require moving existing equipment at the Frailey Mountain site to the SERS Frailey Mountain site located approximately 650' northwest of the current site. The emission designator would have to be changed at all six sites to accommodate mobile data operation. This request was administratively approved on May 17<sup>th</sup> by majority vote with the condition that "if there is adjacent channel interference from CT's channel 614 with WSDOT channel 613, it is incumbent of CT to eliminate such interference in a reasonable time period agreeable to WSDOT".

## **6. Industry Canada Perspective (courtesy of Kevin Kearns)**

The Chair reviewed slides from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Industry Canada presentation to the Western Canada Telecommunications Council (see meeting slides for details). He noted that NPSTC has concerns about Canada as US 800 MHz band reconfiguration may significantly impact Canadian operations in the band. We will not know who our neighbors will be post-rebanding and there is no funding for the Canadians to change their band plan to accommodate changes on this side of the border. He wondered whether there is any possibility that Sprint Nextel would be asked to pay the costs of harmonization with the US. He noted that along the Canadian border the Washington State plan and the New York State and Pennsylvania plans are all unique. Thus, the agreements would not be unified, and

there might be serious issues. He added that if we go ahead and re-band there is a serious potential for interference from Canada and there is no plan for additional funding to mitigate the interference. Further information is available at the WTCT and IC websites:

<http://www.wctc.bc.ca/>

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/>

Discussion followed:

- Spencer Bahner – noted that the most recent plan circulated for Region 5 left half of the NPSPC channels marooned in high band systems. He added that people think this issue will be solved but it is unlikely that will occur.
- Michael Marusich – replied that this is only one issue and we are looking at five different rebanding restraints due to adjacencies. He added that it is difficult to plan for all the unresolved contingencies with Canada.
- Spencer Bahner – responded that it has always concerned him that 1.5 MHz of 3 is still stuck in there. He added that it's something to think about.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell - noted that there is a joint WWVIC/WCTC meeting scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA, which will be attended by Industry Canada. The cost to attend is US \$30, paid at the door. He suggested contacting the RPC Chair if you plan to attend. For further information see: <http://www.wvic.org/>  
Wiz mentioned that he and Kevin Kearns had discussed what we will do after rebanding. He added that we will need to create a spreadsheet to review and coordinate channel assignments.
- Spencer Bahner – reminded the group that for Region 5, if an incumbent is on channel 806 it will shift up and the other half of the NPSPAC channel stays where it is. Nothing gets shifted around in the NPSPAC and, they simply shift down. Whatever is there on day one of the freeze is there afterwards.
- Harlan Ohlson – asked, what is the process for a waiver or STA? He added that the FCC takes a long time to accommodate these requests.
- Spencer Bahner – asked, has the Wave One freeze ended for the lower channels?
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – replied that part of the requirements includes performing an intermod study and if there is a problem it might be solved by relocation.
- Spencer Bahner – noted that this will have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- The Chair – responded that one suggestion that came up during the conference call with NPSTC was to send submissions to the State Department.
- Spencer Bahner – remarked that something that brings to light the status of the discussion would be very useful. He added that none of us have the authority to get anything definitive out of the TA. He suggested that a letter from a Congressman to the FCC or TA might be more useful.
- The Chair – asked, should we invite a Congressman to our next meeting?
- Michael Marusich – replied that it's difficult to get a Congressman to attend. They usually send a "staffer."
- Cammie Enslow – wondered if Congressman Reichert might be willing to attend due to his background with Public Safety.

## 7. Good of the Order

Jay Morrison reminded the group that as the APCO advisor he invites the RPC to contact him when the committee wants to make a recommendation. He noted that some of the requests DOT have brought to him have been approved and some haven't, but he may not be aware either of approval or changes.

Discussion followed:

- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell - noted that Kevin Kearns always sent a letter to the applicant.
- Tom Eckels – noted that this is normally required by APCO as well.
- The Chair – responded that the letter should be submitted with the application.
- Jay Morrison – added that the process should be really kept simple for all concerned.
- Harlan Ohlson – replied that everything he has submitted has included all the required attachments.
- Tom Eckels – responded that none of the attachments make it to APCO. He files his applications using Radio-Soft. He added that he consistently has to email the attachments separately as they don't make it to APCO. They usually have to ask for the attachments.
- The Chair – suggested to Jay that he ask the applicant if they sent the letter. Otherwise, he will look in his archives and send them directly to Jay.

## 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 rebanding 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.

- **June 20<sup>th</sup> - Sparling (4100 194th Street SW, Lynnwood)**
- **July 6<sup>th</sup> - Eastside (TBD)**

## 8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1245 hours.