

Region 43 (Washington)
800 MHz Regional Planning Committee
Meeting with the 800 MHz Transition Administrator

June 28, 2006 - 1000 to 1200
Sparling
4100 194th Street SW
Lynnwood, WA

1. Sign-in and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Steve Taylor, RPC Chair – City of Tacoma
Emery Reynolds, 800 MHz TA Representative – BearingPoint
Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle
Marjean Penny – Community Transit
Cammie Enslow – KCSO
Ron Solemsaas – SERS
Tom Samuelson – City of Bellingham
Debra Davis – Port of Seattle
Wendell Umetsu – Port of Seattle
Hai Phung – KC Metro
Spencer Bahner – Sparling
Tom Eckels – Hatfield & Dawson
Joe Blaschka – Adcomm Engineering
Michael Marusich – DIS
Kit Eldredge – M/A-COM
Rhein Etscheid - Motorola
Gary Amundson – Motorola
Bob Bushey – EF Johnson
Mark Morgan – EF Johnson
Phone:
Harlan Ohlson - WSDOT
Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane
Dean Heinen – City of Yakima
Dave Brush – City of Yakima
Fred Radovitch – Motorola

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 May 31, 2006

There was a motion by Bob Wentworth and a 2nd by Jon "Wiz" Wiswell and the minutes were approved subject to corrections to item 7 to change the statement, "The 800 MHz Regional Review Committee will continue meeting on a monthly basis during 2005" to "during 2006" and to specify the meeting date for next month as June 28th (not June 20th).

3. RPC Updates

Plan Amendment to end Zone Representation:

The Plan Amendment to end Zone Representation was released 6/27/06 (Public Notice DA 06-1320/Dkt No 91-270) with comments due by 7/12/06. It is expected that this should be complete and in place by next month. For details see:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Digest/2006/dd060627.html

Interim Zone 2 Representation:

The Chair announced the following changes in Zone 2 representation. He reminded the group that Jay Morrison has been serving in a dual role as Region 43 800 MHz Zone 2 representative and APCO Frequency Advisor. Jay has agreed to continue as a voting member, serving as the APCO Frequency Advisor and Cammie Enslow has agreed to serve as the third Zone 2 representative. It should be noted that Dean Heistand will continue to serve in the role of Zone 2 Alternate. Additionally, Jon "Wiz" Wiswell, who has been serving as Region 43 700 MHz RPC Chair, Region 43 800 MHz RPC Secretary and Zone 2 representative has agreed to relinquish his secretarial duties. Cammie Enslow will serve as Region 43 800 MHz RPC Secretary. The Chair reminded the group that they need to submit letters from their agency authorizing them as a voting member of the RPC. Discussion followed:

- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – suggested that current authorizations be grandfathered and that only new voting members be required to submit letters of authorizations.

There was further discussion around this idea followed by a Motion from Wiz to grandfather current authorizations and require letters only for new voting members. Bob Wentworth seconded the Motion, there were no objections. The Motion carried.

Applications:

The Chair announced that action on the WDOC application would be deferred to the August meeting and that no other applications would be reviewed this month.

4. 800 MHz Transition Administrator Presentation and Discussion

The Chair introduced Emery Reynolds, from Bearing Point, representing the office of the Transition Administrator. He had been invited to join the group for the June meeting to give a presentation on the state of the rebanding effort, lead discussion and answer RPC questions.

Complete slides of his presentation are available at:

<http://www.region43.org/docs/800mhz/Washington%20State%20Regional%20Meeting%20-%20Emery%20Reynolds.pdf>

The TA began with a status update followed by a review 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 at:

http://www.800ta.org/content/PDF/press_releases/05_23_06.pdf

He covered the submission process and the benefits, noting that applicable forms and templates (including instructions) are available at the TA's website:

http://www.800ta.org/content/documents/rfpf_forms.asp

He moved on to address some of the challenges of the rebanding process, showing a slide of the Planning and Negotiation Schedule Status (see page 4 of the slides).

Discussion ensued:

- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – mentioned that he attended a meeting with Industry Canada (IC) and that they had indicated that they didn't care what we did, except with respect to ICALL/ITAC channels.
- Spencer Bahner – responded that we don't have the same channels; there could be five different sets of channels used in the Canadian/Mexican border areas. He added that the bigger question is how the border plan is progressing at the FCC, TA and Sprint Nextel since, based on comments from Industry Canada representatives, there is no need to address the issue except for ICALL/ITAC channels. This is a reflection of the IC comments expressing a lack of interest in changing the block and zone structure in place along the US-Canada border.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – remarked that they might feel differently if someone wanted to step up to the plate and pay for changes. As it stands there is no money and they don't want to burden their licensees with additional costs.
- Spencer Bahner – added that the meeting left him with the feeling that it is incumbent on licensees to intervene as the decisions are probably made in Virginia, not in Ottawa or D.C.
- The TA - responded that they are putting together a group to address these issues, including locals such as Chris Fischer (Director of Valley Communications & Executive Counsel Member of the Washington State Chapter of APCO), Brent Haan (TA), Kris McGowan (FCC Field Office), etc.
- Spencer Bahner – noted that they are all broad players but none are land mobile engineers or technologists. He added that the process needs engineering level expertise given the technical complexity of band planning in the border region and the challenges of addressing interference and combiner planning issues.
- The Chair – remarked that he was at NPSTC and heard that the FCC is working with the Department of State and Public Safety and the response was, "How can you understand our requirements when you haven't talked to us?"
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – remarked that it isn't as much an issue here as in Whatcom County/Blaine where we need to work with Canada to insure interoperability. He added that he doesn't expect that the Canadians will come down to Seattle to work with us on these issues and there may be some problems working both sides of the border.
- Spencer Bahner – replied that the interoperability issues may be greater farther away from the border, such as during a major incident near Portland requiring mobilization of multiple agencies. Entities in the US along the border might have three or four sets of different interoperability channels depending on where they are responding to.

- Harlan Ohlson – replied that regarding a common channel, they are fighting issues of dismissal because it extends to 87 miles from Canada.
- The TA - responded that this issue should be submitted to the TA's comment channel (comments@800TA.org).
- Ron Solemsaas – asked if it is possible to capture the cost of back-to-back repeaters in the RFPF.
- The TA – replied that it should be contained in your planning costs.
- The Chair – added that the dates are still very much up in the air. The State Department has the lead, but the RPC can generate comments to the FCC. He also mentioned that NPSTC has a working group and added that Dave Buchanan is part of that group.
- Spencer Bahner – noted that the fact that there's no band plan and the impact of freezing non-NPSPAC licensing without a band plan is bad. He added that they are unnecessarily freezing spectrum so there is no ability to modify channel allocations without a waiver.
- The Chair – responded that it was necessary to implement the freeze because it's not possible to deal with a moving target.
- Harlan Ohlson – asked if he can expect to receive preference after the freeze with the DOT applications that are stacked up/frozen.
- The Chair – asked if he was referring to the applications close to Oregon and Idaho granted by the RPC but dismissed by the freeze.
- Spencer Bahner – commented that in US-Canada Border Region 5 the NPSPAC band is 50% Canadian and 50% US. The whole 851-854 MHz section is US primary, the channels between 855 and 861 are Canada primary, with another chunk of US primary channels at 862-866 MHz. Moving existing 851-854 users so as to allow the entire NPSPAC band to shift downward intact would potentially make those US primary licenses at 851 MHz secondary to Canada. The alternative is to split the NPSPAC band in the shift and create a band that is no longer a contiguous 3 MHz chunk. He added that we might want to wait to see what a final band plan looks like because in a worst-case scenario, it might be necessary to reband infrastructure two or three times and land mobile radios a dozen times.
- Joe Blaschka – added that there isn't a lot of available primary spectrum due to the necessity of sharing spectrum with Canada.
- The Chair – responded that it is possible to argue that you don't have comparable facilities.
- Spencer Bahner – noted that Sprint Nextel can't afford to fund new public safety sites. It's just too expensive and slow. He added that the least painful strategy may be to relocate the portion of the NPSPAC channels that are currently secondary to Canada into the portion of the 855-861 MHz band that's also secondary to Canada.
- Joe Blaschka – commented that Nextel is moving into a band vacated by Public Safety and they now have a huge problem with how they will develop their sites.
- The Chair – mentioned that he heard from NPSTC that they want comments from the RPCs as to how to handle these issues. He added that it is possible that Congressman Reichert may be willing to assist with these issues.

- Harlan Ohlson – remarked that if the Canadian Treaty creates non-comparable facilities then design issues become horrendous.
- The TA – remarked to the Chair that our Regional Planning Committee has influence and that planning must get done in time, despite lack of information.
- Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – asked if we have to assume this will have no impact on our sites or if we have to look at the possibility of re-siting.
- The TA – replied that it’s impossible to plan for something you don’t know will happen.
- Tom Eckels – noted that there could be enormous amounts of engineering costs to re-design sites to protect Canadian allocations.
- Michael Marusich – added that if we have to reband five or six times we can’t put that info a Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA) and funds may be depleted by the time Wave 4 is configured. He noted that there is a 2.5 billion dollar line of credit to commence and asked what happens if it is depleted. He wondered where the band plan stands now and how to work it into planning.
- Spencer Bahner – remarked that Motorola is able to provide fairly fixed costs for the scope of work (SOW).
- Rhein Etscheid – commented that Motorola is preparing proposals based on what they see now. By the time the plans are submitted to the client there may be a band plan in place. If not, they may have to start over.
- Joe Blaschka – commented that the problem is the time frames to get FRAs approved, even for simple tasks. Now there is a contractual agreement, which may later require a Change Order.
- The TA – replied that he will report our concerns but he emphasized that he is also asking the RPC to forward these concerns to the FCC.
- The Chair – said that he will also attempt to engage Congressman Reichert in this effort and prepare to move forward.

The TA then reviewed the status of Reconfiguration Agreements as of June 16, 2006, including Requests for Planning Funding (RFPFs), Planning Funding Agreements (PFAs) and Frequency Configuration Agreements (FRAs). See page 5 of the TA’s slides for details. He also expanded on the PFA Fast Track Option, explaining that this can expedite the planning process and provide more time to negotiate the FRA and prepare for retuning. He pointed out that this applies only to agencies that can obtain a reasonable accurate subscriber count, demonstrate that their costs are \$55 or less per subscriber unit, that their legal costs are 8% or less, and their Project Management costs are 25% or less and can conform to program guidelines and instructions including using the RFPF Form, version 2.6. See page 8 of the TA’s slides for details.

Finally, the TA reviewed RFPF Deadlines, noting that the Voluntary Start Date deadline for Wave 4 Channels 1-120 is July 3rd of this year and for NPSPAC channels it is February 1st, 2007. He added that the RFPF submission deadline for Wave 4 Channels 1-120 is July 1st of this year and for NPSPAC channels it is February 1st, 2007. See page 14 of the TA’s slides for further details. Discussion followed:

- Michael Marusich – asked about the possibility of receiving extensions.
- The TA – replied that only the FCC can change the designated dates but the “adequate explanation” clause mentioned in the note at the bottom of page 14 of the slides gives the TA flexibility to work with licensees with issues to resolve.

- Michael Marusich – replied that no one can move forward without a band plan in place.
- Harlan Ohlson – added that DOT supports Michael’s stance on this issue.
- Cammie Enslow – asked if we can believe the claims of Sandy Edwards (Spectrum Management VP, Sprint Nextel) that Wave 1 is 96 to 97% complete.
- The TA – replied that these numbers are skewed by inclusion of commercial entities and are not representative for Public Safety.
- Jon “Wiz” Wiswell – remarked that we need to take those numbers with a grain of salt, adding that we’d prefer to have accurate numbers for Public Safety.

The TA suggested that RPC members sign up for the Transition Administrator Alerts. This can be easily accomplished by visiting the sign up page on the TA’s website:

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

He noted that his contact info is listed on page 20 of his slides, including his cell phone and that he included contact info for Sprint Nextel. He pointed out that he is familiar with Public Safety concerns as he is currently the Region 7 RPC Chair for 700 MHz and was 800 MHz Chair until he resigned to take up TA duties.

The Chair thanked the TA for his presentation and asked Harlan Ohlson to contact his rebanding group to set up a conference call to further address these issues and list the schedule on the Region 43 website.

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 2006 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.

- **July 26th – Eastside TBD**
- **August 30th – Westside TBD**

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1150 hours for lunch.