

Region 43 700 MHz Meeting
Minutes
August 27, 2014
Sparling Building Lynnwood

Chair: Spencer Bahner

Call to Order/Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 10:09 A.M.

Spencer Bahner/City of Seattle, John Zwosta /PCDEM, Tim McDowell/WSDOT, Marcus Preuss/Sparling, Tony Minor/King County, Joe Blaschka/ADCOMM, Jon (Wiz) Wiswell, Luis Alba/Motorola Solutions, Larry Kieling/SERS, Participating via Phone: Marjean Penny/CT, Kurt Chandler/ODOT, Mike Norin/ADCOMM , John McCaslin/ODOT, Keith Tinsley/Harris

Introductions and Announcements: Round Table introductions were made including those participating by phone.

Agenda Modifications: John Zwosta asked that a discussion of the Statewide ID Plan be added to the agenda.

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Tim McDowell moved and Tony Minor seconded acceptance of the April 30, 2014 meeting minutes. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Application: Spencer reported that ODOT just recently submitted a request for approval for the use of 2 channel pairs at three sites, with one of the pairs to be re-used, in a simulcast configuration, at two of the sites. All channels fall within the General Use pool, not in the State allocation. Region 35 has approved the application. John McCaslin stated that ODOT will operate these channels from Washington sites, all located within a few miles of the Columbia River. He requested a letter of concurrence allowing the agency to submit their application. Spencer asked the Technical Committee to review the application and bring their recommendations to the next meeting. Tim said that when briefly reviewing the request it appears that Harris, the contractor, may have incorrectly listed several co-channels as being adjacent channel allocations. He asked that Harris, compare their proposal against the Region 43 700 MHz plan that was recently posted on the Region 43 website to verify the information.

Spencer noted that FCC rules indicate that States have full and ready access to non-state (General Use) allocations in addition to the 700 MHz allocations specifically designated for State use. In regards to State allocated narrowband channels, at this point there appears to be a workable solution between the State of Washington and State of Oregon along the Oregon-Washington boarder. Tim said that as the plan was developed both he and Bob Schwent anticipated that there would be enough State allocated spectrum to avoid the State requiring the need for general use spectrum. At that time both were unaware that Oregon was planning to make significant use of the State allocation. Because of the significant use of State pool

channels in Oregon, at some point in time the State of Washington may request the use of general use frequencies for operations along the border regions. Bob and Tim have also reached out the Idaho but have yet to receive that State's plan for the use of the state allocation. Tim believes there will be enough State allocated spectrum for WSP and DOT within the interior of the State including areas above line A. DOT and WSP worked out a plan where DOT uses the lower half of the allocation and WSP uses the upper half of the allocation, avoiding the need for coordination. Tim noted that both agencies will work with DOC if that agency requires additional spectrum.

Maryland Air-to-Ground Waiver: As an advisory, Spencer reported that the FCC has granted a waiver request, submitted by the State of Maryland, allowing the use of channels allocated for secondary trunking for Maryland State Patrol air-to-ground communications. He believes that the FCC may be considering a rule modification replicating conditions of the waiver for the benefit of other states. Maryland is following the national interoperable naming protocols, as an example '7Air 60' followed by a 'D' or an 'R' if repeated or direct. Spencer wanted the group to be aware of this development as it may be useful in Washington.

Statewide ID plan: Spencer asked John Zwosta to report on last week's discussion at the SIEC involving efforts to establish statewide protocols for talk groups and other IDs. John reported that a fleet mapping plan, that identifies groups of IDs, was introduced at the meeting. As a result of lessons learned from existing 800 MHz system users the proposed plan avoids duplications between agencies, minimizing the need for coordination. Additionally this scheme is useful for identifying the operator's agency. As an example Pierce County uses '40' as the leading digits in their ID scheme while WSP uses '75' as their first two digits. When developing the plan he found there are more than adequate ID numbers available outside of existing ID that are in currently in use. The idea is to put something in place, looking forward, even if current units in service don't follow the plan. Although some agencies including Spokane County have implemented their own ID plan John anticipates the plan being implemented as new systems are constructed. The SIEC feels that that the State should take the lead on this effort and have asked that John present the plan at the next meeting of the SAW group.

Good of the Order: The next meeting is scheduled for September 23rd.

Adjourn: Bob Schwent moved and John Zwosta seconded a motion to adjourn. The vote was unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.