

Region 43 700 MHz Meeting
Minutes
September 24, 2014
Sparling Building Lynnwood

Chair: Spencer Bahner

Call to Order/Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 10:20 A.M.

Spencer Bahner/City of Seattle, Bob Schwent/WSP, , Tim McDowell/WSDOT, Paul Roos/Sparking, Andy Rushak/Sparling, Michael Vue/Sparling, Marcus Preuss/Sparling, Joe Blaschka/ADCOMM, Marjean Penny/CT, Larry Kieling/SERS, Participating via Phone: John Zwosta /PCDEM, Brad Kitridge/KC Metro, Tony Minor/King County, Jose Zuniga/DOC, Kurt Dickie/KC Metro, John Sluminski/KC Jail, Alan Hull/Public Knowledge, John McCaslin/ODOT

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

Agenda Modifications: None

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Notes: Spencer noted a correction to the August meeting minutes to show that Bob Schwent also attended the meeting.

Marjean Penny moved and Bob Schwent seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the August 27 including a correction showing that Bob Schwent was in attendance. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Revisions to Region 43 700 MHz Plan: Spencer suggested that before any action is taken on the ODOT request that revisions to the Region 43 700 MHz plan be reviewed, as many aspects of the plan are outdated due to changes in the treaty environment, and significant differences between the assignment of channels in the plan versus what's been entered into CAPRAD. As outlined on the meeting slide deck:

- The Plan 'sunsetting' 'county by county' allocations 4 years after Plan approval by the FCC.
- The plan needs clarity on what the channel assignment method is to be used without the 'county by county' assignment method
- The Plan needs to be harmonized with CAPRAD data
- The Plan does not note which channels are allocated as US primary vs. Canada primary

As significant deployments have been made on the 700 MHz interoperability channels, updates of the sections of the Plan that address these channels and the 800 MHz interoperability channels is warranted. Applications for channel assignments will be received and processed

on a first-come/first-served basis and will not be constrained to the county-area allocations of the plan, but instead will be made opportunistically to allow the best possible spectrum utilization while meeting the functional needs of the applicant. This could mean that spectrum from neighboring county areas that has sat fallow for years could be applied for and made productive by neighboring counties who have made more investments in 700 MHz systems. In looking at CAPRAD there were found to be significant differences between the planned legacy assignments on a County by County basis and what's been licensed in CAPRAD. Spencer noted that CAPRAD is being updated as a result of granted applications by the FCC. County level maps include call signs of the granted applications that link directly to the FCC database. There has been some discussion about APCO Regional Coordinators potentially updating CAPRAD to include in-process applications.

The original plan predates finalization of the treaty with Canada and so does not identify which 700 primary channels are allocated to each country. Also, there have considerable enhancements to the interoperability channel area such as naming protocols, since the plan was originally submitted. Even the 800 MHz plan does not include the post rebanding naming protocol or frequencies. As a result of the issues stated the plan needs to be updated. Tim stated that although the county by county allocations are no longer valid this information provides a good point of reference and so be noted in the plan. By using both CAPRAD and the published plan the Technical Committee or others should be able to determine what frequencies are available. It will take some focused efforts to move forward with modifying the plan. Joe mentioned that although the County allocation plan has expired, he learned that the issue can become political if a County feels that they still 'own' those specific frequencies. He has seen this occur in Oregon.

Action on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Application: The request is for coordination on two channel pairs with one pair being reused at 2 sites. All sites are located in Washington. Region 35 has approved the request. Tim stated that ODOT referred to CAPRAD when submitting their request and at this point Region 43 should refer to CAPRAD database as it appears to be the most accurate. Tim said that the State will have to take advantage of general use spectrum with their P25 700 MHz rollout. Spencer mentioned that some systems within the Puget Sound region will be reusing 800 spectrum with more efficient TDMA technology which would free up additional channels. Tim said that the State does need to be very efficient in the use of spectrum along the border areas for both 800 and 700 MHz, especially next to Oregon.

Tim said that the Region 43 Technical Committee reviewed the request and recommended as follows.

Augspuger	367-368 / 771.29375 MHz
Stacker	349-350 / 771.18175 MHz
Murdock	349-350 / 771.18175 MHz

Spencer requested a motion to approve the ODOT request. Bob Schwent moved and Tim McDowell seconded motion to approving the ODOT request. The vote was unanimously in favor. Spencer will provide a letter of authorization to ODOT in the coming days.

Region 43 and 4.9GHz: Spencer said that the CAPRAD database shows nothing in regards

to 4.9 GHz licenses. He also noted that the Committee has not received notifications of 4.9 MHz licenses for quite some time and wondered if 4.9 MHz licenses should be catalogued or included CAPRAD. Tim said that the DOT has hundreds of locations using 4.9 MHz along the highway for a number of purposes. Although the DOT holds both a State license and several point-to-point licenses there is no central database that currently houses all licenses. He suggested that the information be catalogued, whether it be through CAPRAD, APCO or some other method which could then be referenced when interference issues occur or when someone is looking for available frequencies. Although an area license can be used up to one year, but after that time it has to be licensed as a location on a separate license. Although most operators are not following this rule, and there is no real authority to mandate that it be done, although it's the only way that the FCC database can be useful when investigating interference issues. Region 43 was tasked to create a database of 4.9 MHz licenses and so should move forward with a plan. This could be helpful when communicating with someone that puts up system on top of an already licensed system, even though there may be not force of law to have them move off the specific frequency. Tim also noted that equipment is being sold to operate at higher bandwidth than allowed and so unless someone configures the units correctly, as per FCC rules, the system will be operating illegally within the US. Joe said due to the flexibility of the equipment now days, it's easy for someone to set a system illegally on a number of different frequencies which could result in a fine if installed near an airport or other sensitive location. Marjean suggested that the Part 90 rules that reference 4.9 MHz licensing be posted on the Region 43 website.

Establish Plan Rewrite Committee - Spencer asked if there is any interest in developing a committee to rewrite the 700 MHz plan as it's out of date technically, regulatory and operationally, in terms of interoperability. Tim wondered if the information in CAPRAD is correct or if there is other information that can be used in updating the plan. Spencer has some legacy information available from the previous Committee Chair that would be helpful. He suggested that the Committee take on the task of updating the plan possibly through a focused workgroup with their recommendations being presented to the full Committee. Joe noted that the 800 MHz plan also required updating and so could potentially be harmonized with the 700 MHz plan. Tim said that the Technical Committee would look into the technical aspect including 4.9 MHz. He is also willing to assist the chair in the administrative piece of the plan. Spencer suggested rewriting the plan this become the primary agenda item for next month's meeting. Paul Roos offered to assist and suggested that the plan be reviewed, approved and re-released on a regular basis, whether annually or bi-annually, to ensure the documentation remains current. Spencer wondered if the FCC mandates that the various government entities and tribal authorities would need to be consulted when rewriting the plan as was required when developing the original plan.

Spencer suggested there be more discussion in terms of 4.9 MHz. Tim said that although the FCC states that CAPRAD would be the database for 4.9 MHz, it currently does not provide a means to accept this information and so another tool is needed. He considered using an Access database, as he has done at 700 MHz which only shows allocations and what is currently licensed. It does include other detailed information, in terms of power output, antenna gain, etc. This approach could be used for 4.9 MHz. Tim said that it could be very cumbersome if he were to pull the data FCC database in order to put it in a tool. Andy said

that Sparling developed a program in house to parse the FCC database for a similar purpose. Joe said that the reality of the situation is whether or not users would find and adhere to the database. Bob has found that when someone is operating illegally they usually will comply when approached Tim said that any outreach program would have to include both cities and counties. Andy said that the IT departments of those entities could be included in outreach. Any Statewide events where a large number of IT agencies gather could also be used as a means to get the word out. The State CIO also has a forum that could be used. Andy will reach out the local FCC office to ask if they might also be interested in assisting. Spencer will review the rule requirements regarding 4.9 MHz. Tim said that it would take a lot of effort to build and maintain a usable database and may make more sense to build a simple database done as with 700 MHz. Due to the amount of work required to keep a database current it may make more sense to not have a database than having one that is inaccurate with only partial data. More discussion is needed.

Good of the Order: Bob reported that WSP has been putting units in south Seattle on their 700 MHz pilot system. The plan is to move it to the north end of the city next week and then it will move towards the pass. WSP will analyze the data prior to cutover. Bob also noted that the audio is very clear and that that feedback on the system has been absolutely positive.

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

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.