

Region 43 800 MHz Minutes
June 24, 2015
Sparling Building Lynnwood

Chair: Mark McDermott

Call to Order/Roll Call: Mark McDermott called the meeting to order at 11:05 am

Attendees: Debra Davis (Port of Seattle), Jose Zuniga (WA State DOC), Paul Roos (Sparling), Doug Dickinson (RCC Consultants) Larry Kieling (SERS), via phone: Mark McDermott (SERS), Mike Norin (ADCOMM).

Introduction: Round Table introduction were made.

Approval of Minutes from 6/24/2015: Tabled until next meeting.

Announcements: Jose Zuniga reported that State DOC will be involved in the Ravens Challenge training exercise tomorrow from McNeil Island. Communication will occur from approximately 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. ITAC 3 will be used as their primary communications.

Subcommittee Reports:

Rebanding – Mark McDermott reported that SERS has completed infrastructure rebanding and begin the second touch of subscriber equipment once King Co. and King Co and EPSCA complete infrastructure rebanding in August. One of the channels assigned to SERS, as part of rebanding, remains in use by King County. As a result SERS and King County have agree to protect the channel, allowing both parties to co-exist on the frequency. Both counties are experiencing system interference issues. SERS has dedicated a technician full time to locate various sources of interference, which to date have included the remote controller in a concrete pumper, abandoned Nextel BDAs and several consumer devices. An MP3 audio device, designed to plug into a cigarette lighter was found to be shutting down the Snohomish County Jail System. SERS staff is in the process of evaluating various types of test equipment to aid in their efforts. Debra Davis reported that the Port of Seattle has completed about 60% of their second touch. Jose Zuniga stated that the McNeil Island is the last remaining facility for DOC to reband. That work should be completed on July 9th.

Interoperability –Jose said that there were no new issues to report. He did note that there was an interoperability issue last year during the Oso event involving DSHS use of ITAC 4 on McNeil Island which interfered with SERS. That issue was resolved and as a result DSHS has applied for a license modification to avoid using that channel. Mark complimented Jose and his crew for being responsive when those issues come up.

Technical Review – Mark reported that the committee has reviewed applications from DOT and DSHS, which are included later in the agenda. He stated that applications must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to a Region 43 meeting to be included on that meeting's agenda. This allows time for the Technical Committee to review the request. The application submitted by RCC on behalf of Clark County will be discussed at next month's meeting. Debra follow up with Tim McDowell about adding directions for submitting applications to the Region 43 website.

Old Business: None

New Business:

WADOT Applications - Mark stated that WSDOT submitted an application for the Orchards radio site. He noted that there had been an issue with the City of Portland where the City found a frequency which had only been licensed to DOT. It was found that the only interference that DOT would experience would be from themselves. DOT has requested approval to move forward with the application.

Debra Davis moved and Jose Zuniga seconded a motion to approve the WSDOT application. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mark noted that the WSDOT applications, previously approved by Region 43, requiring APCO coordination have been approved by APCO.

DSHS Application - Jose stated that the request is to relocate the antenna at McNeil Island to a higher elevation and increase the power in order to provide better coverage. Although the license for WQMQ522 is currently held by DOC, the agency intended to give the license to DSHS. As a result, DSHS has applied for a license on the same frequency with an increase power from 8 watts to 32 watts ERP. They plan to relocate the antenna to a water tank slightly higher on the hill in order to provide coverage to the north side of the island. Although DOT is shown to be the only co-channel user the agency is not using the frequency and has provided a letter concurrence. No issues were found from the co-channel and adjacent channel studies, however, it was noted that EPSCA is on an adjacent channel. Debra noted that EPSCA is aware of the situation.

Debra Davis moved and Mark McDermott seconded a motion to approve the DSHS (DOC) application contingent on receiving a letter of concurrence from EPSCA. The vote was unanimously in favor.

DOC Application - Jose said that DOC holds a license allowing two channel operations and a second license authorizing 3 channel operations at their facility. The licenses were coordinated by Motorola during system rollout. One of the licenses correctly references Capital Peak as the radio site but the coordinates listed are for a DOC located several miles from the radio site. Although the license shows three frequencies only two have ever been used (DOC channel 2 for operations and ITAC 3 occasionally used by special teams). The purpose of the application is correct the errors found on the original license. Mark noted that there was initial concern about approving the application due to Capital Peak having a large coverage foot print and the fact that ITAC frequencies are not well coordinated which can result in potential interference with other ITAC systems. Due to the fact that co-channel interference does not appear to be an issue and that the original application included ITAC3 at Capital Peak, Mark said that the application is simply an administrative function.

Jose Zuniga moved and Debra Davis seconded a motion to move forward with the DOC license application. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Good of the Order:

Doug Dickinson reported that Clark County is in the process of moving from a 6 site 10 channel simulcast system to an 8 site 12 channel P25 simulcast trunking system. As part of the process, RCC is submitting applications to Region 43 to address errors on some of the original licenses involving site coordinates and missing emission information. The major item involves a 5 channel IR that will be shut down. From that system, two of the frequencies will be used in the new system, a third frequency will be programmed into a standby repeater to be located in the County Jail and a fourth channel will be licensed for fire station alerting / emergency recovery communications. The fifth channel will go back in the pool. The applications will also require Region 35 and due to the freeze will require going through TA approval and the waiver process.

Mike Norin stated that on behalf of Seattle he sent an email to Mark McDermott detailing the City's plan to convert an STA for Apple Cove to a permanent license. The FCC has a process in place for converting those

licenses, post rebanding, to permanent licenses. Notification to the RPC is required but no action is needed by the committee.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, July 29th at 11:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Jose Zuniga moved and Debra Davis seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.