

STATEWIDE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GROUP TECHNICAL WORKGROUP

FOND DU LAC POLICE DEPT
126 N. MAIN STREET
FOND DU LAC, WI
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012
10:00AM

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Carl Guse
- John Schrader
- Jennifer Lord
- Kevin Lemke
- Mike Knoll
- Al Wisler
- Jim Meilahn (proxy for Kent MacLaughlin)

VISITORS

- Kathleen Lordo
- Jeff Ohnstad
- Mark Davis, EF Johnson
- Chris Kelly, LR Kimball

OJA STAFF

- Dave Spenner

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION

Motion made by Kevin Lemke to approve the September 27, 2011 meeting minutes

Motion seconded by John Schrader

Motion passed

MEMBERSHIP

It was clarified that John Schrader has been officially appointed to the workgroup by SSMG Chair Matt Joski. Keith Butler has resigned from the SSMG and the technical workgroup. Jennifer Lord will be transitioning to a new position at DNR. DNR wishes for her to remain on the technical working group. This will be taken to the SSMG for approval.

WISCOM IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

There are now seventy-four sites on the air. Milwaukee, Union Grove, and Wautoma were recently installed. The Access Code Index P25 standard has been recently implemented in the system to ensure that radios that can access the same control channel frequency at multiple sites do not get dropped by the system. Load testing is currently being performed by forcing County Scan talkgroups to multiple sites in the network. System Acceptance Testing is scheduled for February 16th and 17th. SSMG members and technical workgroup members are welcome to participate.

800 MHz Milwaukee WISCOM Site:

UW Milwaukee PD is interested in becoming daily users of WISCOM. They are currently getting radio upgrades to enable their radios to work on the system. UWM PD is interested in utilizing 800 MHz.

Carl asked for a motion to recommend to the SSMG that an 800 MHz site at UW Milwaukee Sandburg Hall be approved. Kevin Lemke made the motion. Jennifer Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Parkland WISCOM Site:

Douglas County is interested in coming onto WISCOM as a daily user. They have offered their Parkland tower located in Superior for an interim WISCOM site until the Dedham tower can be built. Trunking equipment for Dedham was purchased as part of the original eighty site system. Antenna and line needed to be purchased for the site. Douglas County wants to do coverage testing using Parkland in order to assess their coverage needs. Douglas County will provide the necessary microwave connection to WISCOM's network. David Spenner is concerned about the EHPA compliance involved with antenna installation at Parkland, as Parkland was not one of the initial sites for which we received NEPA compliance certification.

Carl asked for a recommendation that the SSMG approve Parkland as an interim WISCOM site.

MOTION

Motion made by Mike Knoll to approve Parkland as an interim WISCOM site.

Kevin Lemke seconded.

Motion passed

Downtown Madison Site:

With increased activity in downtown Madison, there is an identified need for a VHF WISCOM site and potentially an 800 MHz site. There are several avenues that can be taken to implement the VHF sites downtown. Dane County EM might be able to fund the WISCOM site. State Patrol may have a trunking site available for that location, as they have purchased two simulcast sites. There are four spare repeaters that could be racked for a downtown Madison site. Kevin Lemke reiterated the importance of having a trunking site available for the various law enforcement agencies participating in events at the capitol.

Carl asked for a motion to recommend to the SSMG that construction of a downtown Madison site be approved via one of these options.

MOTION

Motion made by Kevin Lemke that construction of a downtown Madison site is approved via one of these options.

Motion seconded by Mike Knoll.

Motion passed.

EF Johnson does now offer to receive only sites in their Atlas line. It will be possible in the future to mix the 3800 series repeaters with the Atlas repeaters.

Juneau County:

Juneau County law enforcement, fire and emergency management are interested in joining WISCOM. They have received a grant for subscriber radios from OJA. Juneau County has offered the SSMG use of their primary tower site for WISCOM. Coverage improvements are necessary for their transition to WISCOM for daily communications.

RADIO PURCHASES

Mobile and portable radios have been purchased for State Patrol Bureau of Public Security and Communications technical staff, SSMG members, Regional Interoperability Coordinators, and OJA WISCOM staff.

MOTION

Motion made by Kevin Lemke to clarify that the SSMG approves purchase of mobile and/or portable radios and accessories for DSP BPSC technical staff, OJA WISCOM staff, RICS, and SSMG members including technical workgroup members. The procurement of radios for this purpose is not to exceed a dollar amount of \$220,000 including a credit given from the contract with EF Johnson in the amount of \$111,766.50.

Motion seconded by Al Wisler.

Motion passed.

Jennifer Lord will abstain from voting on this topic.

STATE PATROL RECORDING OF INTEROPERABILITY TALKGROUPS

State Patrol has begun installing dispatch equipment for their migration to WISCOM. State Patrol policy indicates that they record all channels that they transmit on. There was a discussion regarding this. OJA is concerned about disclosing to user agencies that they are being recorded at State Patrol posts. State Patrol would not be responsible for other agencies logging responsibilities. They would merely be responsible for open records requests.

Carl asked for a motion to support the State Patrol's initiative to record the interoperability talkgroups.

Dave amended the motion to include that the SSMG disclose to user agencies that the State Patrol does record those talkgroups. This will be noted in the Administrative Manual.

MOTION

Motion made by Al Wisler

Motion seconded by John Schrader

Motion passed

SITE ON WHEELS

The status of the site on wheels was discussed. In order to tie into the WISCOM network, a 900 MHz panel bridge was purchased. VPN connection via hard line into a router and leveraging satellite resources are other options. A four channel Atlas repeater trunking site has been purchased. A VTAC36 repeater and an 8TAC repeater will be on board. The SOW trunking equipment will need to be retuned depending on where it is deployed geographically. Carl has applied for the licenses for several frequency pairs. There is no federal spectrum available statewide to prevent having to retune. A radio cache available with the SOW would help to support immediate deployment, especially in the case of no network availability.

Carl asked for a motion to recommend to the SSMG that BPSC be authorized to purchase up to twenty-five portable radios and accessories to serve as the SOW radio cache, provided there is adequate PSIC funding remaining near the end of the grant period.

MOTION

Motion made by Kevin Lemke

Motion seconded by Mike Knoll seconded

Motion passed

Jennifer wants an update to the WISCOM Programming document disbursed so that those reprogramming their radios have the most current information available to them.

BREAK FOR LUNCH – RECONVENED AT 1:00PM

COUNTY SCAN

County scan radios will allow WISCOM users to hear and potentially talk to non-WISCOM county law and fire channels without leaving WISCOM. A radio will scan primary county channels (law, fire, and

paging) and transmit the received traffic over a talkgroup. It will provide some interoperability between WISCOM and other primary county channels in the state. Beta testing of this has been ongoing. There are ten or so county scan radios actively working. Loading could be a concern, as the county scan must be made critical on sites that serve the county in order to work in a scan list on a trunking radio. In the future, the ability to patch the conventional channels to WISCOM talkgroups may be very useful in a multi-agency response. It is not possible to remotely control the scan radios, but we can disable the talkgroup via the NMS if there is an incident and the county scan is deemed to be utilizing too much capacity at sites. The priority of county scan talkgroups can be made low so that native traffic takes precedence. DSP will work with EF Johnson to determine if a busy alarm can be pushed out via SNMP.

MOTION

Motion made by Alan Wisler to recommend to the SSMG that the county scan program be implemented with the caveat that this program will be closely monitored for system capacity issues and any capacity issues that arise will be addressed by increasing site capacity and making configuration adjustments.

Motion seconded by Kevin Lemke

Motion passed

PATCHING POLICY

Currently, every talkgroup brought into a patch potentially utilizes a repeater should there be subscriber units affiliated with all the involved talkgroups on a single tower. EF Johnson is working to have patches utilize only one repeater. Al Wisler promoted the idea of training users to use interoperability talkgroups rather than patch. John Schrader disagrees, and uses patches daily on Washington County's system. It may be necessary to patch a conventional resource to a talkgroup. Regardless of the patching using multiple repeaters or a single one, there will need to be some policy decisions. Multi-select functionality on StarGate Consoles can result in the same issue of busying out sites.

The technical working group recommends that the following policy be adopted by the SSMG regarding patching:

- Only a single WISCOM talkgroup may be patched to an outside resource.
- Two or more WISCOM talkgroups cannot be patched together without prior approval of system management.
- Only one patch can be up at a time per dispatch center.

MOTION

Motion made by John Schrader

Mike Knoll seconded

Motion passed

The P25 standard is to have a system All Call talkgroup. There is an All Call button available in StarGate Console configurations. That ability can be disabled. There should perhaps be a policy limiting who has the System Wide All Call capability. The workgroup recommends that the SSMG adopt the following policy: System Wide All Call will only be enabled on system administrator consoles and available to select other agencies via an emergency profile as approved by the SSMG.

MOTION

Motion made by Mike Knoll

Motion seconded by Al Wisler

Motion passed

PROGRAMMING GUIDANCE UPDATE

BPSC is working on updating the document.

NETWORK SUPPORT OPTIONS

Carl presented BPSC's budget plan for the FY12 and FY13 appropriation funds. Kathleen discussed the progress toward obtaining help desk phone capabilities with Automated Call Distribution options. Carl discussed a table that outlines the different levels of support that are possible depending on funding and positions. The amount of support necessary to implement the numerous programs that are associated with the system will require more personnel in order to provide high quality service to users. Carl asked the workgroup to suggest what level of service they deem adequate. Kevin Lemke suggests that the presented short term goal is the best option for now so long as there is funding to do so. Al Wisler commented that the volume of equipment and complexity of the system necessitate more support personnel for system support. Mike Knoll reiterated that the SSMG should be aware that this system will require more dedicated support at the network level. Mark Davis commented that long term, high quality support is essential to a good end-user experience.

The consensus of the workgroup is that it is essential that additional dedicated support personnel be considered for WISCOM system support. It is the hope of the workgroup that future funding be made available to fund our network support goals.

SERVICE SPECIFIC TALKGROUPS

Randy Pickering was not present to address this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion made by Kevin Lemke to adjourn.

Seconded by Al Wisler

Motion passed

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:45PM