

The Interoperability Council moves to adopt the Charter for the **Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group (MFCG)**.

Whereas, Wisconsin state and local public safety agencies have agreed in principle that interoperable voice and data communications enhances individual agency ability to accomplish its mission and purpose, and

Whereas these individual agencies include state agencies, local government, first responders (including private ambulance providers, other authorized non-government organizations), and local federal and tribal public safety agencies, and

Whereas the Office of Justice Assistance under Wis. Stats. §16.964 is to provide staff support for the Interoperability Council under §16.9645 and oversight of the development and operation of a statewide public safety interoperable communication system, and

Whereas the Interoperability Council under Wis. Stats. §16.9645 (2) (f) is to make recommendations to the Office of Justice Assistance on technical and operational standards for public safety interoperable communication systems, and guidelines and procedures for using public safety interoperable communication systems, and

Whereas, the Office of Justice Assistance and the Interoperability Council seek to focus on their respective statutory duties and the strategic vision, goals and objectives reflected in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), and

Whereas the Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications (WISCOM) has a chartered body to manage this system, no similar body is chartered is to manage all other remaining statewide public safety communications frequencies, and

Whereas some statewide public safety communications frequencies have been previously managed by discipline-specific bodies, others have no clear method of management, and

Whereas the past efforts of the WISPERN Board and MABAS Communications Committee have widely recognized value, the efforts can become more effective if efforts are structured into the current SCIP strategic plan and future opportunities for coordination across discipline-specific frequencies are considered, and

Whereas all remaining public safety communications frequencies also need day-to-day-coordination and governance that equitably considers the needs of all public safety agency users, for the collective good of all of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Interoperability Council hereby charters the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group (MFCG) as a subcommittee of the council for the purposes stated. The provisions of this charter are as follows:

## **I. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group is to manage the day-to-day use of Wisconsin's statewide mutual aid frequencies and ensure the resource is equitably available to all public safety agency users within Wisconsin consistent with the goals, objectives and policies reflected in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

## **II. ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group shall be to:

1. Improve and facilitate interoperability of radio communications in Wisconsin by managing for the Interoperability Council certain radio frequencies in Wisconsin.
2. Assist the Interoperability Coordinator and the Interoperability Council through liaison with other entities that perform similar duties for other radio networks in Wisconsin, with intent to ensure a coordination of efforts.
3. Serve as a resource and make recommendations to the Interoperability Council concerning interoperability issues in Wisconsin, provide advice to the Council on interoperability issues as needed and perform any other function as deemed necessary by the Council.

## **III. CREATION OF THE MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP (MFCG)**

1. Membership on the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group (MFCG) shall consist of:
  - A Wisconsin representative from each of the following:
    - Region 45 800 MHz group
    - 54 800 MHz group
    - Tribal Government
  - A representative from each of the following:
    - Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association (WCPA)
    - Badger State Sheriffs Association
    - Wisconsin State Patrol, Bureau of Communications
    - Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
    - Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Association
    - Emergency Medical Services professional
    - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
    - Wisconsin Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Association
    - Wisconsin Emergency Management
    - MABAS Communications Committee
  - The individuals designated as:
    - State EMS Communications Coordinator

- State Frequency Coordinator
  - State Interoperability Manager
2. All terms shall be for three years (staggered). All appointments will be made by the Interoperability Council. Members are eligible for reappointment. Members of the State Interoperability Council may serve on the MFCG.
  3. The MFCG will elect a chairperson who will set the agenda for meetings, maintain order at all meetings, act as a liaison to the Interoperability Council and will update the Council as necessary and carry out the general responsibilities of a chairperson.
  4. The MFCG will elect a secretary who will be responsible for recording and submitting minutes of the Group to the Interoperability Council. The secretary will be responsible for general duties associated with the position.
  5. The MFCG may create other leadership positions and shall establish bylaws, consistent with the charter, which will detail any needed additional rules such as voting procedures, MFCG officers and duties, procedures for filling expiring and/or vacant seats, staggered terms for all initial selections, and other procedures to allow for effective, representative governance.
  6. Each individual on the MFCG has a single vote.

#### **IV. SCOPE**

The following frequencies are licensed to the state of Wisconsin by the Federal Communications Commission and the State Bureau of Communication (BOC) Frequency Coordinator has been delegated responsibility for authorizing users and maintaining general coordination and governance of the frequencies for those organizations that are operating under a statewide license.

The MFCG provides recommendations under the authority of the Interoperability Council and will oversee operating, complaints, applications and approval for frequency use. It will also recommend to the Council standard operating procedures (achieving consistent operating practice whether on mutual aid channels and/or WISCOM) and authorize users for the following frequencies:

- WISPERN (155.475 MHz)
- MARC Frequencies
- Point to Point (155.37 MHz)
- NATSAR (155.16 MHz)
- VCALL/VTAC Frequencies
- UCALL/UTAC Frequencies
- 700 MHz Public Safety Interoperability Frequencies
- Statewide 800 MHz Tactical Channels
- MABAS Channels
- Wisconsin State EMS Frequencies
- WEM CAR

There are many organizations in Wisconsin who assist with the efficient and effective use of public safety interoperability frequencies in Wisconsin. For purposes of achieving its mission, the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group shall maintain communication with the following entities to ensure a coordination of efforts over mutual aid frequencies:

- MABAS Communication Committee
- WCPA Technology Committee
- Wisconsin Chapter of APCO

**V. TRANSITION FROM WISPERN BOARD TO MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP**

The WISPERN Governing Board was formed sometime prior to the mid-1970's. The early proceedings of the Board are unrecorded. The state of Wisconsin holds the FCC license for the WISPERN frequency and in accordance with FCC Rules, the Wisconsin State Patrol has the authority to authorize users. Historically, the State Patrol, through the Bureau of Communications Frequency Coordinator, has allowed the WISPERN Governing Board to authorize users on the WISPERN Frequency and has also asked them to oversee the use of the MARC frequencies and many other interoperable frequencies in the state of Wisconsin.

Many goals of the WISPERN Governing Board mirror the goals of the State Interoperability Council. The function of the WISPERN Board has expanded since its inception and many issues which come before the Board deal with interoperability on other frequencies. Operating as a self-governing sub-committee of the Interoperability Council eliminates possible redundancy and will facilitate achieving strategic goals of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Many members of the WISPERN Board have a technical background in communications and are a valuable resource to the interoperability initiative. At its April 2009 meeting, the WISPERN Board adopted a resolution to reorganize under this charter. At its March 2009 meeting, MABAS-Wisconsin also moved to support this charter. This is a logical progression towards facilitating interoperability in the state of Wisconsin.

**VI. CHANGES TO THE MFCG CHARTER:**

The MFCG is authorized to petition the Interoperability Council for changes to the MFCG Charter for the common good and to implement the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan

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This Charter has been approved by the Wisconsin Interoperability Council under the authority of Wis. Stats. §16.9645.

Adopted: April 9, 2009  
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