

MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009
CONFERENCE ROOM D
OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
MADISON, WI

MEETING MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS - 10:00 AM

- WISCONSIN POLICE EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK (WISPERN) BOARD
 - The WISPERN board took care of frequency coordination for the last two years, until Carl came on board and brought additional frequencies to the mix

INQUIRY FROM DON PAGHENKOPF, PRESIDENT OF NORTHWAY COMMUNICATIONS, CONCERNING INSTALLING FIRE GROUND WHITE (154.28) ON THE PORTAGE COUNTY BASE FOR MUTUAL AID FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS - CARL GUSE

- BASE STATION POLICIES
 - Base stations are generally not put on Fire Ground frequencies
 - Will work on a case by case basis until policies are established

OLD BUSINESS

- GROUP ABBREVIATION
 - Group abbreviation confirmed as “MFCG”, rather than “MAFCG”, occasionally used previously
- WISPERN FUNDING
 - Motion
 - Motion made by Paul Wittkamp: “Existing WISPERN funds shall be equally returned to contributing organizations.”
 - Motion seconded by Robert Goldstein
 - Motion carries

NEW BUSINESS

- DISCUSSION CONCERNING MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATION BETWEEN WISCONSIN AND MICHIGAN
 - Overview
 - Michigan bought modules for Wisconsin border counties (for communication with Michigan State Patrol and bordering counties)
 - In turn, Michigan wants access to WEM Car and MARC channels
 - Discussion
 - Primarily looking at mobile and portable use
 - Request will go to Carl Guse and Kent MacLaughlin for authorization
 - Our licenses don’t allow for cross-border operation (for use in Michigan)
 - One option is to try to modify these licenses
 - Letter of authorization would allow Michigan to use these frequencies in Wisconsin
 - Language would have to be clear - restricting use to combined operations or abiding by Wisconsin operating procedures
 - The costs would vary on the number of frequencies involved
 - This issue may be part of a larger border / mutual aid use discussion
 - Further investigation of border county licensing to be done
- DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE MFCG
 - Interoperability Council
 - State executive council that determines high-level policies, strategies, and funding priorities

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- Interoperable Communications Standards Group (ICSG)
 - Subcommittee of the IC that manages public safety answering point (911 center) standards
- Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group
 - Subcommittee of the IC that manages state frequency use
- Statewide System Management Group
 - Subcommittee of the IC that manages the Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications (WISCOM)
- Discussion
 - This is a crossroads for many interoperable communications stakeholders, who may use channels with little to no oversight
 - WEM, MABAS, health advisory, IC, and MARC are all examples of channels that need to be considered when coordinating
- MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES
 - Point of Contact
 - Dave Spenner is the point of contact to get appointee names to the Interoperability Council
 - Discussion
 - Any input is appreciated
 - Kent MacLaughlin will get an appointment letter to represent Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)
 - Brad Liggitt may be potential Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) representative
 - Dave Graves of Badger State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) should be contacted for BSSA appointment
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE MAFCG FILLING DUAL ROLES ON COMMITTEES / COUNCILS
 - The charter allows for multiple roles / appointee, especially as a temporary measure
 - Paul Wittkamp will be the temporary Region 45 and EMS representative
 - Carl Guse will be the temporary Region 54 representative
 - Bill Bouma will be the temporary WFCA representative
 - Jerry will be the temporary tribal representative
- REVIEW AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR THE MFCG
 - Overview
 - Uses same format as the SSMG charter
 - Edits (see www.ic.wi.gov for complete bylaws)
 - Overall - “Members” changed to “appointees”
 - Section 5.9B - “Chairperson changed to Secretary”
 - Section 5.9C - Removed line
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROHIBITING “COMPANDERING” ON MUTUAL AID CHANNELS WHEN TRANSITIONING TO NARROWBAND
 - Motion
 - Motion made by Carl Guse: “The MFCG recommends that the IC prohibit “companding” during the federal transition to narrowbanding.”
 - Motion seconded by Bill Bouma
 - Motion carries
- DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROBLEMS WITH THE MARC PATCH AT THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERFERING WITH OTHER COMMUNICATIONS
 - Overview
 - Milwaukee county has a MARC base / repeater and the Milwaukee Fire Department and Sheriff’s Department have the ability to patch to other channels, specifically one of the City of Milwaukee talkgroups
 - This is used by the fire and sheriff’s departments during freeway incidents
 - However, when left on, this repeater can cause interference

BASE STATION APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

- NONE NOTED

OTHER DISCUSSION

- WEM MULTI-AGENCY PROPOSAL
 - Paul Wittkamp and Doug Meier contributed to this proposal
 - WEM is considering using this plan along with the ESF2 to establish a predictable method of state agency communication
 - The plan takes advantage of alternate use frequencies when MARC channels get tied up
 - This is compatible with the SCIP (although the SCIP may be more specific)
 - The proposal is still in the draft stages
 - Discussion
 - When do you switch frequencies?
 - Correction to certain frequencies on the chart
 - VTAC 14 is very limited and not on the 24 mutual aid frequency list (doesn't exist in most radios)
 - There are no repeater functions for VTAC channels
 - WEM statewide / Regional could be a second repeated channel
 - STAR channels also a possibility but would require duplexers
 - Some caution is required when considering adding channels to the 24 mutual aid list
- 2005 MAF DOCUMENT
 - Addressed channel naming
 - Still an official document
 - May want to include updated information
 - EMS plans also need to be looked at
 - Channel naming is in accordance with national naming standards
 - The SCIP will be rewritten in 2010

NEXT MEETING DATE DISCUSSION

- DISCUSSION
 - Future meetings tentatively slated for Tuesdays
 - January 19
 - May 15
 - October 19

ADJOURNMENT - 1:38 PM

- MOTION
 - Motion made by Bill Bouma to adjourn
 - Motion seconded by Paul Wittkamp
 - Motion carries