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## MUTUAL AID FREQUENCY COORDINATING GROUP

JANUARY 19, 2010  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM D  
OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
1 SOUTH PINCKNEY STREET, SUITE 615  
MADISON, WI 53703  
MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER - 10:10 AM

#### ATTENDANCE

##### • MEMBERS

Tom Czaja  
Kent MacLaughlin  
Bill Bouma  
Carl Guse  
Jeff Ohnstad  
Paul Wittkamp  
Robert Goldstein  
Doug Meier  
Warren Warrington  
Jerry Thorpe

##### • GUESTS

Mark Loclaw  
Bill Davis  
Maureen Weiher

##### • OJA STAFF

David Spenner  
Jennifer Lord  
David Roberts

### APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

#### • MOTION

Motion made Robert Goldstein to approve the September 29, 2009 meeting minutes  
Motion seconded by Bill Bouma  
Motion carries

### OFFICER ELECTIONS

#### • CHAIR

Motion by Jerry Thorpe to nominate Tom Czaja  
Motion seconded by Doug Meier  
Motion by Doug Meier to approve nomination  
Motion seconded by Goldstein  
Motion carries

#### • VICE CHAIR

Motion by Tom Czaja to nominate Carl Guse

Motion seconded by Bill Bouma  
Motion by Jerry Thorpe to approve nomination  
Motion seconded by Robert Goldstein  
Motion carries

• SECRETARY

Motion by Jerry Thorpe to nominate Paul Wittkamp  
Motion seconded by Jeff Ohnstad  
Motion by Robert Goldstein to approve nomination  
Motion seconded by Bill Bouma  
Motion carries

**SUBCOMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT**

• DISCUSSION

WISPERN had operating rules / regulations that formed SOP / SOGs  
Suggestion to create procedures subcommittee  
Subcommittee subject to Open Records / Open Meetings laws  
Request for volunteers

• INTEROPERABILITY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE

David Spenner - Chair  
Carl Guse  
Paul Wittkamp  
Kent MacLaughlin

**OPERATIONAL PROCUDURES / POLICIES DEVELOPMENT**

• OVERVIEW

Policies written for channels vary (anywhere from nothing to a paragraph in the WISPERN plan to work that MABAS has done)  
Tom's vision is for a document that would encompass all operating procedures (including MABAS, etc)

• DISCUSSION

There is a need for one coherent, cross-discipline document  
Potential to put operating procedures in Appendix D of the SCIP  
Consensus that September is the target month for the formulation of a policy document draft

**RACINE COUNTY MARC 1 ISSUE – CARL**

• OVERVIEW

- This issue came to be about two years ago  
APCO developed MARC and various agencies installed this into radios and repeaters
- A number of radios and repeaters had this channel programmed
  - Interoperability initiative brought repeaters to 65 of the 72 counties.
  - In the border counties many repeater licenses had gone through the coordination process before the HSGP
  - These were signed off on not just by Carl, but by the FCCA (Forestry communications)
  - MARC is an interoperability channel, not intended for daily dispatch channel or continuous traffic
  - Lafayette County had a MARC repeater and the State Patrol was placing additional repeaters (Kenosha tower on I94) in the area
    - This traffic caused interference with Illinois State Parks, also operating on MARC 1
  - Licensing in Illinois is handled by the Illinois State Patrol (Jeff Sexton), with the radios being run by the DNR
    - Contact was made to Carl Guse and Dave Pagel of the Department of Forestry, which resulted in a complaint
    - Dave Pagel ruled that no border licenses can be approved with Illinois' consent

• CURRENT ISSUE

- Racine County MARC repeaters may be causing true interference (intended signal not being received) with several Illinois agencies.

- Though the likelihood of true interference is low, there is definite potential for interference, especially in the southeast area
- A recent voted switch site has further strengthened the system
- Lake rescues, paramedic intercepts (in Rock county) all potential sources of the conflict
- The Illinois Park base stations run on carrier squelch, so they hear any traffic on those frequencies
- Their radios are older, but capable of tone squelch
- However, Illinois does not want to invest in these radios, given the age and possible migration to a statewide system
- Carl is hoping to find an interim Wisconsin-side solution
- Changes to the tower parameters (height, power, location, signal pattern) may help, but it's difficult to tell the counties to change these factors because of interference with Illinois
- Illinois intends to send formal complaints to OJA
- DISCUSSION
  - FCC rules are that temporary licenses can operate for up to a year; these stations need to get permanent licenses
  - Illinois approval is required; they intend to deny such requests
  - Rock County's usage is fairly routine; perhaps they should find another channel to put their intercepts
  - Suggestion that offering to reprogram Illinois base stations may be possible, but might get into the redesign of the current system; the assumption is that they're hoping to limp along until the move to the 800 MHz system
  - Consensus that the MFCG has to act on this
- CONSENSUS
  - Tom, Jeff, Carl, Doug, and Dave Spenner plan to meet with Illinois representatives
  - Tom will make the initial contact with Jeff and Jim from Racine
  - Meeting date / location to be determined

#### **WISPERN FUNDS**

- DISCUSSION
  - The checks for reimbursement are in the mail and the account will be closed

#### **MUTUAL AID BETWEEN WISCONSIN AND MICHIGAN**

- OVERVIEW
  - Kent has been communicating with Michigan to employ an 800 MHz radio. The radio has been sent to Michigan for programming and an agreement has been signed
- DISCUSSION
  - We can't authorize anyone to use MARC in Michigan under the current license. The state would have to submit a modification application to add border counties as an area of operation to the license or Michigan would have to get their own license. Carl has concerns about opening this license process due to the Illinois situation.
  - Individual counties or entire state could apply, with approvals and MOUs. Michigan is moving to 800 MHz, so there may be challenges. Carl has no problem with issuing a letter of authorization to agencies in Michigan for use in Wisconsin, but the problem is use in Michigan. Not sure how specific the FCC is about operation outside of the area of authorization. They could structure licensing how they pleased (county, statewide, regional, district, some other type, etc). Licensee would attach MOU to frequency application to FCC.
  - Repository for MOU would be the owner of the frequency (possibly WEM, possibly State Patrol, Bureau of Communications)

#### **VACANCIES**

- APPOINTMENT LETTERS
  - Representatives should go back to organizations and get appointment letters. When those nominating letters come in, they are accepted by this group, and the IC approves and appoints members

- LETTERS TO BE FORWARDED

Kent MacLaughlin (WEM representative) and Carl Guse (Region 54) • MOTION  
Motion by Doug to forward these letters to the IC for approval  
Motion seconded by Paul Wittkamp

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- REQUEST FOR MFCG DOCUMENTS

The Milwaukee Radio Advisory Group is holding a meeting this month. They are putting a new mutual aid channels (post-rebanding) document together, concerning the nomenclature for iTac and WisTac channels. Could match nomenclature with Northshore and Milwaukee County Sheriffs Department. Carl notes there was a one page document that was put out as a supplement to SCIP that was the official announcement of these channels; his impression is that the naming hasn't been perfect, as people are often reusing channel names for new frequencies.

**MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT AIRBORNE 800MHZ USE**

- OVERVIEW

Potential for air-ground is very minimal, as non-profit air service in Illinois is only potential LE user. Caveat is that operations need to be licensed. WISPERN had allowed private ambulances to operate

- DISCUSSION

Carl suggests putting this on the state ATac tactical channels as an alternative. Concern about NGO / private companies abusing frequencies. Carl will get back to Milwaukee and recommends that the subcommittee work on formalizing (proper authorization required to use frequencies

**SHAWANO COUNTY VTAC**

- OVERVIEW

Problematic wideband channels between primary channels and secondary channels. Bad to develop heavy use / activity until these channels until narrowbanding. Regional drug enforcement units are looking for a channel to use. Guidance on these channels is minimal - they are ours to craft as long as we fit within national guidelines. Stated that we don't want encryption. Carl has given some approval (quite a few years ago) for (low density, simplex tactical) digital use on these channels in Forest and Portage counties

- MOTION

Motion made by Carl Guse that: "The MFCG moves to allow Project 25 digital operation as a permissible mode of communications on the VTAC channels (excluding VCALL) with the stipulation that digital operation is secondary to analogue, the common NAC of 800 is used, and radios must be programmed for mixed-mode analogue / digital receive."

Motion seconded by Jerry Thorpe

Amendment: "Must include analogue channels, with standardized nomenclature."

- AMENDED MOTION

Motion made by Carl Guse that: "The MFCG moves to allow Project 25 digital operation as a permissible mode of communications on the VTAC channels (excluding VCALL) with the stipulation that digital operation is secondary to analogue, the common NAC of 800 is used, and radios must be programmed for mixed-mode analogue / digital receive, with standardized nomenclature."

Motion seconded by Jerry Thorpe

Motion carries

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**MUTUAL AID COMMUNICATION FREQUENCIES LIST DOCUMENT**

• DISCUSSION

This document will supplement frequency SOP document. Both will be approved by the IC, but could be posted now. Carl suggests this is equally good as a standalone document and as part of the SCIP. Suggestion to call this Annex K: Statewide Mutual Frequency Plan 2010 Edition so it's recognized as part of the SCIP

• MOTION

Motion made by Bill Bouma that: "The MFCG moves to accept the Annex K."  
Motion second by Bob

• Discussion: Should digital standards be included?

Amendment: Adopt amended plan to include digital channel usage standards  
Motion withdrawn by Bill Bouma

• MOTION

Motion by Carl that "The MFCG moves to approve the 2010 edition of the Annex K: Statewide Mutual Frequency Plan as amended to include additional VTAC channels."  
Motion seconded by Bill Bouma  
Motion carries

**GUIDANCE REGARDING TONE SQUELCH ON NARROWBAND INTEROPERABILITY FREQUENCIES**

• DISCUSSION

Suggestion to refer this issue to MABAS group and have them report back  
Suggestion that we have time to deal with this as it relates to narrow-banding initiatives

• MOTION

Motion made by Carl Guse to table this item, referring it to MABAS for future discussion  
Motion seconded by Doug Meier  
Motion carries

**NEXT MEETING DATE DISCUSSION**

• OTHER MEETINGS

Next IC meeting is March 25  
Next summer IC meeting is July 22  
SCIP Workshop is June 23 in Appleton

• DISCUSSION

Look at June 8 (10:00 AM at OJA's offices)  
Tuesday October 19 still a go  
If we need to meet again, we will Doodle members

• ITEMS

Annex K and two appointments

**ADJOURNMENT**

• MOTION

Motion made by Jeff Ohnstad to adjourn  
Motion seconded by Bob Goldstein  
Motion carries