



1. Attendance.

P = Present	T = Via Telephone	E = Excused	U = Unexcused	N/A = Not required
-------------	-------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------------

User Council Members

Primary				
T	Adams	Ocie	Mr.	SOA DOT&PF, Chair
P	Adams	Steve	Lt	SOA DPS, AST
T	Fronterhouse	Bev	Ms.	Fed Non-DOD, Bureau of Land Management
T	Goggia	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central
T	Johnson	Brad	Chief	Municipalities Northern, Fairbanks PD, Vice Chair
E	Kaizer	Bill	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, FBI
E	Lampshire	Chris	Patrol Captain	Fed Non-DOD, US Forest Service
T	Martin	Chris	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Pentimone	Lee	MSgt	DOD USAF, JBER
U	Sell	Kris	Lt	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
P	Skinner	Nate	Mr.	SOA All Others, DNR Forestry
	VACANT			DOD US Army, FGA DOIM

Alternate				
T	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, FBI
P	Eubank	Greg	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
U	Flowers	Alvin	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, TSA
E	Gibbs	David	Mr.	Municipalities Northern, Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Manager
N/A	Jones	Dave	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Kain	Paul	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, USFS
N/A	Patz	Greg	Mr.	SOA DOT
P	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, AST
E	Wolfe	John	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, US Fish & Wildlife Service
	VACANT			DOD USAF, JBER
	VACANT			DOD, US Army
	VACANT			Municipalities Central
	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests:

P	Conant	Travis	Mr.	System Manager
T	Shafer	Sherry	Ms.	Document Specialist
P	Smith	Del	Mr.	Operations Manager
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	SATS/ETS Manager
P	Woodall	Tim	Mr.	DOD PM/COR

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.



Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. Ocie Adams called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was not in attendance at the start of the meeting. Deputy Chief Brad Johnson was able to join the meeting later on and a quorum was achieved.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	There were no special guests or announcements.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Ocie tabled the motion initially due to the lack of a quorum. Once Brad was able to join later in the meeting, this was readdressed and Ocie asked the council members if they had any changes to the draft June minutes. There were no responses; therefore, he requested a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion: Approve the June 1 meeting minutes, as written. Motion: Brad Second: Mr. Nate Skinner There was no discussion and no objections. The motion passed .	
Issues & Risks Log	Active Issues	Action Items Assigned
User Council Vacancies	Item #57 remains open . Ocie advised the group there was a new vacancy since the last meeting. The Municipalities Central alternate position was also now vacant along with the JBER alternate, Southeast Municipalities alternate and both primary and alternate positions for USARAK. Mr. Del Smith noted that he had sent emails to the all points of contact for the agencies in the central region asking for nominees. He also spoke directly to the Fire Chiefs' Association on the Kenai Peninsula and stated he would reach out to them again next week. Ocie asked for other discussion and there was none.	
	Pending Issues	
	There were no pending issues.	
	Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting	
	There were no issues closed.	



<p>FY17 Operations Management Office (OMO) Contract</p>	<p>5. Del stated there was a new three-year contract extension for the OMO contract, but with a reduced scope of work. He advised there would no longer be any site visits with periodic maintenance inspection (PMI) oversight and no key variable loader or spares inventories. He stated Mr. Rich Leber, who performed these functions, retired effective June 30 and the funding in the new contract was reflective of the approximate one-third reduction with the deletion of his position. Del also noted the OMO Customer Support Plan (CSP) would need to be revised to reflect these changes and submitted to the council for re-approval.</p>	
<p>FY17 Membership Agreements</p>	<p>6. Del briefed that the Executive Council had approved the initial 90-day extension of the existing FY16 membership agreements, as recommended by the User Council to give time for the completion of the IOMS re-bid and approval of a State budget. He explained the agreements could not be sent until these two items were addressed because the agency cost share amounts were listed in the agreements.</p>	
<p>Unication Pager</p>	<p>7. Del advised the pager was currently with the Kenai Fire Department for testing, to his understanding.</p> <p>Ms. Tammy Goggia confirmed she had given it to Chief Jeff Tucker yesterday.</p>	
<p>Agency Radio Programming</p>	<p>8. Del advised there would be a couple articles in the July Insider reminding agencies to check their radios and ensure they were within limits. He noted some agencies think that once they receive them, they are always good. Del noted radios should be checked on a regular basis and mentioned some recent testing that was conducted and it was found the radios codeplugs were wrong, as well as the site preferences and the agency was blaming the problems on the System.</p>	
<p>Document Reviews</p>	<p>9. Del briefed the Risk Management Plan, Organizational Chart and Key Management Facility Procedure were all approved by the OMO for the month of June with only minor edits.</p>	
<p>System Metrics</p>	<p>10. Del stated the SMO provides the OMO a weekly report with the busies for all sites and then monthly report that the OMO uses for the metrics slides. He advised the council that for some unknown reason the busy count was off between the two and that the OMO is working with the SMO and the Help Desk to figure out why.</p>	
<p>REACT Alaska</p>	<p>3 (REVISITED). NOTE: Del introduced this issue during his update, but it was not discussed until later in the</p>	



	<p>meeting after the State of Alaska (SOA) update, when a quorum of council members were present.</p> <p>Del reminded the council that Greg was tasked at the last meeting with doing some research regarding REACT and then gave a recap of what he knew up to that point.</p> <p>Del also noted several months ago the local Delta chief had advised him that this individual was scanning calls on ALMR and putting it on Facebook®.</p> <p>Del noted he had also spoken to individuals at Delta, Fairbanks and the National Park Service and none of them have worked with REACT. He also stated he could not find any information that REACT Alaska has been or is providing any public safety services to anybody, although they want to.</p> <p>At this point, Del deferred to Greg.</p> <p>Greg stated there was very little information available. He noted he had contacted Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and all they had was Mr. Corty's phone number. He advised he had also checked the REACT International web site and there were zero REACT groups organized in Alaska listed and this could just indicate that this is a new group and they haven't established any working relationship with anybody. He noted this was all he could say with any opinion.</p> <p>Brad stated this looked like this could be a case of someone trying to gain access to the System to appear official.</p> <p>Ocie agreed based on the misrepresentation that had been provided over the course of the request for access. He asked if anyone else had any information.</p> <p>Mr. Woodall stated the UC might seek legal review from the State and also have an application process to keep the UC from being liable when they deny access.</p> <p>Greg suggested that the matter might be tabled until the criteria is reviewed and the UC should, in his opinion, establish a criteria for a sponsor for agencies joining the System.</p> <p>Brad disagreed and said there was nothing new going on here. He stated there is a process in place and the UC had followed the process and there was no legal obligation to accept agencies on the System. Brad also noted it was up to the UC to make that determination and that was why</p>	
--	---	--



	<p>they were vested with the authority. He stated he wasn't opposed to a legal review, but didn't think it was necessary.</p> <p>Ocie concurred and stated he didn't see any legal liability and didn't see any reason to delay a motion and vote.</p> <p>Mr. John Rockwell stated the response letter could reflect that the council was not comfortable with approving the request at this time and the individual could reapply at a later date.</p> <p>Ocie reminded the group there had been a motion and if there was no second, the motion would die.</p> <p>Ms Bev Fronterhouse requested the motion be reread.</p> <p>The OMO restated the original motion, as presented to the UC at the June meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the request of REACT Alaska for membership to operate on the ALMR System.</p> <p>The OMO explained the motion was tabled at the June meeting after the discussion.</p> <p>Brad clarified for the council an "Aye" vote would approve it and a "Nay" vote would deny it.</p> <p>Ocie asked for any further discussion and then requested all those in favor to say "Aye" and state their organization and there were no responses.</p> <p>The following members voted as opposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lt Steve Adams – Department of Public Safety • Deputy Chief Brad Johnson – Municipality of Fairbanks • Ms. Tammy Goggia – Municipalities Central • Ms. Bev Fronterhouse – Department of Interior • Mr. Nate Skinner – Department of Natural Resources • Mr. Greg Eubank – Department of Military and Veterans Affairs • Mr. Ocie Adams – Department of Transportation and Public Facilities <p>Ocie asked if there was a quorum of votes and the OMO advised there was. Ocie requested that Del prepare a letter advising the agency their request was not approved at this time.</p> <p>Del stated he would work this issue separately with Ocie.</p>	<p>1. The OMO to prepare a denial letter to the agency for the Chair signature.</p>
--	--	---



System Management Office	Mr. Travis Conant, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
<p>IOMS Contract Extension</p> <p>Hill 3265 and Pole Hill Quantar Replacement</p>	<p>1. Mr. Travis Conant stated there was an extension of the IOMS contract in place while the re-bid process continues.</p> <p>2. Travis advised the Quantars would be changed out later this month and they were working with Motorola® on the timeframe. He didn't expect a huge downtime at the sites to accomplish the work.</p>	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo, SOA	Action Items Assigned
<p>IOMS Contract</p> <p>System Expansions/Upgrades</p>	<p>1. Mr. Scott Stormo briefed the current IOMS contract was extended for six months until the follow-on contract is finalized and awarded.</p> <p>Mr. Tim Woodall thanked the SOA for executing the terms of the DOD IOMS so they had six months of coverage. He noted they were still working heavily on a memorandum of agreement to be able to transfer the funds for the extension and the new contract.</p> <p>2. Scott stated it had been a while since the UC had talked about areas without coverage or with poor coverage. He noted that during discussions with individuals out in the Valley (MatSu) that there were places where they didn't have coverage. Scott stated if there were opportunities in the future for expansion, there should be a user-validated, prioritized list ready. He noted the State budget process starts in the fall, and if any requests are to be made they need to be prepared and it would be better if they were submitted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) or the Department of Public Safety (DPS), then work with ETS to implement.</p> <p>Ocie stated as he was looking at the list, he had thought at one time Valdez was on the list and asked if there had been any improvement in the area.</p> <p>Del stated that Deputy Commission Comer, who was Chief there at the time, had advocated to the UC during a meeting for a site in a subdivision out toward the pass, but that did not occur.</p> <p>Ocie stated this might be considered as low-hanging fruit because there is already a tower there and the weigh scales could be used as a shelter. He noted there would probably not be a budget for radios for a while. Ocie stated he thought there might be some resources from some grants from the Federal Highway Association that had not been fulfilled, but that money was not available.</p>	



	<p>Mr. Greg Eubank advised the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) had a program called the Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) where someone, possibly himself, could go into the field to document these needs and it might be appropriate for the council to recommend it. He stated this is one part of the picture that might have been overlooked, as communications is not the primary focus. Greg mentioned Tok, Delta and Valdez could be documented for expansion and evaluated.</p> <p>Ocie stated Tok had decent coverage to the border, but Tok Cutoff was sorely lacking with only one analog radio.</p> <p>Greg noted both Chistichina and Mentasta had radios that were capable of operating on the System.</p> <p>Scott also noted there were opportunities on the Tok Cutoff, with some of the people that the SOA Telecommunications System (SATS) had partnered with in the past, to use their towers and get the power for the microwave up the Cutoff.</p> <p>Tim noted in that plan, they should look at the infrastructure owners that might have racks of Quantars that could be utilized if additional frequencies could be obtained and the left over channels could be used. He suggested the council identify what they want to expand and the priority of that expansion and begin the spectrum process now.</p> <p>Greg noted there was the whole spectrum to choose from but Tim reminded him that of the limitations with intermod issues at closely located sites and if they went outside the current waiver constraints the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agreed to, the State would have to hire an attorney to represent any new interests to the FCC, which costs money.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Tim Woodall, ALMR DOD Representative	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Tim Woodall had nothing additional for the council at this time.	
Old Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
	There were no Old Business items.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Wildland Fire Use of ALMR	<p>Del introduced this item and then turned the discussion over to Ms. Bev Fronterhouse.</p> <p>Bev advised there are two pieces to communication on wildland fire. The one is initial attack and response,</p>	



	<p>hopefully short in duration and that can happen along the road system or remotely. She stated ALMR has been utilized in the past for that initial attack, if it's the appropriate communication method in that geographic area.</p> <p>Bev briefed, if the Wildland Fire community is unable to catch that fire on initial attack, it goes to extended attack, which can result in large fires with hundreds to thousands of resources on those fires, long durations, etc. She noted for those fires, Wildland Fire is set up with portable repeater infrastructure and conventional channels that are utilized for tactical communications.</p> <p>Bev stated that extended attack fire traffic can overwhelm a system very quickly. She advised that within the Federal community, DOI does not use their conventional infrastructure when a fire goes to extended attack, but instead they put out portable repeaters, different frequencies, etc., for those extended attack fires.</p> <p>Bev expressed concern that the User Council had not made it very clear that ALMR was not be authorized for used for any wildland fire beyond initial attack, unless it's to communicate with other emergency responders for evacuation and with the Alaska State Troopers for traffic control along highways, etc. - only those operational type pieces and not tactical firefighting operations. She recommended the council provide guidance to the wildland fire community, which is the Department of the Interior BLM, in the State of Alaska with regards to extended attack, otherwise we could end up in the same situation as they were in during the evacuation during the Card Street Fire last year.</p> <p>Ocie asked if during extended attack fires there were command centers set up somewhere.</p> <p>Bev stated they typically do and they can vary in size from a handful of individuals to an overhead staff of a hundred plus; they are typically set up in communities, schools and along the road system, for example Tok or North Pole.</p> <p>Ocie queried that along that line of doing correct command and control, they'd have a fire chief in the field talking to a command center and the command center would be the one responsible for soliciting additional forces.</p> <p>Bev answered yes for other emergency responses, State Troopers and things like that. She stated even though it is extended attack, she could see the need for utilization of ALMR, but only for incident command post (ICP).</p>	
--	---	--



	<p>Ocie said he thought it was a well thought out and logical process and asked Bev what it was she wanted from the council.</p> <p>She stated she would like to propose a motion that ALMR provide to the Alaska Wildland Fire community that ALMR is not available for extended attack except for coordination with emergency responders through the ICP.</p> <p>Scott asked if the council had anything else like this now that restricts ALMR for usage in any other situation.</p> <p>Del asked the council if they really wanted to restrict usage. He also mentioned the incident during the Funny River Fire where there were over 600 busies. He noted that site has had capacity added since then. Del added what normally would occur was the SMO, OMO and POCs for the involved agencies could restrict utilization of the site in question during the incident, but beyond that, he didn't think so.</p> <p>Brad stated that the council would be setting a precedent and rather than making a motion to restrict their usage of the System, the OMO could draft a letter laying out the concerns and issues and request that ALMR not be used for extended attack and that they use other available resources.</p> <p>Bev stated she thought that was very acceptable, but she thought there needed to be some clarity out there, because when other resources are brought up from the lower 48, they don't understand the implications of the continued use of ALMR.</p> <p>Greg mentioned that storm plans should have been developed ten years ago that could restrict people from talking.</p> <p>Scott disagreed and stated he could never think of a time that a policy should be made excluding individuals from an enterprise system. He mentioned recent complaints from the people in the MatSu about being kicked off the System and it would create a bad precedent.</p> <p>Ocie stated the education process for this would be very important and gave an example of operations DOT had implemented. He noted with a training program the changes could be made without causing heartburn.</p> <p>Bev asked Nate if it would be more effective for SOA and BLM to jointly release information that for extended attack</p>	
--	---	--



	<p>Wildland Fire should use their conventional system and stay off of ALMR. She pointed out this way the direction was coming from with Wildland Fire Program and not direction coming from ALMR and Nate agreed it should be done internally.</p> <p>Greg once again mentioned the use of storm plans he had available that could help restrict traffic and was controlled through the dispatch center and all the radio operators had to do is pick one button and it would happen automatically. He pointed it was an option that is available and is not being utilized.</p> <p>Del noted that as the Operations Manager of ALMR he was not going to tell agencies what they can and cannot do. His job was to ensure, to the best of his ability, that ALMR provides whatever they need. He stated if agencies chose to use storm plans, that is their decision, but the OMO is not going to tell them how they are going to operate.</p> <p>Bev stated she would work with Nate and put out guidance to all the communications leaders that if they go to extended attack, they are to use of conventional frequencies and not ALMR.</p> <p>Del strongly endorsed that approach within the fire community and stated it should not come out of the OMO or the User Council.</p> <p>Ocie agreed and stated the council was not “big brother” and were there to serve everybody.</p> <p>Bev advised that she would keep the council in the loop.</p>	
Next meeting	Discussion	
	Ocie announced the next two meetings were August 3 and September 7.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>Ocie asked if there were any other comments or discussion items. Hearing none, he stated he would accept a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the July monthly User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Nate Second: Brad</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.</p>	