



Alaska Land Mobile Radio

**ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 1, 2016

1. Attendance.

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

| Primary | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| E | 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 |
| N/A | 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 |
| P | 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 | | | | |
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| T | Brown | David | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, FBI |
| N/A | Boyle | Steve | Mr. | Municipalities Central, Assistant Chief KES |
| P | Eubank | Greg | Mr. | SOA All Others, DMVA |
| N/A | Flowers | Alvin | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, TSA |
| N/A | Gibbs | David | Mr. | Municipalities Northern, Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Manager |
| N/A | Jones | Dave | Mr. | DOD USAF, Eielson AFB |
| P | Kain | Paul | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, USFS |
| T | 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 | | | Municipalities Southeast |
| | VACANT | | | DOD, US Army |

Supporting Staff and Guests:

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| P | Conant | Travis | Mr. | System Manager |
| P | Leber | Rich | Mr. | Technical Advisor |
| P | Leveque | Matt | Mr. | SOA SPOC & SWIC |
| 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 |
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| Call to Order | Deputy Chief Brad Johnson advised the council he would be chairing the meeting today as Mr. Ocie Adams, User Council Chair, was unavailable. He called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. | |
| Roll Call | Roll call was taken and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was in attendance. | |
| Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements | There were no special guests or announcements. | |
| Previous Meeting Minutes | Brad asked the council members if they had any changes to the draft May minutes. There were no responses; therefore, he requested a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion: Approve the May 4 meeting minutes, as written. Motion: Mr. Paul Kain Second: Ms. Bev Fronterhouse 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. Brad noted that there were no changes to the log since the May meeting. | |
| | Pending Issues | |
| | There were no pending issues. | |
| | Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting | |
| | There were no issues closed. | |
| Action Items Review | Opened Items | Resolution |
| | Brad announced there were no Action Items to review from the May meeting. | |
| Operations Management Office | Mr. Del Smith, Operations Manager | Action Items Assigned |
| FY17 Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Services (IOMS) Contract | 1. Mr. Del Smith briefed that the IOMS contract was still in the request for proposal process and asked Mr. Scott Stormo if he had any additional information. | |



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| <p>FY17 Operations Management Office (OMO) Contract</p> | <p>Scott advised the responses were not due until June 8 and they were in discussion regarding the extension of the current contract.</p> <p>2. Del stated the State had met with the contracting companies and accepted the proposed reduction in cost and scope of work and they were moving toward completion of the contracting paperwork for the final three-year extension, hopefully before June 30.</p> | |
| <p>Unication Pager</p> | <p>3. Del provided the brief history regarding the loan of the pager from the company and advised he had delivered it to Ms. Tammy Goggia to pass around to the Kenai area fire departments to see what they thought about it. He noted the price for the unit was \$995 retail and also that it had worked pretty well when the OMO had tested it.</p> | |
| <p>Annual Subscriber Inventory</p> | <p>4. Del advised the council the annual subscriber verification had been completed with the receipt of the final agency form on May 18.</p> | |
| <p>Document Reviews</p> | <p>5. Del briefed the Technology Procedure 300-2 had been updated by the OMO in May and the policy required no updates.</p> | |
| <p>System Metrics</p> | <p>6. Del stated that voice calls were up around 100K and busies were also up concurrently. He pointed out the heavy contributors for the busies were the sites for the ranges at Eielson Air Force Base, with 77 at Hill 3265 and 620 at Pole Hill.</p> | |
| <p>Cottonwood Site</p> | <p>Del also briefed there had been a fire near Blueberry with 18 Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) firetrucks and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) crews responding. He noted the comms went smoothly.</p> <p>7. Del advised the council the site had been struck by lightning at approximately 7:30 p.m. on May 29. He explained all the equipment had been removed for examination.</p> <p>Scott further explained that the Goose Creek Correctional Center (GCCC) was the only agency where connectivity had not been re-established with the System, and they were working directly with the Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) to get the circuits restored by the end of the day, hopefully. He also advised the group that there was a company rehabbing the shelter and hoped to start reinstalling equipment over the weekend.</p> <p>Del pointed out that the Alcantra coverage was not too much different than the Cottonwood site and they</p> | |



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| | <p>overlapped in some areas except to the North. He advised he assumed MATCOM had utilized its “doomsday” radios in the interim.</p> <p>Del also applauded the System Management Office (SMO) staff and Scott and his Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) staff for their efforts they put in to deal with the Cottonwood site and get it re-installed as soon as possible. He explained they were out there working on the holiday until the early morning hours.</p> <p>Mr. John Rockwell asked if the site performed as expected during the lightning strike.</p> <p>Mr. Travis Conant advised it did, stating the receive antenna took the blunt of the strike and then it traveled to the polyphaser.</p> <p>John asked if the System worked as expected.</p> <p>Scott pointed out that MATCOM only has one connection to the System, so the lack of redundancy prevented the immediate re-route of traffic.</p> <p>Del stated four additional sites were also knocked down on the Richardson Highway but ETS was able to get them re-routed quickly.</p> <p>Scott explained once they are able to get the MPLS Network installed, those site would have automatically re-routed.</p> <p>Mr. Matt Leveque asked if the site equipment had been damaged or not usable, would replacement parts have been available to utilize.</p> <p>Scott stated the microwave was licensed specific to the site, so ETS would have to obtain a temporary license to install other parts from around the shop. He stated they didn’t know if any of the equipment was working or not, it was setting outside getting wiped/cleaned off.</p> <p>Scott stated he was pretty confident they could piece together enough scraps and parts to get the ALMR portion of the site back up, but they were not resourced to do something like that if it happened more than once. He pointed out if it was not local it would be far more difficult to do this.</p> <p>Mr. Tim Woodall advised the Department of Defense had a bunch of Quantars available for use as loaners.</p> | |
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| <p>REACT Alaska</p> | <p>Matt asked if there was an idea, and financially, what the worst case scenario for equipment replacement would be.</p> <p>Scott stated the ballpark figure would be approximately \$550K minus labor because Cottonwood is a hub site and there is a lot more microwave in there than normal, so it would be one of the more expensive sites to replace. He pointed out trying to order microwave could take 60 – 90 days to order not taking into consideration getting approval.</p> <p>Paul asked what caught fire.</p> <p>Scott advised it was some wiring in a box where the fiber came in. He explained the strike hit the power pole and blew the meter and circuit breaker and then came in through a trace wire which started the fire.</p> <p>8. Del reminded the council he had brought them up several weeks ago. He noted he was provided the documentation that they were a non-profit private entity. Del pointed out they are a chapter of REACT International and read off several statements of understanding that existed between REACT and other public safety entities (Red Cross, Salvation Army, NOAA).</p> <p>Del stated there were two other similar agencies (Amateur Radio Emergency Services [ARES] and Alaska Professional Volunteers [APV]) operating on ALMR. He pointed he had completed the checklist and they met all the requirements.</p> <p>Brad requested, given they've met the council requirements, someone to offer a motion to approve their membership and then further discussion could occur afterwards.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the request of REACT Alaska for membership to operate on the ALMR System.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Nate Skinner Second: Lt Steve Adams</p> <p>Del stated the documentation he had been able to obtain showed they had a mission to provide public safety support and he read their mission statement for the national organization to the council.</p> <p>Mr. Greg Eubank stated he was a little cautiously curious about Mr. Corty, because he had claimed they were members of ARES, but they were not listed in the ARES data base. He noted he would like to do some further</p> | |
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| | <p>research and talk to Mr. Corty; Del stated he would be glad to point him in Greg's direction.</p> <p>Matt wondered if there were people who could validate that they've received support from REACT Alaska.</p> <p>Brad asked if it was the council's desire then to table the motion until the July meeting to allow Greg an opportunity to do some further investigation, and everyone agreed.</p> <p>Del stated he would provide Mr. Corty with Greg's email and phone number.</p> | |
| System Management Office | Mr. Travis Conant, System Manager | Action Items Assigned |
| <p>Cottonwood Site</p> <p>Alaska Legislator Discussion</p> <p>Hill 3265</p> | <p>1. Mr. Travis Conant stated that Del had covered everything that he could think of about the situation at the Cottonwood site.</p> <p>2. Travis advised he had recently been in Juneau and had the opportunity to speak to Representative Gattis, who has been very critical of the System, for about 15 minutes. He noted he shared a lot of information on how important ALMR is to the users but at this point it was probably too late to make any difference this year.</p> <p>3. Travis stated the SMO had worked on Hill 3265 pursuant to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) interference complaint and the testing they did proved it wasn't the ALMR System causing the problems.</p> | |
| State of Alaska | Mr. Scott Stormo, SOA | Action Items Assigned |
| <p>State of Alaska FY17 Budget</p> <p>System Expansions/Upgrades</p> | <p>1. Mr. Scott Stormo briefed the council that the State of Alaska (SOA) budget had been passed last night and the proposed cuts to both the SOA Telecommunications System (SATS) and ALMR had occurred. He also noted the capitals funds for the console replacements appeared to be in the budget. Scott noted Representative Gattis had previously put in an amendment to strip the consoles out of the budget about a week ago, but the unintentional conversation with Travis had seemed to help to change her perspective.</p> <p>2. Scott explained that ETS has a couple opportunities at the Tok cutoff and Taylor Mountain to secure locations to put ALMR in without having to build out SATS sites. He stated in the past, he had seen indications that the Tok Cutoff was a high priority but he would like to get a prioritized list where expansions should occur, if the opportunity ever presents itself, and he'd like to work up options ahead of time and get plans in place.</p> | |



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| | <p>Mr. John Rockwell asked if they hadn't put that together when looking at the budget for 2016.</p> <p>Del stated there hasn't been any discussions in a while because the budget wouldn't support it. He pointed the last two discussion were North Pole and Delta Junction but those were tabled.</p> <p>Brad asked about the previous spreadsheet that existed and Del stated the OMO could provide it. Brad asked that this issue be put on the July meeting agenda to review it.</p> <p>John recalled Valdez had been part of the discussion and Del explained the additional sites although needed would probably not be approved due to on-going funding issues.</p> <p>Brad asked everyone to take a look at the spreadsheet and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.</p> <p>Scott also asked everyone to think about if there were other capabilities that could be useful on the System, it was worth talking about. He mentioned a CAD system he and Nate had discussed and also a light transportable system that Motorola® had shown him that was in use in the DC area.</p> <p>Scott also noted he may have some capital funds available, which were previously allotted for a warehouse for ETS, but were not committed due to permitting issues with the MOA.</p> | <p>1. OMO to provide the historical spreadsheet of the UC site upgrade and System expansion proposals.</p> |
| <p>Department of Defense</p> | <p>Mr. Tim Woodall, ALMR DOD Representative</p> | <p>Action Items Assigned</p> |
| <p>ALMR Risk Mitigation Planning</p> | <p>1. Mr. Tim Woodall advised the council the Department of Defense (DOD) was working on mitigation planning scenarios regarding the underfunding/lack of funding to sustain the ALMR cooperative. He stated they currently had six different technical solutions from separating them into an independent connection at Birch Hill with an ISSI connection to Tudor Road, to completely leaving ALMR and becoming part of US Pacific Command's network across the Pacific Rim area.</p> <p>Tim explained the need to be in compliance with the Defense Information Assurance Risk Management Framework (DIARMF) is part of the reason for this exercise; no Federal agency can legally operate on a system not in compliance with those standards. He emphasized there are rumors out there but there is no decisions pending to leave ALMR, but that DOD is doing what DOD does, and that is planning for the worst case scenario. Tim advised the amount of time it takes to get</p> | |



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| | <p>Tim noted all these issues are very serious for the DOD and there is a lot of risk mitigation taking place, but DOD is hopeful that they can find a way to get the contract awarded through the State before the middle of September and they will only have two or three months of risk with no ability to maintain the System. He stated the DOD wanted to have the truth out there so everyone understands what is going on. Tim emphasized that there is a solution out there through the State RFP, there is money and it can be transferred, if they can find a way to make this all work.</p> | |
| Old Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| | There were no Old Business items. | |
| New Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| FirstNet | <p>1. Mr. Matt Leveque advised the RFP for FirstNet closed yesterday and it starts the next step of evaluation. He pointed out there is no way to know how many bidders there were, and so the timeline for the State plan to be delivered to the Governor is around the end of June 2017.</p> <p>Matt advised they are looking for five people from each state to participate in the Quality of Service, Priority and Pre-emption (QPP) Consultation Task Team and these should be individuals with expertise in managing systems and also from the operational perspective where application of QPP standards would have made a difference. He asked if the council knew anyone with the technical or operational experience, to send them his way because it was important to have individuals in Alaska who understood the QPP/local control concept was developed and he was also throwing his name in the hat so somebody at least can be there to listen. Matt pointed out the current expectation for the team is that there will be three, one-hour webinars over the course of the summer.</p> | |
| National Governor's Association Policy Academy | <p>2. Matt stated the State was successful in applying for the National Governor's Association Policy Academy, which was co-sponsored by the Federal Office of Emergency Communications. He noted there was a meeting in Boise in mid-May with participation by the Deputy Commissioner from Administration, the Deputy Commissioner from Transportation, the Director from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Kenai Fire Chief Jeff Tucker and himself. He explained they were looking at developing a statewide governance model which would cover vetting of communications investments, better targeted training and exercises. Matt noted both DC Boucher and DC Hatter were absolutely on board.</p> <p>Matt also noted July 11-12, the National Governor's Association, with the Office of Emergency</p> | |



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| | <p>Communications, are coming to Alaska and will be focused on two things; 1) establishing a proposal for governance for the Governor and 2) revising the draft Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), which was last looked at in October 2013.</p> <p>Matt expected they would be looking for representatives from APCO/NENA, the Alaska Association of the Chiefs of Police, the Alaska Fire Chiefs' Association and the Alaska Radio Emergency Services.</p> | |
| Next meeting | Discussion | |
| | Brad announced the next two meetings were July 6 and August 3. | |
| Adjournment | Discussion | |
| | <p>Brad asked if there were any other comments or discussion items.</p> <p>Hearing none, he stated he would accept a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the June monthly User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Nate Second: Paul</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.</p> | |