



**ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)**



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April 15, 2021

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: January 21 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present: (all members attended via teleconference)

Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan	State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety
Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6
ASAC Adam Pierce	Alaska Federal Executive Association – Federal Bureau of Investigation
Mr. David Gibb	Alaska Municipal League – Fairbanks North Star Borough
Deputy Chief Mike Kerle	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair (via teleconference)
Mr. Chris Letterman	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Travis Conant	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Craig Christensen	State of Alaska – Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (via teleconference)
Mr. Scott Stormo	SOA ALMR Program Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALMR PM/COR – ALCOM/J6(via teleconference)
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN (via teleconference)
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Timothy Brandt	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Joe Piksa	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Paolo Caltogirone	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Christine O’Connor	Alaskatel (via teleconference)

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Deputy Commissioner Morgan and the roll was read.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

a. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if any members of the Executive Board have any opening statements or other announcements they would like to make. Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis advised he had been apprised by Mr Woodall through the state of the some of the DoD members being in arrears and as far as payments they were working to get that fixed. He added, he just wanted to let everybody know that that that would be fixed as soon as the funding becomes available with this fiscal year's funds.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if any other members or anybody online had any opening statements or other announcements they would like to make?

b. Mr. Timothy Woodall advised that it although it did not show it on the agenda, Motorola would be presenting a Life cycle presentation and he recommended making a motion to permit them to provide that up front before Old Business and then dismiss them and continue the meeting. He also stated Colonel Davis had a conflicting meeting at 2:00 o'clock and wanted to get that briefing completed before he departed.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan made a motion to move the Motorola presentation up before old business and requested a second. Colonel Davis made the second.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any dissent or if any other members have any issue with that. There were no comments and the motion passed.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if the members had reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the October Executive Council meeting.

Motion: Approve the October 15, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

Hearing no requests for changes Deputy Commissioner Morgan made a motion for approval and Colonel Davis seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Motorola Life Cycle Briefing. Mr. Tim Brant with Motorola introduced himself as the presenter and encouraged everyone to ask questions as we go along and if there

was anything that was confusing or you want to have further discussion, he would make himself available either right now or later.

Mr. Brandt advised typically, once a year, Motorola was asked to do a briefing to provide an update on the life cycle planning aspects of keeping the ALMR network current and sustainable.

He presented the briefing at this point.

5. Old Business.

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr Stormo Scott to give a quick update on the Quantar replacement and where we are with that.

Mr. Stormo briefed they are continuing to meet weekly with Motorola and advised there hasn't been anybody up here for about a month and it would be another month before they got some System Technologists (STs) back up to continue with installing the equipment at the sites. He added they were continuing to make progress, obviously considerably slower than desired, mostly because of what has happened with the pandemic, which is not only made travel and difficult, but also impacted some of the manufacturing equipment process as well.

Mr. Stormo stated they are working on other stuff on the side, such as the 1,900 TDMA upgrades to existing APEX radios. He briefed they are working with Motorola to get that software in hand, and then we will be working with all the state and local agencies to figure out how to get their radios upgraded to work TDMA.

Mr. Stormo advised they are also traveling around the state at the moment looking at towers trying to get structural analyses done to accommodate the newer, larger, heavier antennas that that will come with this upgrade, so a lot of work going on by both Motorola and their subcontractors and also by the state.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Stormo, with the pandemic and travel issues, if there was an adjusted sort of completion time on the GTR project.

Mr. Stormo replied they are still optimistically hoping that it will be done by the end of this summer season. He added there is a large second shipment of equipment that should all be here by the last of March, so at that point they would have all the RF site equipment in the state, and it would just be a matter of getting it scheduled and installed, Mr. Stormo stated their expectation, obviously with the helicopter sites, is that all that work would be happening during the summer months, so hopefully they will have this all done by fall, and if the DoD and the Muni have a contract to do the upgrade, then the upgrade could start sometime after that.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any questions for Scott regarding the Quantar/GTR replacement and there were none.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised nothing changed with the 911 working group in terms of interoperability or anything to do with ALMR and in terms of a long-term cost share solution that will that that the DPS position has not changed as well.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated they had already talked about the DOD contract for system upgrade and asked Mr Woodall if he had any update on this.

Mr. Woodall advised they are in conversations and the briefing that was just given helps leadership understand the process, but when you change personnel every one to two years, it is a little bit difficult for new people to get in sync with the upgrade requirements, those sorts of things, but they are working through all of that. He stated since the last upgrade in 2017, the services weren't unaware that there were upgrade requirements for projected costs for 2018, 2019, and 2020, and with the different funding avenues that were taking place, some of them came through and some of them did not, so they have some agencies that are funded and some agencies are not. Mr. Woodall added all have to be funded together, so we're trying to work through that judiciously to justify any unfunded requirements.

5. User Council Update.

Mr. Rockwell briefed there were current vacant positions for the Federal Non-DOD and he had received a letter recommending two persons for those positions, Mr Ross Atkinson as a primary representative from BLM and Mr Timothy Boyce, as the alternate representative from National Park Service.

Mr. Rockwell offered the following motion for the council's consideration.

Motion: Approve the appointment of Mr. Ross Atkinson of BLM, Alaska Fire Service, and Mr Timothy Boyce of the National Park Service, as new primary and alternate Federal Non-DOD Department of Interior representatives to the ALMR User Council, respectively.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion as presented for approval and ASAC Adam Pierce seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Incident Command Zone Update. Mr. Chris Letterman briefed the System Management Office (SMO) pushed the console updates yesterday morning with no issues. He added the SMO did make some proactive calls out to several of the dispatch agencies and confirmed everyone was happy and there were no problems, and it is just it is good to be moving forward on that.

Mr. Letterman also noted the Operations Management Office (OMO) sent out the transition smart cards, which are basically a cheat sheet which provides the old zones versus the new in an easy-to-read format. He stated these have been sent out to the dispatch centers and all agencies on ALMR. Mr. Letterman added we have started an outreach project where we are discussing things with vendors now and so we have shared all that information with vendors who are predominantly programming end user subscriber units.

b. Service Level Agreement. Mr. Letterman advised This has been sent to the AFEA for signature and as soon as that is done, we will be finished with suspense on that.

ASAC Pierce stated he was meeting with Givey Kochanowski, Department of Energy Senior Advisor, this afternoon in a couple hours to get that signature and he would then get it over to the OMO.

c. Website Update. Mr. Letterman briefed the website was successfully launched on December 27 and asked the council members to look at it and “kick the tires” as the OMO is always open to hear constructive feedback. He added if there are obvious misses and there is something that they see that we missed, please let us know, but the initial feedback we've received so far has been all positive.

d. Training. Mr. Letterman advised the first virtual training classes were held last year on November 18, which was sort of an ALMR 101-Introduction to ALMR, and then we followed that up in December with a radio walk around on December 15th. He stated both of those were recorded and they have been posted out to the website under the Training and Presentations menu, so anyone that was not present can easily go out there and watch that.

Mr. Letterman added what we were looking at here in the first and maybe even into the second quarter, from the feedback he received during my outreach project, is that folks are really interested in working through some kind of a scenario. He noted that in speaking with our trainer earlier this month we were thinking of some interrupt zone scenario training to help cement the fact that we have moved over from the Incident Command Zones to Interoperability Zones and coming up with some scenarios. Mr. Letterman advised the other primary thing that we are going to try and tackle is some interactive programming guidance for the local agencies that may have someone in their agency that is a programmer that has the cables and the necessary equipment to do programming, but they're just looking for a little bit of guidance, so we are in the process of trying to figure out the best way to do that in an interactive fashion utilizing teams and video cameras, etc.

e. Logo Contest. Mr. Letterman stated we have received entries and those have been shared in today's packet and we are asking that each of the Executive Council members look at them and rank them in in kind of a rating. He advised an online voting link will be send out this afternoon and once we have a kind of a clear and present winner, it will be sent over to our design team and have them make some professional

renderings. Mr. Letterman noted once that was complete, it would be sent back around to the Executive Council for voting.

f. Outreach/Awareness. Mr. Letterman briefed he had completed contacting local agencies and was going to start working on the state agencies. He added the other thing he had previously mentioned was the outreach effort with our vendors providing service to the ALMR user community and the OMO has met with four and has one more to meet with tomorrow, and there are a couple more that we have learned about in our discussions with some of the other vendors. Mr. Letterman stated this has been well received and he thinks it will do the community good so that everyone can stay on the same page. He noted the OMO was going to try and meet with vendors quarterly moving forward.

g. Annual reports. Mr. Letterman advised the council three annual reports approved by the User Council and had been included in their packets and they are the annual Business Case, the User Council Annual Assessment on System Operations and Management Performance and the Annual information Assurance Report of Findings. He stated these are included for final approval by the EC.

g. June System Metrics. Mr. Letterman concluded with the December system metrics. He briefed for group calls there were 1,071,383 for December which was up from 2019 by about 6000 additional group calls. He noted the push to talks were approximately 1.9M and we had increased push to talks by 30,000 from 2019. Mr. Letterman added for system busies for the month of December, we had 212 and in 2019 we had 508, so we reduced busies by 296. He added the subscriber count at the end of the year was 23,057 and the subscriber count from 2019 was 22,191, so we have added 866 subscriber units to the to the network in the past year.

7. New Business.

a. Mr. Woodall stated, at some point in light of the Motorola briefing and the fact we as a cooperative are behind schedule or on the edge, that the Executive Council consider endorsing the OPEX funding approach and add it to the annual maintenance cossets versus the CAPEX approach. He added they could not mandate it but could strongly recommend it as the norm and ask agencies to look at budgeting for it.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan suggested this be scheduled for the next meeting. He noted with the consortium parties having funding by three independent entities with different budget cycles, they would have to work toward some sort of alignment.

Mr. Woodall advised because of those complexities it lends to the OPEX approach to assist in resolving the annual maintenance/upgrade approach and there was a strong advocacy to open the conversation at various levels.

b. Mr. Chris Letterman requested that the idea of giving folks a timeline for switching to TDMA radios be included in the next meeting, as well. He added that he has received

input from some of the local agencies that this will help them get it on their funding calendars.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if this had been presented to the User Council.

Mr. Letterman stated it had and that five years out seems to be the timeframe that everyone can agree upon and if we have something from the EC on this for an end state, we can help the municipalities.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Letterman to have a TDMA briefing ready for April.

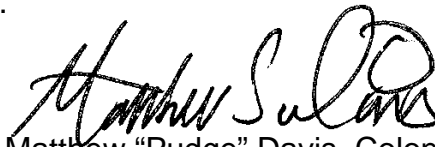
8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020, at 1:30 at 5900 E. Tudor, and he would like to get together in person.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any other comments or anything to add to the meeting and hearing none requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the January 21 Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by Deputy Commissioner Morgan and seconded by Mr. Woodall on behalf of Colonel Davis. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



Matthew "Pudge" Davis, Colonel, USAF
ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce
AML, Mr. David Gibbs
MOA, Deputy Chief Michael Kerle
OMO, Mr. Chris Letterman
SOA DMVA, Deputy Commissioner Craig Christenson
SOA DMVA, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
SOA DMVA, Mr. Randy Kilbourne