



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

January XX, 2022

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: October 27 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan

State of Alaska – Department of Public
Safety

Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis
ASAC Adam Pierce

Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6
Alaska Federal Executive Association –
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Assistant Chief Alex Boyd

Alaska Municipal League – Anchorage Fire
Department (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. John Rockwell
Mr. Dan Nelson
Mr. Travis Conant
Mr. Trygve Erickson

User Council Chair
ALMR Operations Manager
ALMR System Manager (via teleconference)
Municipality of Anchorage (via
teleconference)

Mr. Timothy Woodall
Mr. David Reed
Mr. Jim Nicholls
Mr. Fred Miller
Mr. Pete Rogell
Mr. Mickey Flores
Mr. Jacob Butcher
Ms. Sherry Shafer

ALMR PM/COR – ALCOM/J6
Information Systems Security Manager
Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)
Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)
BK Technologies (via teleconference)
BK Technologies (via teleconference)
MATCOM (via teleconference)
Operations Management Office (via
teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The roll was read.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any opening statements or other announcements and there were none.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if the members had reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the July Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes.

ASAC Adam Pierce noted the date in the subject was listed as April versus July and Ms. Shafer stated she would correct the date. Deputy Commissioner Morgan requested a motion to accept the minutes with the noted correction.

Motion: Approve the July 15, Executive Council meeting minutes, with the correction as noted.

Colonel Matthew Davis made a motion for approval and ASAC Adam Pierce seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. John Rockwell if there were any updates on the Quantar replacement project as Mr. Scott Stormo was on leave.

Mr. Rockwell stated the last he had heard was that there were six sites left, five of those are in southeast and one is in Anchorage, which may get done over the winter, but there's some engineering to be done. He added the crews were doing an amazing job as they had not just replaced on the Quantars, but they had worked the towers and also had to replace antennas at many sites. Mr. Rockwell briefed the combination between the Motorola team, the System Management Office (SMO) team and Mr. Stormo's team was doing an awesome job, but he didn't know if they were going to be finalized before the snow hits as they are running out of two important things for them to get finished. He advised the first was good weather and it had already turned cold and the second was adequate daylight hours to fly the helicopter to the site and complete the work. Mr. Rockwell advised with the shorter days and the Quantar replacement taking over six hours to do, they will have to wait until spring to finish up, which pushes some of the other projects down the line. He added they are anticipating that TDMA will go live with the next software version upgrade in August or September of 2022.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Morgan reminded everyone the governor is aware of this and like he had said in July, Mr. Tyson Gallagher, the Governor's Assistant Chief of Staff, was looking at the whole issue, but at this time there hasn't been any feedback for anybody on it.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised this is most likely a state issue because the folks that are not really contributing to ALMR are all local state entities. He added the principalities, everybody at the table, are already paying so that will require some sort of executive political action, but everybody is aware of the issue.

d. DOD Contract for System Upgrade. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis or Mr. Timothy Woodall for the update on this item.

Mr. Woodall stated they were looking to have the task order for the contract in place by December. He added the Air Force had their funding in place along with a contingency to pay the cost of the North Zone Controller update if the Army doesn’t get their funding.

Mr. Rockwell asked Mr. Trygve Erikson if the Municipality of Anchorage had any issues with getting their funding and Mr. Erikson stated there were no issues

5. User Council Update.

a. Mr. Rockwell briefed there were still vacancies in several of the sectors, the SOA DOT primary, the Municipalities North primary, the Central primary and Federal Non-DOD alternate. He noted the DOT primary position would likely not be filled by the end of the year.

Mr. Rockwell offered the following motion to the council to fill the Municipalities North vacancy.

Motion: Approve the appointment of Deputy Chief Keith Berrian as the primary representative and Fire Marshal Kyle Green as the alternate representative for the Municipalities-North sector of the ALMR User Council.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion as articulated by Mr. Rockwell and Colonel Davis seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. Mr. Rockwell advised the User Council was currently in the process of making their nominations for the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair. He noted voting would take place in November with the results being announced at the December council meeting and the electees taking office in January 2022.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Training. Mr. Dan Nelson introduced himself to the council noting he was with Emergency Management in the Kenai Peninsula for many years, and before that he started as a dispatcher for the troopers and that was his first exposure to ALMR. He added it's been very interesting to come to the other side of that equation from a user to

the management and governance. Mr. Nelson stated it's been a very enjoyable month and he appreciated Mr. Chris Letterman who left things in good order for him and all of the folks with the ALMR team that have kept him out of trouble and helped him out.

Mr. Nelson briefed the Operations Management Office (OMO) has developed some administrative training for our member agencies which is more focused on administrative needs such as inventory and keeping records, which is really essential for the Help Desk, as well as the system setup. He added the training was done, but there are a few little technical issues with our website, but hopefully when Technical Support gets that resolved it will get posted.

Mr. Nelson advised that at the User Council meeting next week another training session will be presented which is specific to our user Council representatives and their role and their communication with the individual users. He stated he hopes this will encourage more engagement by the User Council and get everybody on the same page there.

b. Annual Surveys. Mr. Nelson stated the annual surveys were released in late August and there were two of them, one on coverage and prioritization, as well as our customer satisfaction survey and those are due by the end of the week. He briefed there were some submissions, but not nearly as many as hoped for, but the OMO has been asking our points of contact to try and encourage their members. Mr. Nelson also noted it seems a lot of the responses go back to not knowing the resources that are available or the things that the team makes available, which again goes back to outreach and training.

c. IWCE. Mr. Nelson advised he had attended IWCE along with Mr Letterman, Mr Conant, and a few others from Motorola. He stated it was a very good conference with many great sessions and one specific thing he appreciated was there's a lot to talk about Verizon Frontline, push-to-talk cellular, and LTE and the attitude that those are really going to be complementary to push-to-talk two-way radio and not trying to replace them. Mr. Nelson noted that's definitely a change from what we heard a few years ago and there is now more recognition of the value of land mobile radio systems.

Mr. Nelson stated cybersecurity was a very big theme as things in that arena continue with the development of the standard. He also saw the need to work a little bit with the Project 25 Technical Interest Group, which he hoped will be participating a little bit more on the technical standpoint, but also there was a good amount of knowledge and good things on the non-technical side.

Mr. Nelson briefed one of the quotes from the conference he really enjoyed was, "Interoperability is 20 percent technology and 80 percent coordination," and although we are pretty good at coordination, sometimes the technical solutions given need to be refined.

d. System metrics. Mr. Nelson briefed calls were down about 124,000 from August, push-to-talks were down just over 1,964,000 and there were 344 system busies throughout the month, which was down 266. He noted there the subscriber count went

down about 41 units to 23,910 and the sites under three nines availability were at 24, of which half of that number were attributed to the GTR upgrades, microwave updates, or preventative maintenance.

Mr. Erikson added the subscriber count does not include the radios belonging to the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN), which has about 3,400 units.

7. New Business.

a. Project 25 Technology Interest Group. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated the under new business was the nomination for Mr. Nelson to replace Mr. Letterman on the P25 interest group board.

Motion. Executive Council nominates Mr. Dan Nelson to a Board of Directors position on the Project 25 Technical Interest Group.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion as presented and it was seconded by Colonel Davis. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. SOA Budget. Deputy Commissioner Morgan announced they were in the middle of the budget of process and recognize some of the budget needs for the ALMR system on top of their recent hardware upgrade. He added there are some initiatives they are trying to tackle for ALMR, and he would be able to give a better update by January after the Governor releases the state budget in December.

c. DOD FY22 Budget. Colonel Davis advised the group the Department of Defense was still under a continuing resolution until December 30, and they don't know if Congress will approve the National Defense Authorization Act, so there may be issues with having full amounts of funds in December. He briefed they are working as hard as they can to get those funds upfront at the beginning of the year rather than sending it out throughout the whole year. Colonel Davis also noted he believed the transportable unit will be funded, as well as the upgrade. He reiterated the funds had been allocated in their budget lines for the upgrade, but it may not happen in the very beginning of the year because of continuing resolution. Colonel Davis stated he anticipated having funding by the second quarter.

d. Fiduciary Responsibility. Mr. Woodall reminded the council members he had discussed the issue several meetings ago regarding the need to look more in depth with regard to fiduciary responsibilities. He stated he had put some paperwork together that he had presented, which Mr. Letterman was working to get some more Federal Non-DOD input and Mr. Stormo was working on it on the state side of the house. Mr. Woodall briefed he would need to work out where they are with that process, but it looks like they will have to have some sort of inter service support agreement that calls out the responsibilities of each of the agencies and also goes down to the resource manager or financial management shop's responsibilities to respond within certain times during the budgeting process. He stated for each of the funding partners, whether they're providing funding to the state or whether they're infrastructure owners, that all needs to be laid out.

Mr. Woodall advised once that was in place, he thought it would be a lot easier to execute and ensure funds are received on time. He noted since there have been some changes in the players, they will have to reconnect and get that moving again, but it hasn't stopped.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed the next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2028, 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, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the October 27 Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by Colonel Davis and seconded by ASAC Pierce. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce
MOA, Deputy Chief Michael Kerle
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
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. Buckley Clarke