

**Milwaukee County Radio System
Advisory Council**

Meeting 2/21/13
Bayside Communications Center
Approved

Attendees: Don Kernan (MCSO), Jim Mayer (Fire Service), Hugh Morris (IMSD), Bruce Resnick (Police Services).

Guests: Gene Baietto (City of West Allis), Bill Davis (Motorola), Dan Driscoll (BACC), Peter Jafuta (Motorola), Steve Surwillo (CDX Wireless), Richard Tuma (Waukesha Co.), Ben White (IMSD).

Objective: Update users on progress of regional radio system study; consider new affiliate user request and general system updates.

Agenda Items

Approval of 10/25/12 and 11/29/12 Minutes

Minutes of the 10/25/12 and 11/29/12 meetings were presented for approval. Motion to approve both by Bruce Resnick, Second by Hugh Morris. Minutes unanimously approved.

Selection of Council Officers for 2013

Chair Jim Mayer volunteered to continue to serve as Council Chair for 2013. There were no other representatives who expressed interest at this time. Motion to nominate Jim to continue as Chair by Bruce Resnick, Second by Hugh Morris. Motion Carried.

Request for System User Access

The RAC reviewed a request from the 128th. Air National Guard Wing FD to become a primary user of the trunked radio system. Although they will be using their current VHF system as their primary radio system, they are also requesting a single dedicated talkgroup on the trunked system. Their subscriber count has been modified from (5) units to (30) units, as they will be obtaining dual band 800/VHF subscriber units. Motion to approve request from Hugh Morris, Second by Bruce Resnick. Motion carried.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Police Department request for primary user status on the trunked radio system. They are currently on a UHF system and have no immediate interoperability with neighboring law enforcement agencies including MCSO, West Milwaukee PD and West Allis PD. Request is for (30) subscriber units and (2) talkgroups. Their radios would also be provisioned for the Brown County 700 MHz system for use during transports. Motion to approve by Bruce Resnick, Second by Hugh Morris. Motion carried.

State of Wisconsin DOT request for affiliate system access for Regional Incident Management Coordinators. Request is for (7) subscriber units that will be used as a liaison between the State DOT

first responders and highway maintenance departments. Currently the Traffic Operations Center has access to SHF F2. They will be accessing the County interoperability talkgroups and highway maintenance talkgroups. Discussion took place about establishing a specific talkgroup for the Traffic Operations Center. This is something that could be looked at during re-templating for the P25 upgrade project. Motion to approve by Bruce Resnick, Second by Hugh Morris. Motion carried.

General System Updates

The telephone interconnect feature on the trunked system is being reviewed and will likely be discontinued. This is currently available on two of the trunked system channels and there are only a few select users who use this function (MCSO staff and MCTS). This is a legacy feature that significantly impacts channel loading when in use. It will be phased out prior to the P25 upgrade project.

Channel 58 Backup Generator Project

Channel 58 and Milwaukee Co. IMSD have worked with WeEnergies to provide more reliable primary power to the Channel 58 site. The site experienced two power outages last year. A new, large capacity diesel generator has been installed and IMSD is working to interconnect the transfer switch to the UPS at radio system site. The next site hardening project will focus on the Lakeshore Towers site.

45 Forward Construction Project

The HWY 45 / Zoo Interchange construction project is beginning. In total it will last 6-7 years. Additionally all the major “feeder roads” such as HWY 100 and Watertown Plank Rd. will be affected. This project surrounds the Muirdale Prime Site. IMSD has been working with the utility and construction companies to assure that communications circuits (T1, phone, power, etc.) will not be impacted. User agencies should review and exercise fallback frequencies / system. An updated protocol for activating 8CALL/8TAC repeaters through MWPD in case of a service interruption is being worked on by Hugh and John Mesich.

Miscellaneous items for discussion

Hugh presented updated system loading statistics from this year and the previous year. All data is also posted to RAC website at www.milwaukee.gov/RAC under the “Performance” link. If agencies are interested in specific data from their subscriber units and talkgroups they should contact Hugh directly.

A letter from both Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties was sent to the Region 54 800 MHz and 700 MHz Planning Committee describing the joint P25 trunked radio system project and potential future needs for spectrum. Both counties are looking at the need to add several frequency pairs to handle additional capacity as the regional system is brought online. Jim also reported that the Fire Service agencies are exploring digital vehicular repeater units to link fireground operations to the trunked system. The 700 MHz band may be considered for this use.

Jim applauded IMSD for the creation of the RAC website as a clearinghouse to share information, however we should look at updating photos and graphics to represent current user agencies and technologies.

The State of Wisconsin OJA Regional Radio System study by Kimball was also posted to the RAC website for review.

Digital Upgrade Project

All vendor attendees excused themselves. Hugh and Steve Surwillo presented an overview of the RFP that is being finalized by the Waukesha Co. Purchasing Division.

Attachments

128th. ARW Fire Department Access Request
Veterans Affairs Police Department Access Request
Wisconsin DOT Access Request
Letter to Region 54 800 MHz Planning Committee

Next Meeting – Schedule / Location

March 21, 2013 – *Meeting was cancelled*