

**Milwaukee County Radio System  
Advisory Council**

Meeting 05/23/13

*Milwaukee Co. Transit System-Fleet Maintenance Facility*

*Approved*

**Attendees:** Jim Mayer (Fire Service), Hugh Morris (IMSD), Julie Schneider (MC Transit/DPW), Erik Viel (MC EMS). No representatives from Sheriff or Police Services present.

**Guests:** Gene Baiuto (City of West Allis), Robert Barwick (City of West Allis), David Brooks (Baycom), Peter Jafuta (Motorola), Sean Licht (Greenfield PD), Dale McFarlane (Baycom)

**Objective:** Consider request for system access. Begin planning process for interoperability fleet mapping for transition to P25 digital radio system

**Agenda Items**

**Approval of meeting minutes from 2/21/13 and 5/2/13**

Chair Jim Mayer presented minutes from the 2/21/13 and 5/2/13. Motion to approve by Hugh. Second by Erik. Motion carried unanimously.

**Request for System User Access**

The committee reviewed a request from the Wisconsin Capital Police Department. They operate locally at the State office building on Wells Street. Additionally, they have communications needs for planned events including the upcoming Governors Conference. They are requesting Primary User status, along with a talkgroup on the system plus the law interoperability template. This arrangement would allow them to integrate their 800 MHz subscriber units they currently utilize in the City of Madison. This system would not be utilized for operations at State Fair, as that is a separate UHF LTR system. Hugh recommended that the Capital Police also contact the SMART organization to see how they fit into the communications plan. The number of subscriber units were unknown at this time. Motion to approve by Jim, with the requirement that the Capital Police submit the standardized system access request form prior to moving forward. Second by Hugh. Motion carried unanimously. Per Hugh, the City of Madison radio shop will be e-mailing radio codeplugs to have MCTRS talkgroups added.

**Fleet mapping of Interoperability Talkgroups – SWOT Analysis / Brainstorming on concepts for establishing interoperability talkgroups on the new P25 trunked system**

Chair Jim Mayer opened discussion on interoperability talkgroup planning for the new P25 radio system emphasizing that the process must be well thought out, will take considerable time and needs to engage the various stakeholders. The goal for this meeting is simply to take a general overview of where we are today, how the interoperable talkgroups are used and what the strengths/weaknesses are of the current system. Hugh gave a historical evolution of the subscriber equipment and how it relates to the number of talkgroups available. As we progressed from individual agency conventional radio systems to the shared trunked system, the number of talkgroups quickly grew. We need to reduce complexity for the end users to be successful.

Further discussion included the following points:

- Keep the most critical / most used talkgroups within the first 3 zones / banks of the subscriber radios.
- Simplify fleet mapping and talkgroups for end users
- Recommend that user agencies program their portable radios to change zones using the keypad, instead of the A-B-C toggle switch. This will enhance user familiarity with changing zones and reduce accidental changes in zone by hitting the switch.
- The 8CALL / 8TAC Conventional Channels are utilized Nationally
- The 8 “Color” TAC Conventional Channels are Wisconsin Statewide
- Inerop talkgroup planning must take into account “INTRA-Discipline” and “INTER-Discipline” use.
- Most agencies would like direction from us on how to simplify and make the system work
- Naming conventions need to be standardized and be made very general. There is some confusion on use of “Countywide”. Local users are sometimes unsure if they are allowed to use. Would a name like “EVENT” or “INCIDENT” be better?
- The ISSI Gateway on the new P25 system will allow MCTRS system radios to operate on WISCOM Interoperability talkgroups (STACx and RTACx) within our coverage area. These talkgroups should be included for larger multi-discipline incidents.
- Consensus was that the National 8CALL/8TAC to be located in the “C” Zone/Bank as Standard
- The Interop talkgroup plan must allow for escalation of the incident (bringing in additional resources) without users having to change talkgroups. This may include utilizing the STAC and RTAC state talkgroups.
- Do we need to have talkgroups duplicated on both Milwaukee and Waukesha County zones (such as MC SMART / WK SMART)?
- Talkgroup usage for planned vs. unplanned events?
- Additional training and exercising is needed to develop “Muscle Memory” in multi-agency incidents. If this is not developed, public safety people often revert to “What they know works” which often isolates them.
- Dispatch Centers must be included in this process
- Wallet cards or other simple job-aids with Interop templates for field personnel may be beneficial
- Hugh is working toward establishing a deployment model for credentialed COM-L personnel within the County. These individuals would bring additional expertise to critical incidents and have access to hardware such as cache radios and gateway devices.

As a deliverable for the next meeting, Hugh will be compiling a detailed list of current Interop talkgroups that identifies them by discipline and use.

### **Miscellaneous Items for Discussion**

David Brooks introduced the transition of his company from Milwaukee 2-way to Baycom.  
Dale McFarlane will be taking over sales accounts in the Milwaukee County area.

### **Attachments**

WI Capitol Police Application

### **Next Meeting – Schedule / Location**

June 20, 2013 @ 12:30pm – West Allis FD