

# STATEWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

## OPERATIONS & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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October 11, 2016  
MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center

### MEETING MINUTES

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#### Attendance

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##### Members

###### Present      Member/Alternate

Chair Joe Glaccum/Vacant- Minnesota Ambulance Assn  
Vice Chair Dave Thomson/Vacant - MN Chiefs of Police Assoc.  
John Gundersen/Ron Jansen - MESB  
Tim Lee/Jim Mohn/Mukhtar Thakur- MnDOT  
Tim Boyer/- MN State Patrol  
Neil Dolan/Brian Zastoupil- NW Region  
Tom Semmelroth/Rowan Watkins - NE Region  
Terry Wesley/Darrin Haeder - SC Region  
Al Fjerstad/Kristen Lahr/Paul McIntyre - CM Region  
Rick Freshwater/Michael Peterson - SE Region  
Paul A. Johnson/vacant- SW Region

\*Members attending are marked with yellow highlight.

##### Guests reporting:

###### Name      Representing

Carol-Linnea Salmon, ECN  
Jim Stromberg, ECN  
Randy Donahue, ECN  
Marcus Bruning, ECN  
Beryl Wernberg, Isanti County  
John Hyde, City of Duluth  
Troy Tretter, MESB  
Nate Timm, Washington County  
Rod Olson, City of Minneapolis  
Wendy Lynch, Hennepin EMS  
King Fung, Hennepin County  
Jake Thomson, Anoka County  
Chris Meier, Motorola  
Mary Borst, Mayo  
Kurt W., Alpha Wireless

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#### CALL TO ORDER

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Vice Chair Thomson calls the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

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#### AGENDA REVIEW

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**John Gundersen makes a motion to approve the agenda.**

**Terry Wesley seconds the motion.**

**Motion carries.**

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#### APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

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Ron Jansen notes that on page two of the September minutes "walk-on tower" should be replaced with "Wahkon tower".

Wesley would like September minutes to reflect that Darren Haeder was in attendance.

**Kristen Lahr makes a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as amended.**

**Wesley seconds the motion.**

**Motion carries.**

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#### CLAY COUNTY PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENT (BRIAN ZASTOUPIL)

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Brian Zastoupil introduces the Clay County Participation Plan Amendment, as presented in the meeting materials. Clay County's full participation plan approved replacing nine existing radio console positions with nine MCC 7500 positions. This should be completed early next year. The existing Gold Elites consoles utilize a CAD/API interface to facilitate automated tone and voice paging. Clay County/Red River Regional Dispatch Center would like to keep the same interface and capability when it migrates to MCC7500. The goal is to have a firewall installed at the same time as the consoles. The plan has been submitted for review to the system manager and Tim Lee and they had no issues with it.

Gundersen asks if this is similar to the TriTech issue that came up at the last meeting.

Dave Thomson says it is identical to the Bloomington/Minnetonka API interface for LOGIS. He believes this committee was approved contingent upon Motorola approval.

Troy Tretter says that a letter from Motorola was submitted prior to the SECB meeting but according to Chair Glaccum the letter was fairly neutral and not sufficient. Glaccum recommended that the SECB approve the TriTech interface at Bloomington as a test so that any other interface with TriTech would be dependent upon the outcome in Bloomington.

Zastoupil says the CAD vendor has accomplished this but as far as he is aware they haven't interfaced any CAD into ARMER.

Chair Thomson notes the approval from system administrator John Anderson and that there are firewalls in both directions.

**Tim Lee makes a motion to approve the Clay County Participation Plan Amendment.**

**Wesley seconds the motion.**

**Motion carries.**

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#### HENNEPIN CO. MEDICAL CENTER EMS PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENT (WENDY LYNCH)

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Wendy Lynch introduces the Hennepin County Medical Center EMS Participation Plan Amendment, as presented in the meeting materials. Lynch says that currently Hennepin EMS has five MCC 7500 in its dispatch center and the request is for one additional MCC 7500 at the dispatch center. No additional CCGWs.

**Lee makes a motion to approve the Hennepin County EMS Medical Center Participation Plan Amendment.**

**Gundersen seconds the motion.**

Gundersen adds that the Metro Technical and Operations Committee (TOC) moved to approved this in September and it will go before the MESB board on October 12. Metro technicians have been working with Lynch on this and will continue to do so.

**Motion carries.**

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#### HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ADDITIONAL CHANNEL REQUEST (KING FUNG)

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King Fung introduces a request from Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (SO) to add one channel to the Hennepin West simulcast group. The Hennepin West simulcast group currently has sixteen channels at eight sites and one additional channel will provide a total of seventeen channels. The channel expansion is needed to alleviate existing channel loading of this simulcast group.

The new channel frequency used will be 856.9625/811.9625 MHz. This will be licensed by Hennepin County. The hardware needed for the new channel will be Motorola GTR8000 stations. The installation and optimization of the equipment would begin in the fourth quarter of 2016. Hennepin County technicians will perform most of the labor.

**Lee makes a motion to approve the request from Hennepin County for an additional channel.**  
**Tom Semmelroth seconds the motion.**

Gundersen notes that the Metro TOC has been working closely with MnDOT on this. The Hennepin West sites are shared between Hennepin West and MnDOT. MnDOT is also planning to add another channel to get it up to 18 channels per site. There were 276 busies in January and February. In July there were 3947 busies. These were times when there was storm damage. The system is quite tasked on a normal day and there have been some significant busies and that's why the need for additional capacity on these sites.

**Motion carries.**

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#### BELTRAMI REQUEST FOR STATEWIDE TALKGROUP (BERYL WERNBERG)

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Beryl Wernberg introduces a request from Beltrami County Sheriff's Office for a statewide talkgroup. The request is for statewide coverage for the existing BL 911 talkgroup for ARMER operations. BL 911 is the designated talkgroup for the emergency button found on all portable and mobiles. Statewide coverage would allow transport officers and sworn officers the ability to summon help from any location across the by state simply pushing their emergency button. This has been approved by the NW ECB.

Chair notes that the request for a statewide talkgroup form is missing. Wernberg will fill out the form and send it to ECN.

**Tim Lee makes a motion to approve the statewide talkgroup.**  
**Lahr seconds.**  
**Motion carries.**

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#### ANOKA COUNTY PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENT (JAKE THOMSON)

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Jake Thomson introduces a participation plan amendment from Anoka County requesting to add a WAVE radio over IPO gateway and to add local schools as users on the radio system via the WAVE system. The purpose of the addition of the WAVE system is to allow schools to utilize one dispatch hailing talkgroup in case of a major incident. This would be a resource that could be used in place of calling 9-1-1. The schools would not need to carry portable radios and could just carry smart phones. It would give a phone-to-phone talkgroup outside the ARMER system that the schools could conduct day-to-day administrative business on. This would keep loading off the

systems yet allow another path to talk to dispatch during a high emergency event. It can also benefit both the schools and a public safety during an incident as the dispatcher could patch a school user to a public safety responder.

Gundersen says this was presented at the Metro TOC in September and was approved and will go before the MESB board in October where it is expected to be approved.

Lee clarifies that Anoka County is talking about buying and installing its own WAVE server that is completely outside of the ARMER system.

Chair says that the ARMER connection is RF to a site.

**Lee moves to approve the Anoka County Participation Plan Amendment.**

**Gundersen seconds the motion.**

**Motion carries.**

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## REGIONAL REPORTS

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### **Northwest (Zastoupil)**

Zastoupil reports the Northwest has ARMER Train-the-Trainer scheduled and will also conduct five sessions of wireless console training throughout the region.

### **Northeast (Semmelroth)**

The RAC and RRB did not have quorums last month. There were discussion about Gold Cross putting Law into their mobiles. Hibbing Public Works will be added to the system. The ISSI project is moving along. There is Ethernet connectivity from Water's Edge to Madison. The ISSI/WAVE server needs to be configured. The Wisconsin side is completed. The regional recorder is close to being installed.

### **Northern RIC (Bruning)**

Marcus Bruning reports that the Northeast region is doing a COMEX training this week for COMLs and COMTs. The Northwest repeater project is well underway. The NE training project is near complete. The region is working with CN Railroad Police on an ARMER interoperability plan. Bruning announces that today is Beryl Wernberg's last OTC meeting and tomorrow will be her last RAC meeting and that she will be missed.

### **Central (Lahr)**

Kristen Lahr reports that the region held its second annual Regional Summit. This year, the region held the summit to coincide with its ESB meeting which brought more of board members to the day-long summit. The board met at the start of the day and then the day continued with presentations by regional representations, ECN and HSEM. The board accepted a proposal by the City of St. Cloud in response to the region's RFP for a regional coordinator. The board is now working on finalizing a contract with the city for services to begin in January.

### **Metro (Gundersen)**

The Metro TOC met in September and discussed Metro change management. The consensus was to add two additional ME-TACs (ME-TAC 9 and 10) plus two additional encrypted ME-TACs (ME-TAC-11 and 12) and to remove the Public Safety only restriction on ME TAC-1 through ME-TAC-4. Only the encrypted channels will be restricted to law enforcement only. The final TOC vote will be in October.

The TOC also provided feedback on the SOA-R and LTAC-E change management items.

The region is conducting a Communications Response Task Force training on October 18 in Hastings, which will be called the Communications Assets Muster. There will be a familiarization on the deployable communications equipment in the Metro area. See Troy Tretter with any questions.

Peter Sauter of Carver County was the COML for the Ryder Cup. He had an extensive 205 and did not use all of the resources. He reported that there were no communications issues. There were over 100 medical response requests but no major incidents.

#### **Central and Metro RIC (Juth)**

No report.

#### **South Central (Wesley)**

Wesley reports that the South Central RAC met in September and discussed the 2015 SHSP grant and the SLIGP grant and how to best utilize remaining funds. There was discussion about potential upcoming projects that might be funded by available grants. A three-day APEX radio programming training is scheduled to happen in St. Peter. Region 5 emergency managers are inventorying a couple of communications trucks to turn over to the Southwest and South Central regions and there was discussion about that.

#### **Southeast (Thomson)**

Thomson reports that the RAC, the Logging Committee and the ECB all met. The ECB considered grant possibilities and also reviewed and approved the FirstNet and SOA Repeater standards as submitted. Logging has been smooth since the power outage at the Olmsted County Government Center that occurred a couple of months ago.

#### **Southwest (Johnson)**

No report.

#### **Southern RIC (Donahue)**

Randy Donahue reports that in the Southwest Region, the RFP for a regional planner/system administrator has closed and the region is reviewing responses. A decision should be made next month. A COMEX for COMTs and COMLs will be held in St. Peter in October. Donahue is asking regions to update their representative assignments on the various SECB committees in effort to increase participation. FirstNet discussions and meetings are ongoing. Representatives from the region attended a grants meeting in St. Cloud in October which was very helpful.

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### OTHER REPORTS

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#### **MnDOT (Lee)**

Lee reports that there are now 327 sites on the air now because Cascade River in Cook County was just added. MnDOT expects to add Devils Fish and Sawbill Trail in Cook County in the next couple of weeks. We should be pretty close to getting the Cromwell site in Carleton County also. Continuing to work on sites and trying to get bids on a couple of towers and finishing land acquisition.

Regarding the 7.15 upgrade, MnDOT is continuing with the IP conversions of the circuit based simulcast. Sites that are completed are St. Cloud, Stearns ASR sites, Goodhue subsystem, and City Center. North Branch (Chisago/Isanti County subsystem) is scheduled to be completed tomorrow and Enfield (Wright/Sherburne County subsystem) a week from tomorrow. The Olmstead County subsystem is scheduled for the beginning of December.

Conversions have gone well. During the conversions, they take it down to half channels and the conversion and then there is a switch and that switch has been anywhere from fifteen seconds to a minute or two. Then they take the channels that went off and add them in. So you are at half channels for part of the day. For example, at City Center there were quite a few busies for a part of the day.

Discussion about scrap equipment. Motorola made a commitment at the time of the contract signing that they would take care of the scrapped equipment. Talk to Patrick at Motorola.

Lee adds that the voting system was pulled off of the interop in the Metro. Now they are stand alone sites with the consoles tied into whatever resources they wanted. MnDOT needs to add the new VLAW 31 at Hennepin County Government Center and possibly also the V-MED 28 at another site.

**Systems Managers Group (Mohn)**

No report.

**DPS Standing Report (Stromberg)**

Jim Stromberg reports that the Change Management Standard was approved by the SECB. Monitoring of the 7.19 is on track. Slow but steady progress is being made on the ECN/SECB website improvements. The Strategic Reserve Technology project is at the same status as last month. There were no issues with StatusBoard this month. ECN will be participating in a COMEX in St. Peter and one in Grand Rapids this month.

**Change Management Report (Stromberg)**

Stromberg reports on two items that are going through the Change Management process. One is the Scene of Action Repeater (SOA-R). This item was sent to the Interoperability Committee (IOC) to consider support for using 8-TACS in a repeated fashion as an alternative to repeated SOA channels. There was no quorum at the IOC last month so formal support is pending but informally there was support. It was also sent to MnDOT, the System Managers Group, the Finance Committee and the regions for review and feedback. Stromberg has received supportive feedback from the Metro Region for using 8-TACs in a repeated fashion. (The Metro Region also supports using SOAs in a simplex fashion.) If this is adopted, the Metro Region has asked that ECN keep careful records of where the 8-TAC repeaters are deployed. Stromberg also received support from Southeast region.

Stromberg reports on the LTAC-E Change Management item. The workgroup recommended four LTAC-Es rather than two. That recommendation has been sent to the regions, SMG, MnDOT and the Finance Committee. The Southeast responded that it supports the item as presented. The Metro also supports the item with the recommendation that it be home zone mapped to a less congested zone. It was also noted that with some of the limitations that Minneapolis has in their portables the city may need a waiver. The previous Change Management Standard required that these items be brought before the Finance Committee. Stromberg does not see that there will be an issues from that committee.

Gundersen notes that Minneapolis intends to have its radio fleet replaced in 2019 so the waiver would only be until then.

Rod Olson confirms that Minneapolis has capital funds earmarked for replacing radios in 2019 and 2020.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

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None.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

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**Meeting adjourns at 1:48 p.m.**