

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

Tracy Moore, Chair
Charles Moore, Vice-chair
Vacant, Secretary

*****Draft Meeting Minutes*****

**Friday, October 21, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

**Washoe County Administration Complex
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, 89512
Building A, Second Floor Caucus Room**

This meeting was held at a physical location with a teleconference option.

Committee's website: http://www.washoecounty.gov/technology/board_committees/800mhz_joc

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-action item]

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • City of Reno | Dave Cochran |
| • City of Sparks | Jim Kindness |
| • Nevada Air National Guard | David Todd Curtis |
| • North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District | Ryan Sommers |
| • Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority | Tracy Moore |
| • Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District | Charlie Moore |
| • Truckee Meadows Water Authority | Chuck Atkinson |
| • UNR | Ed Atwell |
| • US Dept. of Veterans Affairs | Bryan Boren (joined 10:05 a.m.) |
| • Washoe County | Jenn Felter |
| • Washoe County School District | Mark Mathers |

Absent

- Nevada Dept. of Transportation
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (vacant)
- US DEA (vacant)
- US FBI

Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras was also present.



QUALITY
PUBLIC SERVICE



INTEGRITY



EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION

Washoe County Regional Communications System

800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

****Draft Meeting Minutes****

October 21, 2022

Page 2 of 5

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three (3) minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee as a whole.

There was no response to the call for public comment; no emails were submitted prior to the meeting.

[Bryan Boren, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs joined 10:05 a.m.]

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** [For Possible Action]

- a. Secretary

Ed Atwell, UNR, nominated and moved to elect David Todd Curtis, Air National Guard, as Secretary. Jim Kindness, City of Sparks, seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and no public comment was provided. Upon a call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2022, MEETING MINUTES** [For Possible Action] – Committee members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Charlie Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, moved to approve the minutes as written. David Todd Curtis, Nevada Air National Guard, provided the second. There was no response to the call for Committee or public comment. Upon a call for the vote, the motion carried with ten in favor, none opposed; Member Atwell abstaining.

5. **LID (LOGICAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER) STATUS UPDATE & RADIO COUNTS** [Non-action item] – An ongoing review and discussion on the issue of limited LID availability on the current contractual obligations of our end users and current remaining radio counts. Washoe County Regional Communication System. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services, reviewed the [presentation](#) (Slides 2-4) for this item sharing agencies have been asked to audit their fleets in order to determine ability to issue to requesting agencies. There are currently 35 Logical Identification Numbers (LIDs) available after holding back 20 for the new system. Approximately 54% of the contractually obligated radios have been purchased. Harris is scheduled to be in Reno for installations and programming December 2022-February 2024. If there is an interest in delaying the installation and programming window to begin in the Spring of 2023, that could be a possibility. Radios purchased after the window, the Washoe County Radio Shop will be available to help; Harris will also maintain a presence in Reno and may also be available. They contracted pricing will be valid until one year after final system acceptance, currently estimated to be Fiscal Year 2026 or 2027. Agencies are asked to coordinate if team members are requested to plan for bay

Washoe County Regional Communications System

800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

****Draft Meeting Minutes****

October 21, 2022

Page 3 of 5

stations and locations outside of Reno. North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District has offered Station 11 for equipment in the Lake Tahoe area.

Ed Atwell, UNR, asked if there was a system of “sweeping” LIDs; Ms. Lawney shared that was not a practice and encouraged anyone experiencing issues to reach out to her.

6. SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE [Non-action item] – An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services, reviewed the [presentation](#) (Slides 5-9) for this item. Since a software update in July, the Dispatch Centers have been experiencing emergency alarms relating to the Metro Simulcast. There is radio frequency (RF) interference in the valley; three BDAs have been identified. She reviewed the ongoing microwave deployment schedule and related outages and process for planning and communicating those. Have had multiple issues due to a loss of resources familiar with the system, poor communication, and poor planning by vendors. Quinn Korbolic, Washoe County Technology Services, noted Washoe County is in conversation with Harris to share the identified issues and expectations for resolution and they have been responsive though not all issues have been fully resolved.

Jenn Felter, Washoe County, voiced concern with response times and asked if it would be possible to have Harris team members stay in the area (rather than waiting for travel from Sacramento). She also questioned whether or not Harris was communicating known issues. Ms. Lawney shared that could be requested noting that they had been on site within 45 minutes for the Snow Flake issues and were able to determine the issue was due to a router they'd installed. Chair Moore asked if Harris had been meeting the response time provided in the Contract and was assured they had been. Agencies were encouraged to reach out at any point an issue is possible as there have been delays in those being reported.

Ed Atwell, UNR, shared he had been experiencing issues with radio emergency buttons/alerts, specifically newer ones in Elko; there was discussion of possible causes and next steps.

Chair Moore shared concern with the loud bursts of interruptions on all channels impacting critical incident communication or public safety.

Ms. Lawney shared updates on the Radio Shop relocation, best ways to access and a new phone number that will ring to the full team 775-858-5964.

7. SYSTEM INTERFERENCE UPDATE [For Discussion Only] – An update and discussion on recent issues with radio interference and poor end-user audio quality in the WCRCS service area. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services, reviewed the [presentation](#) (Slides 10-14) for this item sharing there have been a multitude of interference issues of various causes. She encouraged agencies with bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) to have yearly maintenance in compliance with FCCs guidelines. The process for managing, recording, and mapping BDAs is still being developed. The team is also going to start mapping interference and convening a team to track and review interference. If there are certain LIDs causing the issue, those will be

Washoe County Regional Communications System

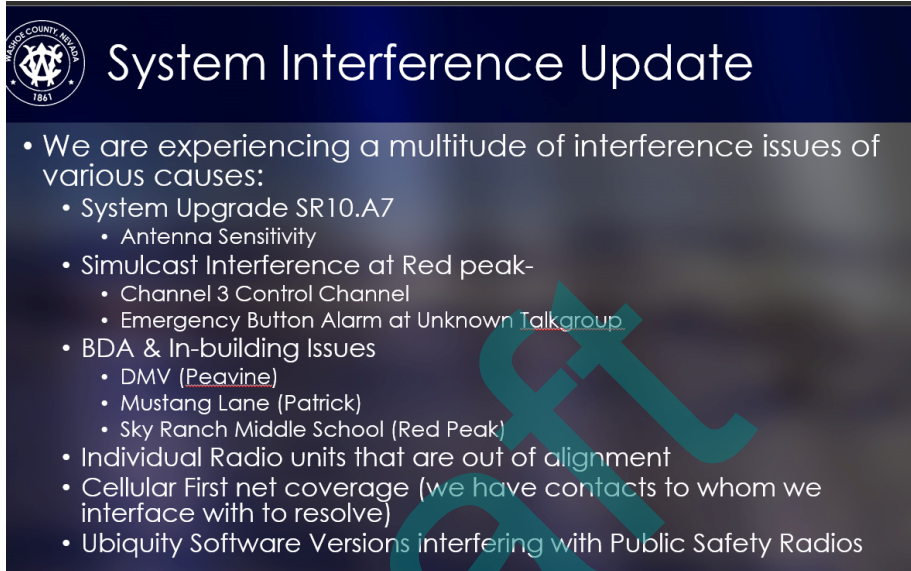
800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

****Draft Meeting Minutes****

October 21, 2022

Page 4 of 5

requested to be brought into the Radio Shop for service. Interference issues are not expected to go away with the move to P25.

A presentation slide titled "System Interference Update" with the Washoe County Nevada logo in the top left corner. The slide lists various causes of interference issues in a bulleted format.

System Interference Update

- We are experiencing a multitude of interference issues of various causes:
 - System Upgrade SR10.A7
 - Antenna Sensitivity
 - Simulcast Interference at Red peak-
 - Channel 3 Control Channel
 - Emergency Button Alarm at Unknown Talkgroup
 - BDA & In-building Issues
 - DMV (Peavine)
 - Mustang Lane (Patrick)
 - Sky Ranch Middle School (Red Peak)
 - Individual Radio units that are out of alignment
 - Cellular First net coverage (we have contacts to whom we interface with to resolve)
 - Ubiquity Software Versions interfering with Public Safety Radios

Doug Wilson, Reno Police Protective Association Board Member, expressed great concern with the frequency and constancy of issues being experienced (interference and digital noise) causing officers unable to get out on the radio in critical situations. Chair Moore echoed the severity of the impacts as unacceptable and the urgency to resolve. He encouraged bringing in outside resources, if needed.

Ryan Sommers, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, voiced concern that issues may be with a channel rather than a site or the system. Robert Allen, City of Reno Communications Technician, spoke to the importance of regular radio servicing to ensure up-to-date programming and firmware; and shared the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1225 Code maps out a process relating to BDAs. Jenn Felter, Washoe County, questioned if issues were on one issue more than the other, or possible the sites running both P25 and 800 MHz; or if there were issues with a loss of resources familiar with the EDAC System (Emergency Digital Access Communication). Ms. Lawney shared there have been more issues on the sites that simulcast. Teams have been actively doing alignments and maintenance to prevent and address but the issues seem to be systemwide and not just with those sites. Ed Atwell, UNR, spoke to the lack of BDAs registered on the FCC website; the lack of a clear process for installation, system compatibility and tracking; he suggested hiring a consultant to work with all the agencies to find, update and document all BDAs. Chair Moore spoke to the need for the Committee representative to relay this information back to each respective agency to ensure compliance with requirements. Ms. Lawney spoke to the need for the organization to occur at the local level rather than relying on FCC enforcement; staff is working to create a process within the system, work with local vendors and work toward implementing changes to include review and registration in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. In response to questions, she shared another agency in Georgia who was ahead in software versioning on a Harris P25 system was experiencing similar issues. She expressed concern with the resources and bandwidth necessary to keep both systems running.

Washoe County Regional Communications System

800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

****Draft Meeting Minutes****

October 21, 2022

Page 5 of 5

8. **800 MHz JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – The next meeting of the 800 MHz JOC (Joint Operating Committee) is scheduled for January 20, 2023.

- Ongoing status updates on bi-directional amplifiers (BDA)
- Changing meeting to Monday-Thursday and increasing frequency to every other month (from public comment)

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three (3) minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee as a whole.

Jenn Felter, Washoe County, requested the Committee re-evaluate the frequency and date of week for the Committee to meet. She voiced concern at not receiving notification of work done by Spectrum Charter that may impact service. She referenced a recent experience concerning maintenance that knocked out fiber line between the NOC and Tahoe which is the primary link to the Tahoe repeater.

10. **ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.