

# WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

## 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Keith Mullen, Chair  
Vacant, Vice-chair  
Vacant, Secretary

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

**Thursday, September 15, 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 and physical location with a teleconference option.

Committee website: [https://www.washoecounty.gov/technology/board\\_committees/800mhz\\_users/index.php](https://www.washoecounty.gov/technology/board_committees/800mhz_users/index.php)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL [Non-action item]**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

#### **Present**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • City of Reno                             | Robert Allen   |
| • City of Sparks                           | Keith Mullen   |
| • Nevada Air National Guard                | Matthew Lund   |
| • Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe                | Don Pelt       |
| • Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority             | Nicole Lacap   |
| • Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District | Shane Akerson  |
| • Truckee Meadows Water Authority          | Chuck Atkinson |
| • UNR                                      | Ed Atwell      |
| • US Dept. of Veterans Affairs             | Bryan Boren    |
| • Washoe County                            | Jenn Felter    |
| • Washoe County School District            | Austin Mills   |

#### **Absent**

- Incline Village GID (vacant)
- Nevada Dept. of Transportation
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (vacant)
- US DEA (vacant)

Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Keith Munro was present.



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EFFECTIVE  
COMMUNICATION

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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 Users 800 MHz Users Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Users 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 Users Committee as a whole.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF JUNE 16, 2022, MINUTES** [For Possible Action] – Committee members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Matthew Lund, Nevada Air National Guard, moved to approve the minutes as written. Jenn Felter, Washoe County, seconded the motion. There was no response to the call for Committee or public comment. Upon a call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Vice-chair

Ed Atwell, UNR, nominated and moved to elect Austin Mills, Washoe County School District, as Vice-chair. Jenn Felter, Washoe County, seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and no public comment was provided. Upon a call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

- b. Secretary

Jenn Felter, Washoe County, nominated and moved to elect Robert Allen, City of Reno, as Secretary. Matthew Lund, Nevada Air National Guard, seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and no public comment was provided. Upon a call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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 her [presentation](#) (slides 2-6) reviewing the current status of LIDs, radio purchase progress, Harris sales representative contact information, . Agencies are being asked to audit their fleets and LIDs are being issued on a case-by-case basis. She encouraged agencies to consider moving to the BeOn application for non-public safety devices that are not mobile and have good cellular service. Harris is expected to be onsite beginning December 2022 beginning the 14-month window they will be available for programming and installations. The current contracted pricing will be available for one year after final system acceptance (~2026). Ed Atwell, UNR, requested the agencies be advised well in advance if the radio count is not going to be achieved.

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**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 her [presentation](#) (slides 7-13) reviewing the System Status Update focusing on microwave installations and related planned outages, the core and software updates, Cold Springs site construction status, and the Radio Shop move. There have been issues with installations due to communication and part issues so the schedule has been paused until those can be resolved. A temporary dispatch center will be setup for the Incline Snow Flake microwave installation. Virginia Peak and Peavine will impact fire, will lose VHF. Installations have been targeted for days when dispatch has more staff available. There was discussion of how to select a site, rather than have equipment set to scan to help stay connected within the valley during outages. Outage Announcements and updates will be sent to all users; outage times have been

Jake Grivette, NDOT, recommended that any users expecting to use the BeOn application all day plan for chargers as the batteries will drain quickly; at least 20 percent battery is best to ensure communication both ways.

Construction is underway at the Cold Springs site. Agencies are invited to visit with proper safety equipment (hardhat, vests). The Radio Shop move is nearly complete. The move provides for more space and for vehicles to drive-thru. Ed Atwell, UNR, and Chair Mullens, expressed appreciation for the helpfulness of the Radio Shop team.

**7. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT UPDATE** [For Discussion Only] – A review and discussion of maintenance and replacement needs for WCRCS Infrastructure. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 14-16) providing updates on system maintenance focusing on battery replacement, Dehydrator/Waveguide pressure testing, and inspections and repairs of HVAC, generators, towers, radios, and security cameras.

Interference has been an issue with some identified relating to bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs). Agencies were reminded yearly maintenance is required. The FCC has a requirement to register BDAs but only four are currently registered. A new process is being developed to better capture location data and better educate vendors. There was discussion of best way to help track date, time, repeater information and general location of issues to help isolate the points of interference. Metro simulcast has more issues with interference so future state will provide for three sites and additional design modification to help address. Agencies were encouraged to also ensure individual radios are in alignment.

**8. IN BUILDING COVERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE** [For Discussion Only] – A review and discussion of in-building radio coverage infrastructure to include but not be limited to FCC licensing requirements, registration requirements, and various technologies related to in-building radio system coverage. *Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services*

Melissa Lawney, Washoe County Technology Services reviewed her [presentation](#) (slides 17-20) detailing the proposed process to ensure bi-directional amplifier (BDA) registration with

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Washoe County and the FCC, including an in-building coverage responsibility flow chart. Staff has started to create a procedure with the quality markers, details to include in a request for proposal process, and the need to account for both 700 and 800 MHz with the move to P25. Agencies were encouraged to audit existing BDAs so should any replacements or upgrades can be budgeted for. Once sites are online, it will be also mapped to better record and track equipment and which sites they are keyed to. Ed Atwell, UNR, questioned the ability to bring on a vendor to help with the process and identifying existing equipment; he also requested any information sent regarding BDAs include that mention in the subject. Ms. Lawney expressed openness to that approach once a framework for that scope of work can be developed. BDA registration with the FCC began in 2014.

**9. 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] –

No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Don Pelt, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, requested clarification on Marble Bluff contract status and new expected expenses and cost sharing for P25 system implantation and/or the Marble Bluff tower site.

Quinn Korbolic, Washoe County Technology Services, recommended agencies plan to attend/participate in the upcoming P25 Joint Operating Committee meetings planned to review scenarios for addressing an anticipated budget shortfall for the new system.

**10. 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 Users Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Users 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 Users Committee as a whole

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.