

**Central MN  
Owners & Operators and User Committee Meeting  
Microsoft Teams Meeting  
February 17, 2022 – 10:00 AM**

**OWNERS & OPERATORS MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

1. Brandon Larson, Vice Chair & Micah Myers – City of St. Cloud
2. Julie Fraley – Benton County
3. Kandiyohi County – Big Stone County
4. Tom Egan – Douglas County
5. Jon Combs – Grant County
6. Jody Norstegard – Kandiyohi County
7. Sheriff Brian Cruze – Meeker County
8. Andy Beckstrom – Mille Lacs County
9. Doug Rekstad – Morrison County
10. Jason Karlgaard & Greg Seim – Otter Tail County
11. Sheriff Tim Riley – Pope County
12. Kristen Lahr, Chair & Mary Lieser – Stearns County
13. Dona Greiner & Brian Koehler – Stevens County
14. Sarah Booker – Todd County
15. Lynn Siegel – Traverse County
16. Sheriff Rick Fiedler – Wilkin County
17. Haley Dubois – Wright County

**USERS MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

1. Adam Morris, Tom Zabinski, Steve Williams, & Jaime Schmidt – City of St. Cloud
2. Julie Fraley – Benton County
3. Kandiyohi County – Big Stone County
4. Jon Combs – Grant County
5. Jody Norstegard – Kandiyohi County
6. Sara Miller & Josh Case – Meeker County
7. Andy Beckstrom – Mille Lacs County
8. Doug Rekstad – Morrison County
9. Jason Karlgaard & Greg Seim – Otter Tail County
10. Sheriff Tim Riley – Pope County
11. Paul McIntyre, Chair; Kristen Lahr; Chief Jim Hughes, Vice Chair – Stearns County
12. Dona Greiner & Brian Koehler – Stevens County
13. Sarah Booker – Todd County
14. Lynn Siegel – Traverse County
15. Sheriff Rick Fiedler – Wilkin County
16. Haley Dubois – Wright County

**GUESTS:**

1. Commissioner Jelinski, ESB Chair – Morrison County
2. Stephanie Johnson, EMAC Chair – Meeker County
3. Keith Christenson – CentraCare
4. Steve Tait, Southern RIC – ECN
5. Bob Scheiber – BK Technologies
6. Sara Moulzolf – Granite Electronics
7. Scott Wosje – Northland Business Systems

**OWNERS & OPERATORS MEMBERS/ALTERNATES ABSENT:**

1. Swift County
2. Wadena County

**USER MEMBERS/ALTERNATES ABSENT:**

1. Douglas County
2. Swift County
3. Wadena County

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by O&O Chair Kristen Lahr at 10:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Introductions were conducted. There was a quorum for both Committees.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Lahr explained after the agenda was initially published Lahr did request an addition under item 6c Stearns County's request. It is a participation plan amendment for two additional console positions, so Lahr would like to add that to the agenda today. Under Communications Larson wanted to talk about the contact list update that John Anderson sent out recently. *Stearns County made a motion to approve the amended O&O/Users Agenda. Todd County seconded, motion carried.* Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton County – Aye; Big Stone County – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Kandiyohi – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Aye; Stevens – Aye; Todd – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*City of St. Cloud made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022 O&O/Users minutes. Otter Tail County seconded, motion carried.* Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton County – Aye; Big Stone County – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Kandiyohi – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Aye; Stevens – Aye; Todd – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. MN Public Safety Communications Conference

Lahr reported there was some notification sent out from ECN. There is a page on the ECN website that you can view online. The dates are April 25-27. Tait noted you probably want to show up the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> on Sunday for that pre-conference on Monday. Tait stated hopefully in the next two weeks they will have the event planner push that out to everybody. Larson noted we spoke at the last conference planning meeting that ECN is soliciting exhibitors or sponsors to sign-up, so they can use that same weblink to get information.

- b. Contact List

Larson reported on this Tuesday John Anderson with MnDOT sent out an email to the expansive list beyond just system admins with a contact list that appears to have both system admin information for each agency including email and phone and alternate phones. He is asking to have updated. It also appears anyone with a provisioning manager login is included in this list as well as local system admins. Anderson sent out an email the following day saying he did have about 30 responses from people updating contact, but this is really important to MnDOT to have up-to-date information. We do have at the region, as Regional Coordinator, a local system admin contact list that we have held and provided to MnDOT in the past. It does not have all the people with provisioning manager logins, so that is something additional. Please reply to either Anderson or Larson.

**O&O BUSINESS:**

- a. CM Analyzer rotation schedule  
Booker reported the analyzer just came over to Todd County on Monday.
  
- b. COML Certification Application – Kristen Lahr  
Larson stated our next item is a COML statewide recognition application for Kristen Lahr with Stearns County. Her taskbook information is in the packet. It appears as though the information is all completed and filled out. She does have agency representation and has a couple of events or incidents that she was evaluated on including an airport exercise in St. Cloud and the Paynesville Airshow. *Grant County motioned. Wilkin County seconded.*  
Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton County – Aye; Big Stone County – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Kandiyohi – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Abstain; Stevens – Aye; Todd – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye. *Motion carried.*
  
- c. Stearns County Request to add two console positions  
Larson reported it appears as though local vendor Granite Electronics and MnDOT have been involved in this project and it does not sound like there is any objection. Lahr added there is no additional capacity needed. We will be connecting with the existing switches we are currently using for our existing MCC7500 consoles and they are VPM consoles. We had an opportunity to purchase the VPM devices last year, so we could get them before they were discontinued. *Otter Tail County motioned. Benton County seconded.*  
Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton County – Aye; Big Stone County – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Kandiyohi – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Abstain; Stevens – Aye; Todd – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye. *Motion carried.*

**JOINT BUSINESS:**

- a. Regional Strategic Plan – O&O / Users focused goals
  - Regional Subscriber Inventory  
Lahr explained Larson has compiled information from the inventory that he has received thus far from our region and created some charts.

**CMESB Radios**

Larson appreciates all of the feedback he received from our region. Approximately 74% of all radios in the region were reported on by the group. Larson does want to note if there are any other agencies that are still working on this, please do not feel like you have missed any deadlines. Send the data to Larson and he can add it to these charts as well. The other regions are still working on it. Out of 10,480 radio IDs in the region, 7746 were reported on so far.

**By Discipline**

Broken down by discipline we do have 22% of those are law enforcement; 52% are other, and by other Larson is including EMS, Fire, Emergency Management, any healthcare or public health, public works, or any other agencies like that. Larson did it this way since the initial reasoning for this survey is due to a law enforcement requirement. Approximately 26% unreported are those that did not report.

**JOINT BUSINESS: (Continued)**

a. Regional Strategic Plan – O&O / Users focused goals (Continued)

- Regional Subscriber Inventory (Continued)

**Encryption Capability**

Breaking it down by encryption capability, Larson has it broken down by the different algorithms including DES-OFB, DES-OFB & AES, not encrypted, and unreported. A decent 19% of the radios, and that is not necessarily by discipline, have DES-OFB which is the current interoperable encryption algorithm. Only 5% have both the DES-OFB for interoperability currently and the increased more secure AES. Majority of our radios 51% are just flat out not encrypted, no encryption capability. Larson did not figure in ADP. Larson did not include that as that is not considered interoperable and it is not of an industry standard for encryption.

Karlgard knows Steve Tait had sent out an ARMER subscriber inventory list as well which would look pretty similar to the one we did for the region. Do we need to report to Tait as well, or are you compiling everything and will report it to Tait? Larson's intent was we would do one submission from the entire region. If people want to report to Larson then he can forward it up. Larson has already sent it over to Myers and he discussed it at the last Finance Committee.

Tait replied that will work for us at ECN and MnDOT. The only caveat is MnDOT asked for some information on encryption key loaders, so Tait is assuming Larson will be able to just provide that separately and we can plug that in? The type, quantity, and who actually possesses those devices. MnDOT was looking for that.

Larson was not able to fully understand what the intent was behind that, so we will have to chat offline on what was looked for in there. Tait replied Tim Lee was saying that certain versions of those key loaders would need to be upgraded if we moved to AES. Tait thinks it was a 3000 was not going to be able to work, so that was why he wanted to capture that information.

Greiner would like to collect some of that information. The senators have signed off on the bill that Representative Baker has brought forward and that will go to the House Committee next week. There will be two individuals testifying that day to hopefully keep this bill moving forward. They have requested the \$250 million. Greiner would like to utilize some of that information when we testify on Tuesday. Larson responded it is in the meeting packet you are more than welcome to grab it.

Egan shared with the group that he thinks it was from our last RAC meeting that Tait brought up the ARP funding we could possibly use for radios. Yesterday Douglas County was approved for over \$800,000 for new mobiles and portables and that includes the entire Sheriff's Office as well as our public works. It happened really quick. We sent in an application to the county and they approved it yesterday. Egan would encourage everybody to reach out to their counties/cities about that funding.

Larson wanted to mention as people are looking at upgrading radios and stuff please be mindful there are further conversations regarding encryption and capabilities with the Change Management workgroup. Nothing has been identified or committed to for actual Change Management, but there are other software features that is Larson's understanding working in the government field oftentimes if you do not buy it at the time of purchase it is not going to be something you can upgrade later.

**JOINT BUSINESS: (Continued)**

a. Regional Strategic Plan – O&O / Users focused goals (Continued)

- Regional Subscriber Inventory (Continued)

**Encryption Capability (Continued)**

Larson explained understanding this is a major investment for agencies it may be important to add in additional features not just the AES encryption, but there is also discussions about looking at over-the-air rekeying to be able to rotate and ensure the security of our encrypted resources by regularly rotating keys and that would require a few extra features as well. It is something for further conversation as agencies are upgrading.

Tait wanted to reiterate Larson’s point. Tait has an agency in southern MN that just spent a million dollars upgrading their community radios and now they are in a position where they have to go back to their city council and ask for another \$120,000, because they did not plan ahead and look at some other features they should have included as part of that initial purchase. If you are familiar with how Motorola specs out their quotes it is multiline, very confusing quote, and without really asking questions about what each and every one of those line items mean you can end up in a position where you thought you were getting something, but you did not. Tait really encourages you to make sure your local system admin or resources like Lahr and Larson are brought into that conversation up front, so you are not in a position where you need to go back and ask for more money.

Lahr reported there was some discussion out of the LMR Change Management workgroup which is kind of combining that Change Management work is moving over into the SMG group just for additional participation of putting together an info sheet that agencies can look at so they know what they should be asking for to have their bases covered and hopefully that can be elevated to the top of the list to get that out sooner rather than later to folks if they are looking at taking some of these opportunities to get new subscriber radios.

Tait had a meeting with the LMR Committee Chair last week and a meeting with Tim Lee and that is at the top of the priority list and that will be an agenda item at the SMG next week on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- CASM Updates and Awareness

Lahr reported with this inventory gathering it and having a storage place for it, so it is readily available to both communications unit staff members and for participation plans or awareness for these types of discussions anyway, putting this inventory into CASM and also focusing as part of one of our regional goals focusing some more awareness and utilization of the CASM tool.

Larson reported just yesterday users of CASM received an email that pinpointed the update is going to happen on March 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. They included a fact sheet and a refresh training information guide.

Lahr thinks as far as regional training, we should focus on maybe working that into our training plan for some time in the next year or two. We were going to wait until the refresh or update was complete before we looked into scheduling something.

**JOINT BUSINESS: (Continued)**

a. Regional Strategic Plan – O&O / Users focused goals (Continued)

• COMU Awareness

Lahr reported at the last regional COMU workgroup Larson had tried to gather some additional topics for a regional discussion. Larson explained our communications unit personnel that group is an unofficial group. We are not governed by regional governance or supported in any way. We are coming together and doing some virtual and in the event of last September, we did a full-scale exercise that we put together. We have virtual meetings and continuing education. Right now, our initiatives are trying to update our roster. Make sure we have a fully updated roster. We did have some people who had left agencies or retired. We also are discussing, as part of the regional SCIP plan, formalizing an awareness of the COMU workgroup. So far from the feedback Larson has received from our COMU personnel they are not sure of what coming under governance necessarily would look like. They are supportive of it. Larson thinks that is a good conversation that Larson has requested to be on the next Executive Committee meeting to discuss where a good home for COMU would be, what the governance piece would look like.

b. Regional STR Funding and COMU Activities Reporting Request

Lahr reported Deputy Director Clark did send out an email requesting each of the regions to provide a report of any spending, or funding report for the Strategic STR dollars that each of the regions have in their budgets that were provided along with the STR equipment. She is looking for a report on any spending our region has done on that. Along with that, as a SWIC, she is also asking for a report on any communications unit activities we participated in, or conducted, within the Central Region. Last year Larson created a survey and that was sent out to the region to fill-out as far as any kind of communications activities you participated in for 2021. Larson will update the questions to make sure they are pertinent. We will be sending that out to everyone, including our COMU group, in case there is someone we have missed to report back, so we can compile that and send it to ECN, to the SWIC.

c. CM Listserv discussion

Lahr reported we brought up whether, or not, the current list serve that we had been using since the inception of our regional governance was supported by Stearns County. The list serve itself is in need of an upgrade and Stearns County posed the question to the region whether, or not they wanted to continue using that list serve, paying for the upgrade, and management, or what should be done, or did the board want to look at using our existing website and the list serve capabilities that were incorporated with that. The board decided we should use the tools we are already paying for, rather than moving along with an upgrade for another service to support email communications for the region.

Lahr explained the number of lists we currently have on the old existing list serve are listed here. The numbered lists, item #1 through #11 are the ones you are recommending we create within the website. Shari explained the other lists already exist through the Calendar and Agenda Center on the website. Lahr explained the general CM users anybody can subscribe to that to calendar notifications, meeting notifications, meeting cancellation notifications, etc. Anyone can subscribe to that and people are doing that now. However, we do have members only list serves currently on the list serve that Stearns County is maintaining in case we need to communicate with the membership of each of the individual committees. We are looking at are those recommended lists that we should have the Regional Coordinator set-up and maintain per the membership list for each of those committees.

**JOINT BUSINESS: (Continued)**

c. CM Listserv discussion (Continued)

Lahr explained the reason this is on our agenda today is just so our membership, both Users and O&O, are aware there will be a change in our communication abilities moving forward. And that the City of St. Cloud as Regional Coordinator will be setting individual lists for each committee based on its membership through the website to send out potential communications if need be. We are looking to phase out of our existing list serve by maybe the end of April beginning of May.

**USER BUSINESS:**

a. Regional Training Roadmap – 2022 Planning

McIntyre stated we wanted to have some discussion today related to any potential classes anybody might want to recommend that we would need to take before the Board to try and get funding for. We had asked everybody to take a look and bring back recommendations by this meeting.

Booker reported we did have a little bit of discussion on this at our meeting last week. From the NG911 side, there was some discussion about having some caller management type classes, or some of the mental health caller responder type things along with some other related topics on that. Lahr asked Myers would you know as part of the Finance and Grants Workgroup would we the region be able to submit that for some grant funding or reimbursement, because it pertains to the PSAP training if we would request a class like that. Myers responded if you remember per our SECB Grant for this current calendar year anything we had in there we had allocated towards the Wilkin County console project. So, anything we are doing for training in 2022 is going to come out of our reserves. Does not mean that we do not ask for it if the training is needed we ask for it.

Myers would also like to chime in too looking at this list we have not done CASM since 2016 and one of the things we were waiting on is when that update was going to go through. Myers would suggest we look at CASM as part of the initiatives we are doing with our Regional SCIP on collecting this inventory not only for the task at hand with trying to come up with numbers for potential funding, but also look at we are collecting this information let us put it into a resource we can use going forward. Myers thinks it would be helpful for the folks to get a refresher training on CASM.

Burke would like to see some kind of initial ARMER dispatch training on there. Burke usually tries to send our new people to that. Lahr asked are we looking at new dispatcher training? Burke replied yes, or even somebody who has been here for a while and has not been for a while just a sort of refresher Burke would send them to. Mostly new people who have never gone. Otter Tail County would be interested in that as well.

Karlgaard stated in addition an ARMER System Administrator there was one in 2020. Karlgaard does not remember if we could not attend due to a scheduling conflict, or if that one filled up to capacity. Karlgaard has been waiting for another one to roll around and it has not worked out. Lahr knows in the past we have done a single day System Admin refresher or a workshop to just touch on all of the main pieces and to do some networking and collaboration. We have also had a two-day System Admin. McIntyre thinks it is up to three days now with the lead admin portion of it. Lahr is curious do we have any agencies that are looking to get a new System Admin trained initially, or are we looking for a more abbreviated refresher, an opportunity for admins to get together and collaborate and network. Karlgaard stated Otter Tail County is looking for an initial one.

**USER BUSINESS: (Continued)**

a. Regional Training Roadmap – 2022 Planning (Continued)

Larson reported a couple of months ago we had talked about the region hosting our own programmers workshop get-together. That is something Larson has started on building some content. Larson reached out to some people. Larson does need some more guidance from those who would be attending as to what they want to focus on. Larson does not think this is going to replace an actual programming class, but it would be a workshop for our regional folks to get together, collaborate and learn from each other.

McIntyre is assuming we will get a group of us together and discuss these and bring a recommendation before the Executive Committee and the Board for what we might want to do? Is that next steps do you think? Lahr believes it would behoof us to compile a list and bring it back to our next meeting for the group to get eyes on it. We would probably need to request what the cost for each of these classes are. Request some sort of a bid or quote and then bring that forward to the board. Myers thinks we should with the ones we have identified today see what kind of costs, and so we can get them understanding what we can and cannot tackle this year. Myers would have that group look at we can set a priority, but Myers thinks that priority should be established by the classes we can fill up. So, we will get maximum return on our investment. From what we have discussed here today, Myers thinks we send the list back out to the group, but we can have some discussion at the upcoming Executive Committee back to this group and then report back to the board as to what we anticipate those costs being. Myers can take the classes we have identified today and start looking to see if we can come up with pricing and hopefully we would have something for the next Executive.

Burke is just wondering if we have any kind of leverage as far as when the classes are held. Burke knows summer is almost impossible for us. We would be looking for something that would either be fall or early winter for that ARMER training. Otherwise it would be hard for Burke to send people. Lahr responded we do usually come back to the group with the list again and tentatively request time of year or months to hold each of the classes based on who the audience is and what their busy times of the year generally are.

b. Upcoming Training:

- ARMER Radio Instructor Training – April 12-13 (waitlist)

Lahr reported the class was capped at 20. It is full and there are two people on the waitlist. Traverse County joined the call.

**REPORTS:**

RIC Report

No Report.

**CMESB:**

Emergency Services Board (ESB)

Myers reported we have an Emergency Services Board coming up here at the end of March. Training will be put on there, we will give a report back to them. We will continue to follow-up with our regional SCIP plans. Anything that comes by way of the committees will be added to that between now and when that agenda goes out the second last week of March.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Myers reported the RAC did not meet this month for lack of action items.



## **CMESB: (Continued)**

### Next Generation 911 Committee (NG911)

Met on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Booker reported we did get some updates from Cathy Anderson regarding some StatusBoard updates and changes that will be coming later this month and that is mainly changes to the administrative side. We had a short update on our RapidDeploy Radius Mapping project. Contract has been signed. There are kickoff meetings beginning tomorrow. They are working on information gathering hoping to get those responses by the end of next week. Updates on the current legislative working group activities along with the mental health working group. On our text-to-911 Morrison County did go live with text-to-911 on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Swift is our last county waiting to go live with text-to-911 and they are stuck with some equipment delays, so we do not have a date for them. In addition to that we did have some discussion the statewide NG911 is standing up the operations and the technical workgroups again. At our previous meetings, we did approve Shawn Larsen to be the representative to the technical workgroup. We did try and solicit some interest for the operations workgroup. The previous iteration of that workgroup members are long since retired, so we are looking for new people. We did send out a communication and Mary Lieser from Stearns did indicate she would be interested in helping out with that workgroup. If anyone else is interested they can let Shari know. This particular workgroup is going to be dealing with the operational type issues for NG911 and they will make some recommendations back to the SECB NG911 Committee.

### Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC)

EMAC met January 26<sup>th</sup>. Johnson reported we continued the discussion of closing out some projects from the EMAC strategic plan that went through 2021. In addition to that we discussed how we wanted to collect information for the creation of the updated EMAC strategic plan. We also had more discussion on how we foresee post-COVID meeting logistics working with the virtual/in-person option that fits with our bylaws. The National Weather Service also came to our meeting and provided a spring outlook update for our region. They also had conversation and feedback on how we may get better National Weather Service radar coverage. If we wanted to look into that a little bit further as it does affect numerous counties in our region. We did also talk about making some adjustments to how we nominate leadership for EMAC to allow time for recruitment and also allow those who may be interested in taking on a leadership position to have time to learn a little bit more about the position and the responsibilities before they would be officially elected into that position itself. Our next meeting will be April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Regional Logger Committee:

Logger group did not meet. Larson reported we do have two limited participants that are in the contracts phase of joining the Regional Logger. We have got continued conversations for the next month regarding capacity of the logger and encryption.

### Grant Updates/Current Regional Requests

Myers provided a reminder to folks the NG911 grants are coming to a close getting the information so the reimbursements can get out. Working with Motorola to get appropriate billing, so we can complete the CPE project. Looks like the contract for the SECB Grant is going through, so we will be able to start that project off that would impact Wilkin County. The Grants Workgroup at the state level is working on some recommendations back to the Finance Committee as to looking at for regional governance getting appropriations for that so, there will be some discussion at their next meeting. With the draft that the chair of that group has provided.

## **REPORTS: (Continued)**

### **SECB:**

#### Land Mobile Radio Committee

Met on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Lahr reported there were several participation plan amendments on the agenda. One from the BCA for an additional talkgroup request. They wanted to add four new tactical encrypted talkgroups to maintain current operational status for the BCA. They all have statewide access. There was a question posed to them whether, or not, they would be a DES-OFB or AES talkgroup. They said it has not been officially determined, but they were assuming they would move to AES for those new talkgroups. That was approved. Brown County was requesting an additional 200 radio IDs and 20 talkgroup IDs, both to come into compliance with the active talkgroups they have on the system and account for some growth over the next several years. Dakota County had a statewide access talkgroup request for a SWAT talkgroup. That was approved. Pierce County, WI was looking for some additional ARMER IDs. They are an interoperability partner across the border in the state of WI. That was approved. Scott County also was asking for a plan amendment. They are just changing some network connectivity. How they interface at their Shakopee PSAP to the Norwood site. And the MN State Taskforce was asking for a request for statewide talkgroups as well. A lot of talkgroups requests which were all approved.

#### Interoperability Committee

No February meeting.

- Workgroup Reports (COMU – STR – EMS/Hosp)

Larson reported the COMU Workgroup met and had consensus over a couple renewals and initial applications. Those will be carried forward to the Interop Committee. Further conversation regarding conference planning and the August COMU communications exercise that will be happening up at Camp Ripley hosted by ECN. There is a planning workgroup that will be helping craft the events up at Camp Ripley. There was discussion regarding the conference planning that there is a planned pre-conference session this spring that will be a communications tabletop exercise that will be a prelude to the August exercise. There was a recommendation stemming from the Central MN COMU folks that the Interop Committee COMU workgroup should host some continuing education opportunities for COMU personnel statewide, so there is going to be a small group subset of that workgroup that will be discussing what that looks like and bringing back a report to the workgroup. Larson reported the STR workgroup did meet in January. A lot of conversation regarding as the STRs were initially issued out with standard equipment and standard inventories there was an effort John Dooley put together an itemized list of all the equipment located in the STR. Larson does not know which one he used. There was further discussion about how over the years there is some variety from region to region of what is contained for equipment and some workarounds about other equipment to add or how to replace something. McIntyre reported for EMS/Hospitals hopefully we will be having a meeting at the end of March. Speaking with everybody it seems like a good time to be bringing it back. Some emails McIntyre has seen from Steve that they have gotten some representation for both Southeast and South Central and continue to work with the other EMS/Hospital disciplines to get membership involvement to bring us back this year.

#### Wireless Broadband and Applications Committee

Met this month. Larson reported our action item was a request from AT&T. When the Governor opted into FirstNet some years ago there was a promise that there will be a certain number of towers by contract that would be constructed in the state. There was a deadline of sometime in 2023. This is the second time AT&T has come to our committee requesting there be a tower swap.

**REPORTS: (Continued)**

**SECB: (Continued)**

**Wireless Broadband and Applications Committee (Continued)**

Larson explained it was identified that AT&T did not feel that two of the tower sites which both reside in the Red Lake tribal nation they were having some difficulty trying to meet timelines working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They requested to swap two other construction sites and have those count as contractual ones. There was a lot of concern from our membership that they wanted to hear from the stakeholders within the Red Lake nation. ECN reached out and worked with Red Lake tribe and they all chatted with AT&T. AT&T ultimately gave a commitment to Red Lake tribe and ECN that the two towers they are wanting to swap out that they do not feel they can meet that timeline that they still intend to construct those tower sites. In addition, AT&T showed a commitment that there is another tower site. A Verizon site that is being constructed currently in the Red Lake nation that they would look into collocating on that Verizon site to provide a third tower site for that area. The committee did take action and approve that and it will be carried forward to the SECB. We did discuss our SCIP goals. We are working on some of our SCIP goals already with assisting with the MNFOG updates. FirstNet Authority requested anyone in the state of MN, anyone within this group as well, that wants to reach out to them Larson can provide the contact information. They are looking for some workgroup members. They are looking for surveying public safety agencies and data interoperability and data sharing. They are in discussions with ECN to see if there could be an opportunity to have some of these survey sessions at the ECN conference, but FirstNet Authority is also willing to do virtual meetings as well. That is also another SCIP goal of ours with the Wireless Broadband Committee is education about data sharing to educate all of our stakeholders on what the data sharing is and how it can benefit all of us operationally.

**Steering Committee**

Did not meet in February.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next O&O/Users meeting will be March 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams.

**ADJORNMENT:**

*Chair McIntyre made the executive motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was carried unanimously at 11:22 a.m.*

Minutes recorded by Shari Gieseke.