

**Radio System User Committee
Minutes
December 14, 2023**

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Ramthun in the Ozaukee Sheriff's Office Lobby Conference Room of the Justice Center of Ozaukee County, Port Washington. Roll Call was taken and present were committee members: Jim Albrinck, Joe Laurin, Lindsay Graycarek (arrived at 2:38 p.m.), and Rick Nelson. Others in attendance: Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Bill Rice, Grafton Fire Department; Matt Karpinski, Grafton Fire Department; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Sixto Hernandez, Buchholtz CSM LLC; Ray Vollrath, Cedarburg Emergency Management; Bill Esselmann, Newburg Fire Department; Jeff Vahsholtz, Cedarburg Fire Department; Tim Romanelli, Racom Business Development Manager; and John Schrader, WI DNR.

Excused:

1. Call to Order at 2:33 p.m.
2. Per Chairman Bob Ramthun, meeting was properly noticed. Agenda was adopted.
3. Approval of September 28, 2023 Minutes.

Motion by Rick Nelson, second by Jim Albrinck to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence/Communications

None

5. Approval of Chief William Rice as Fire Service Representative

Motion by Joe Laurin, second by Jim Albrinck to approve William Rice as the fire service representative. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Update on Radio Services, Condition of the Radio System, Planning for the Future of the Radio System

Shawn Anderson spoke regarding radio reprogramming. During the process, it was discovered that the microphones attached to squad radios is essential for receiving data and scanning. The mic must be hung up during programming or removed. Magnetic hangers did not work.

Shawn advised that he is still working with outside agencies regarding encryption and sharing talk groups.

Jim Albrinck asked about number of new radios being returned for warranty work. Shawn said no more than six.

Bill Rice asked about the status of fire radios and encryption. Shawn advised he was not advised to make that change at this time and it was scheduled to occur during the installation of the new profiles. Rick Nelson asked to clarify that the law enforcement radios were encrypted and that fire is requesting that it be done. Bill confirmed this was the case. Shawn stated that the fire departments were given encrypted portables to assist in communications in the interim. Bill stated he believes the fire encryption is essential for safety.

Dennis provided written update and discussed each topic. Financial timeline for the pinnacle site starts in July 2024 with an estimated end of Q3 of 2026.

Tim Romanelli advised there are future updates that will be needed. Many components have a 7-year lifespan before they need replacing. He is trying to coordinate these updates with the pinnacle site milestones.

Tim added that they are working on the microwave paths and plan to have a looped system which is safer.

7. Status of Harrington Beach

Shawn advised that he needs to finish two control stations. When that's complete, EDACS will be turned off and the Harrington Beach site will be activated.

Jim asked if users will need to switch to that system to use it. Shawn confirmed that they will but the system is already programmed into each radio.

8. MABAS Update

Bill Rice advised of a change in updating box cards which has officially been switched to April. However, some agencies are opting to stick with January 1st.

9. Washington County Update

Dennis stated that the project is moving forward and the towers are almost completely built.

Jim asked for an update on mutual aid agreements with other counties. Shawn advised that he has shared the encryption key but we're not at the point where we can interop with others. Jim asked Lindsey Graycarek about issues with not having an interop with Northshore agencies. Lindsey advised it has not been an issue but added Mequon did not have a direct connection to them in the past. Shawn confirmed that Bayside can still contact Ozaukee County via the unencrypted OZSNET talk group.

10. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for March 14, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Jim Albrinck, second by Joe Laurin to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group