

Radio System User Committee

Minutes

November 6, 2025

Draft minutes pending committee approval.

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, Josh Borden, Joe Laurin, and Bill Rice. Others in attendance: Matt Karpinski, Ozaukee Central Fire Department; Joe DeBoer, Port Washington Fire Department; Brandon Boettcher, Port Washington Fire Department; Heather Boesch, Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office; Chad Eibs, Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office; Austin Winkler, Ozaukee County I.T.; Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Sixto Hernandez, Buchholtz CSM LLC; and Tim Romanelli, Raycom.

Committee member Rick Nelson arrived at 3:14 p.m.

1. Call to Order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Per Chairman Bob Ramthun, meeting was properly noticed and the agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of May 8, 2025 Minutes.

Motion by Jim Albrinck, second by Joe Laurin to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence/Communications

None

5. Vacant Police Representative

Bob Ramthun reached out to the area chiefs but did not receive any responses. He is still working on filling the spot.

6. Radio Back-up Procedure Update

Joe L. remarked that nothing had changed. Bill Rice will reach out to Bobby Kaslick to schedule a meeting.

7. Fire Service Portable Radio Shoulder Microphone Replacement

Jim A. stated the shoulder microphones have been a problem and were obsolete when they went into service. Some replacements have not worked, and their price is high. They are not intrinsically safe and are noisy. Jim asked GENCOM to send a representative to a meeting, but no one was available. Jim distributed printouts of five possible replacement microphones and asked what can be done to replace them.

Bill R. and Matt Karpinski stated that approximately 10 of the Ozaukee Central Fire microphones have gone bad and they have repurposed microphones from other radios in the department. Matt has been demoing the XL-AE3J in black for just over a year. There are instances where the radio didn't transmit but he hasn't been able to determine a cause. There are concerns about the \$700.00 cost. Matt remarked that the XL-AE2W were used by other agencies and were prone to key-ups tying up the talk group.

Joe DeBoer. remarked that they had the same issue and same number of failures including three that were inoperable out of the box.

Dennis Buchhultz asked Matt if he received any communication from L3 Harris. Matt said he would need to review his emails.

Tim Romaneli. said that the mic Matt has is a 1st gen. L3 Harris redesigned the microphones and are on the 2nd or 3rd generation. He recommended attempting a bulk trade out with GENCOM rather than replacing them individually.

Joe D. asked if someone could get microphones to demo. Dennis and Tim will reach out to their contacts.

Discussion on a remedy.

Matt stated there were approximately 500 microphones distributed.

Bill suggested a meeting with county administrator, L3 Harris, and local county agencies to discuss funding.

8. Mequon Radio Template Problem/Future Template Status Update

Shawn Anderson reported a problem with the Mequon template. Bob explained that Mequon discovered that they couldn't hear the Grafton/Cedarburg talk group. Shawn is working on getting the portables up-to-date and will follow those up with the mobile radios.

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

Jim asked about the possibility of decommissioning the old towers at Justice and Mee-Kwon. Shawn said it is planned for but not on the radar right now.

10. Status of Harrington Beach

Shawn said it's ready. He's just waiting for the template updates.

11. MABAS Update

Bill reported that a large-scale radio drill is scheduled for Saturday being run by City of Milwaukee around 8:30 a.m. Mike Barrett will be sending information.

12. Washington County Update

Dennis said they started loading on WASO. They are finding some issues to correct which are typical. Jim asked for a time frame they will remain on VHF. Dennis will check.

13. Set Next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for January 29, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Bill Rice, second by Josh Borden to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group