

Southwest MN User Committee Meeting
10-27-09 6:00 P.M.

Jeff began the meeting at 6 P.M. There was representation present from Lyon, Nobles, Pipestone, Renville, Rock, City of Marshall. Harry Algyer; Shetek Consulting Services, LLC, Steve Borchardt: Steve Borchardt & Associates Consulting, Inc, & Tom Justin were also present.

Jeff turned the meeting over to Steve Borchardt to provide the committee with direction on how best to approach our user group assignment. Our user group was assigned, at last month's meeting, with the task to submit to the Regional Radio Board a design for our Regional zone interoperable talk group. This task needs to be completed by mid-November for the Grant process to keep moving forward.

The floor was turned over to Tom Justin, who did a very informative presentation on Grant Counties Talk Group's Interoperability Plan. The abbreviation for the codes was explained. It was explained about the ATAC Users and PTAC user. Initially ATAC users were ALL user. PTAC users were initially identified as strictly Police / Fire / and EMS. So as it was initially set up, one could very easily distinguish between ATAC & PTAC for user group assignment. However, the definition of PTAC users was modified to include ANYONE that has involvement in an emergency. This can include Public work, Power companies ect. There is no longer a clear definition that separates the two. He spoke about the initial set up that included ATAC & PTAC and the confusion in assigning a talk group. He spoke on how Grant County has revised their initial layout at the regional level that is more inclusive for outside responding agencies to respond and have communications. He spoke of the difference between ASOA, PSOA and FSOA These are basically "walkie - talkie" communications that are "on scene" that is being monitored in that particular zone by the Incident commander of the situation. The FSOA is a fire channel that is NOT ALLOWED in portable radios. Very good questions generated by those in attendance. Simple, yet informative answers, were given by the Supporting Consultants.

Following a 3 hour session, the consensus of the group was not to reinvent the wheel. Those in attendance were comfortable with proposing to our Radio Board the Regional Zone already set up by Central. (Attached is a copy). The fire entities proposed that the zone not be set up using FSOA Channel with that channel not being allowed in portables.

Ed Busch (Nobles County) made a motion to propose to the Regional Radio Board (RRB) to model our Region Interoperability Layout to replicate what South Central has in place at this time. Tim DeSaer seconded the motion.

Steve felt that sending this proposal to the RRB will satisfy requirement for the Regional Ops Plan. Towers will be fired up sooner than later. Once this is in place and the tower's begin operating, the momentum will begin to generate communication to set up local zones and interoperability.

It was general consensus that our next meeting will be determined by what date the RRB set's their meeting date at for November. They will meet Oct 28th. Once the date is determined, the information will be posted on our website. Jeff will also send the information out via email.

Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Ed Busch seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

Recording Secretary,
Deborah Winter