

**Central MN
Regional Advisory Committee
Friday, May 14, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Members/Alternates Present:

1. Micah Myers, Chair & Brandon Larson – City of St. Cloud
2. Kyle Dusing – Benton County
3. Sheriff Mark Brown – Big Stone County
4. Tom Egan & Kevin Smith – Douglas County
5. Tina Lindquist – Grant County
6. Sheriff Brian Cruze – Meeker County
7. Andy Beckstrom – Mille Lacs County
8. Victoria MacKissock – Morrison County
9. Greg Seim & Jason Karlgaard – Otter Tail County
10. Sheriff Tim Riley, Vice Chair – Pope County
11. Kristen Lahr – Stearns County
12. Sheriff Jason Dingman – Stevens County
13. Sheriff John Holtz – Swift County
14. Sarah Booker – Todd County
15. Lynn Siegel – Traverse County
16. Anthony Harris – Wilkin County
17. Richard Ward – Wright County

Members/Alternates Absent:

18. Kandiyohi County
19. Wadena County

Guests Present:

1. Stephanie Johnson, EMAC Chair – Meeker County
2. Jeff Jelinski, ESB Chair – Morrison County Commissioner
3. Paul McIntyre, User Chair – Mayo Clinic Ambulance
4. Dave Klema – MnDOT
5. Sarah Moulzolf – Granite Electronics
6. Dereck Leyde – Northland Business Systems
7. Heidi Schultz – Northland Business Systems

Meeting was called to order by Chair Myers at 10:00 a.m.

17 of the 19 members in attendance with a quorum present.

Revisions and Approval of Agenda:

Pope County made a motion to approve the RAC Agenda. Morrison County seconded, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton – Aye; Big Stone – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Aye; Stevens – Aye; Swift – Aye; Todd – Aye; Traverse – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye.

Approval of Minutes:

Swift County made a motion to approve the RAC minutes from April 9, 2021. Todd County seconded, motion carried. Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton – Aye; Big Stone – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Aye; Stevens – Aye; Swift – Aye; Todd – Aye; Traverse – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye.

Communications:

1. ECN Webinar Series
View online.

Reports:**SRB/ARMER Update; MnDPS/MnDOT:**

1. MnDOT (Dave Klema)

Klema reported we have went through our newer microwaves and purchased the software licenses that were necessary to turn on the ethernet port. A small portion of our microwave is left over from the VHF days that we used out in spur locations. We have a bid we are working on to start replacing that equipment in the next 5 years with microwave that can do ethernet. Our planning for the ARMER ethernet, our plan is to convert a few sites in the Central MN region to ethernet on a separate core pair to figure out and put together our plan that we need to bring to the LMR which would include what our thoughts are on all the partner connections. That has been a question with our partners like Stearns and everybody that has console links to the system. It is not something we need to figure out immediately. We have ideas and we are just trying to vet those out and we will be sure to get those to people so if there is any costs they can work that into their budget. We are not expecting it to be a large burden. A lot of the partner connections to the system already have ethernet available. There are other boxes we can use to bridge the T1s and continue to use T1s to do ethernet. It is not the best way doing it, but we have to test that first.

Myers mentioned it to Tim Lee yesterday at the Finance Committee when he had given us a list of potential towers they are going to need replacing. There is a lot of federal funding being made available for other initiatives like cyber security, broadband connectivity. As you are talking about your connectivity if some of the counties are working with broadband providers to expand and put fiber would there be any benefit to maybe picking up a site or two along the lines there? And looking at that as a possible project happening by connecting those sites with fiber? Myers wondered if there is any consideration being looked on that? Klema replied Mn.it has approached us on a few sites where they are working with counties on fiber. There are a few people in our office that are kind of working with. We are trying to figure out what that would actually look like. Tim Lee has made it clear that as we go forward we need to start looking at other opportunities just to make sure the system is able to utilize any of these advantages that come along. As far as the federal dollars, Klema is not up-to-speed on that. Lee has talked about it before, federal dollars there is a lot of strings attached and what you can use them for. To be honest, we have not used them a whole lot.

Myers would like to dovetail into the same comment that Myers made to Shane and Tim yesterday looking at it as several members in the region there is dollars that have been identified free for these projects and if you are able to leverage those as Klema mentioned all the strings that are attached, looking at the potential for the ability to pick up a site or two with connectivity via fiber if are installing fiber to provide broadband. Myers knows in the Central Region there is initiatives from some of the telcos Myers works with that are doing fixed-base wireless and they will need sites. There are sites that Lee had on the list that were potentially they are looking to need to be replaced. And looking at a way to maybe somehow leverage that, but Myers would like to start looking at those conversations.

Reports: (Continued)

SRB/ARMER Update; MnDPS/MnDOT: (Continued)

1. MnDOT (Continued)

Myers explained it is not typically what we look at, but there is a benefit to ARMER and also sets us up for the expansion of LTE or getting coverage if these sites are conducive or attractive to your cell carriers and/or the wireless broadband providers. Not looking for something today, but just wanted to start having those conversations, because there is still a lot of uncertainty with those funds. There are some information that came out from the League earlier on this as to identifying some of the uses of those, but there is a lot of information. These funds are going to be available until 2026. So, start looking at it and potentially have those conversations as Myers will give a report on the Finance Committee for the long-term funding strategies, but this is another avenue to explore. Klema explained Tim did have that list of the towers that are older, they are still working, but it is just something down the road we need to replace. And if there is a partnership there we will keep that in mind. Myers is actually meeting with one of the providers here that has a big project in Central MN. They are going to be doing fixed-base wireless. Myers is going to provide that list to them seeing if locations in those areas will relay on their proposed build-out plan and seeing if we cannot get you guys in connection with each other. Myers would ask the members, if your counties are going to be doing any of these initiatives keep that in mind looking at things we can do to enhance ARMER and also provide expanded coverage for FirstNet or the LTE project that is going.

2. SECB: (Micah Myers)

Met April 22nd. From the Finance Committee we got approval from the SECB to put together a workgroup to come up with some funding strategies. The strategic plan was presented from the Steering Committee and that was approved. What they are looking at is having representation from each of the SECB Committees and an alternate and a potential subject matter expert. They are going to be meeting on those to get that moving forward. From LMR, Eagan Fire had a waiver for utilization of some LTACs that was approved. Standard LMR-3 was approved. Another item of noteworthiness that came up is looking at improving the communication between the SECB Committees and the board. We will be having a standing meeting now a week prior to the each of the SECB meetings to review the agenda and looking at stuff to help improve that. We got the report from the standing committees. NG911 talked about the standard review that is going through right now, so there are some changes to that. We got status reports from ECN and DPS. We are still waiting to hear on the FCC Fee Diversion Strikeforce. Rumor had it that we had a potential member of the Central MN that was going to get named, but we have not confirmed that. We are waiting to see how that plays out, because that is going to impact some of the things that the long-term funding group is going to be working on.

3. Finance Committee: (Micah Myers)

Met yesterday. Cathy Anderson gave a report on the changes that have happened with the standards. The same location you can find them. The old naming convention will still be there, but they have been reformatted to the new naming convention. The item we sought and got approval from the SECB at the last meeting for the long-term funding group we had some discussion as to the make-up of that group. We sent out communication to an oversight group that will help put more structure to that. We are looking at our first meeting potentially being May 24, 25, or 26. We are going to send out a poll to see what works for the folks we have identified. For reporting, we are looking at setting up a SharePoint which will be made available to folks that want to be able to follow what is going on. It would be a single-source document that there is one version. We approved the 2021 SECB investment hierarchy. We established the priorities for those and gave some examples of what we felt should be included in those. We went over the strategic planning representation. All of the SECB Committees are looking to have representation on it. We identified our representatives from the Finance Committee.

Reports: (Continued)

SRB/ARMER Update; MnDPS/MnDOT: (Continued)

3. Finance Committee: (Micah Myers) (Continued)

We talked about the FCC fee diversion still waiting that we understand that the FCC had put out they would have some notification this week to the folks that were selected to be on that committee. LMR-LTE funding information we provided some information to the group. MESB had provided us some documentation from when they were looking at user fees. If we are not able to find a sustainable funding source and looking at how do we keep the system going we are going to have to have that discussion as part of that funding workgroup. We had some information that was presented to kind of give them an idea as to what it would look like. Not that it was anything that we were making a recommendation. It was just showing what other folks have done. We had a little bit of discussion on the difficulties of having those discussions, but we are going to have to have them.

Under new business, Tim Lee presented the 2022-23 budget for MnDOT for ARMER. In Lee's report he showed towers that needed to be replacing. It showed how that cost and everything was generated. That was approved and will be moving forward to the SECB for approval. A portion of that is still the 9.7 million that comes from the 9-1-1 special revenue fund to help offset the costs of the backbone and that is about 70%. Those documents showed the allocation as to what came from the trunked highway. And how there are revenues they have coming in how the MnDOT budget that pertains to ARMER is funded. That will be moving forward for approval at the SECB at their next meeting.

Grants Workgroup gave an update. We continue working on planning starting the process for what the applications are going to look like for the SECB grant that is coming up here, so we can get that grant going right away the 1st of the year. We are looking at when does that application have, what does that application look like?

4. Legislative Committee: (Micah Myers)

- a) 9-1-1 Fee Change
- b) FCC Fee Diversion Strike Force
- c) Representation on the 403 Statute rewrite

Myers thanked Booker from the Central Region. She is one of the folks that sits on the 403 statute rewrite. Very engaged and is doing a very good job in looking at it and making good comments as to things that should be changed or not. We will be setting up a SharePoint site working with ECN staff so the group can have one consistent version to work through. The process is that we meet biweekly go through with the consultants that ECN has hired. They are doing a very good job. It is a big task.

We talked about the 911 fee change. It is in the omnibus bill right now. Myers has been trying to track where it is head. It still is not fully approved, but it is in there. The fee change that ECN had identified in reducing the 911 fee to \$0.80 increasing the PSAP contributions that is all in there just pending approval. We talked about the strike force. There is the update on T-CPR legislation. The standard we had that was put out there that is currently under revision based on information that was presented to that workgroup from the Attorney General's Office. Booker added the standard that is going through the regions right now for approval and that should be completed in June and sent back to the SECB at that point.

5. Interoperability Committee: (Micah Myers)

No meeting.

Reports: (Continued)

SRB/ARMER Update; MnDPS/MnDOT: (Continued)

6. Land Mobile Radio Committee: (Kristen Lahr)

Met on Tuesday. There were four standards for review by the committee. They will also be presented at Interop for approval as well: LMR-53, IOP-2, LMR-49, and IOP-29. Items 2, 3, and 4 were language corrections and formatting corrections; not too much has changed with those. LMR-53: Foreign Radio System and Non-ARMER Radio Connections Standard is a new standard, so there was a brief overview of that given at the meeting. All four of those items were approved. Under old business, there was some follow-up from Steele County Interop Participation Plan Request that was an addition of a few talkgroup IDs and some radio IDs that was approved. Onalaska, WI Fire Dept and MercyOne/Air Methods Interop Plans those are just interoperability plans from border agencies. Those have been tabled to the next meeting just to provide a more full description of who their local ARMER system administration would be handled by as far as controlling the radio IDs in case something needed to be modified or inhibited. We also had a brief presentation by Steve Tait for the strategic planning update. He presented the schedule for strategic planning, the planning team composition, and a sample of the SCIP template how that will be formatted. That was accepted by the committee as well.

Lahr was asked if the Central Region will have an alternate for representation on LMR. If anybody is interested in being the delegate for the LMR Committee there is always very pertinent information that a lot of people are interested in in the region. It is a good committee to listen in on as far as what kind of activities are happening regarding land mobile radio.

7. Steering Committee: (Kristen Lahr)

Met on Wednesday. We looked at the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan discussion. We reviewed and approved the schedule that was presented. For planning, we did review and make final approval on the planning composition team. And then did more of a deep dive into the parts of the template. ECN had a slide presentation and were able to display the template and fill-in some MN-specific information on how everything will be formatted and what the planning team will actually be working on. All three of those items were presented, reviewed and approved by the committee. Director Wahlberg did give an update on the status of the FCC 911 fee diversion. We have not heard whether the FCC has appointed any of the applicants from MN that have submitted applications to be part of that strike force. Wahlberg also gave an ECN update.

8. NG911 Committee (Sarah Booker)

Met on April 21st. We had a presentation from the MN Department of Health on their initiative to create the 988 mental health lifeline. They are currently in the strategic planning process of that, but there will be some coordination with the folks on the 911 side to get that stood up. There will be issues with geo location and then the transfers to and from 911 and 988. We had a presentation from the NG911 GIS workgroup of the recommendations document with regards to the geospatial data. That will be going to SECB for approval. There is going to be some further conversations coming up with Steering regarding the document and the future of this workgroup if it is going to continue in a different format or under the Steering Committee verses the 911 Committee. Standards update on the GIS standards. T-CPR project is in progress. The standard changes are making their way through the regions. Advanced classes of service is in progress. IES and ComTech are ready to go for those Verizon updates, so agencies are starting to come online with that information. The change plan process is still in process. We are hoping possibility this next month to see the draft of that and work through that. The proposed 911 fee form is on hold while we are working through the 403 rewrite. We had a quick update on the AMC ask to keep the 911 fee at 95 cents. And a brief update on the 911 telecommunicator workgroup bill status. Our last order of business was the Vice Chair elections which Booker was elected the Vice Chair of that committee.

Reports: (Continued)

SRB/ARMER Update; MnDPS/MnDOT: (Continued)

9. Wireless Broadband and Applications Committee (Brandon Larson)

Our next meeting will be this coming Tuesday. One of the agenda topics is going to be pertaining to the 23 FirstNet towers that were negotiated with the state's first opt-in for FirstNet. AT&T is still planning on constructing all of the 23 towers, but they are concerned that two of them will not be completed by the contract due date. They have some other sites they have in-progress and are asking for the SECB Committee to weigh-in to give them direction on what could replace the two sites so they could meet their contract deadline. In the meeting packet for next Tuesday, you will see the options. There is a Washington County option, Houston County, Traverse, Stearns and Itasca. At the upcoming meeting we will also have a presentation from Steve Tait regarding strategic planning.

10. Interop – STR Workgroup (Brandon Larson)

At the last STR workgroup meeting, there was discussion surrounding the current STR equipment, additional funding for replacement of radios. Tait brought an idea to the group for starting a statewide COMU team that could respond to communications events and it would be paired with STR group since equipment is required. ECN has some grant funds they are going to be planning a communications training and exercise multi-day at Camp Ripley in the early fall. They are going to be leaning on the COMU and STR workgroups to build the presentation for that event. There was further discussion surrounding realignment of STR workgroup along with the programs of ECN relating to 911 communications for funding opportunities. At our next meeting here beginning of June there is going to be further review of the STR standard that SWIC Stromberg started with us over a year and a half ago.

11. RIC Report (Steve Tait)

No report.

Regional Leadership Group – (Next Meeting July 26, 2021)

Lahr noted the date will be changed from July 26th to July 19th. It will be moved up a week to coincide with reviewing some draft SCIP plan documents.

NG-911 Committee (Sarah Booker)

Met yesterday. We took a status update on the current progress of our T-CPR trainings. Just a reminder on their grant submission process once those are completed. We took a status update on the agencies that are going live on the text-to-911. We did have another discussion on some of the attendance problems we have been having. It has been very good lately, but we are still trying to work through how to continue that. We did move to go forward with a Bylaw change process to allow the inclusion of one additional alternate per members agency if they desire. That draft will be in the works and we will present the draft at the June meeting to be posted with final approval for July.

EMAC Committee: (Stephanie Johnson)

Met April 28th. Did talk about our 2020 SHSP grant that was submitted to the state. We are waiting for the grant to go into an awarded status and then we will put out the request for proposal to do interviews and fill our regional contractor position. Once that is done we do still intend to extend that grant by 6 months for the full utilization of the funds and the regional contractor position. We did also discuss the 2021 SHSP Grant that was submitted to the state. The grant and administration group of the EMAC did submit that \$40,000 for a contracted planner to facilitate training and exercise and we also did do a \$50,000 equipment grant also including training on the equipment. The equipment that we put in the request for is housing for the response, so things like tents, shelters, etc. And then also portable lights for potential work areas rescue sites that are battery operated instead of generator operated. We did officially submit those to HSEM for their review and we also put that through our EMAC Committee.

Reports: (Continued)

EMAC Committee: (Stephanie Johnson) (Continued)

Also at that meeting we did do our final review of our bylaws changes which are voted on and official after they were posted on the website in draft form. Our next meeting will be July 28th and we will determine when it gets closer if that is going to be in-person or virtual.

Owners & Operators Committee: (Kristen Lahr)

Did not meet in March or April due to light agenda topics. We will meet next week jointly with Users. We have a talkgroup permission request from Mayo Ambulance to review, just some informational items regarding COMU and STR resources and reporting for 2020. Jointly we will be discussing regional strategic planning efforts here in the Central Region.

Myers asked now with the changes to meetings are your committees going to discuss whether, or not, they stay in the virtual format? Has any thought been given to looking for potential meeting locations? Lahr replied we likely will make an amendment to our agenda and discuss that jointly as far as how we want to move forward. Regionally, everywhere if we do that blended option where we have both a technical option and an in-person meeting, the whole region will have to really scout out locations that will accommodate that as far as the technology capabilities having all participants be able to hear and participate effectively for all of the meetings.

Myers noted Larson was looking at potentially some technology enhancements that will help facilitate once we determine we are going to start meeting in-person. We have to do a little bit of digging there, because that is going to be the challenge. One of the things we will look at is how do you do the hybrid that are blended. It limits locations and then making sure we have the appropriate resources, so we can conduct a meeting both in-person and in the virtual sense. Larson has not done a whole bunch of research, but Larson was recently on a hybridized meeting with probably about 30 people virtually and about 20 people on location. There was a particular product they had used that is like a conference speaker on steroids. It has 360 degree camera with auto tracking for who is talking. It has a microphone and speaker capability and you are able to link two of them together. It is something the company advertises they provide a 30-day demo. So, when we do get to the point of maybe meeting, we could test it out. With the size and spread out of some of our rooms Larson is not sure if it will pick up everyone's voices appropriately so everyone can participate. Larson knows looking at the information from the Governor's updates for the interactive technology meetings. Myers clarified the statute updates that got signed into law on May 6th. There was changes Chapter 14, they use a term interactive technology. That was a three-hour meeting just to come up with that word. When they went into the standard they made some provisions, because the way the statute read before is if you had an elected official member of your committee that wanted to meet remotely they had to have a medical exemption to be able to do it. They changed that language. It closely aligns to what we were doing with our bylaws is that if we are going to be doing the hybrid that you have to have that physical location available to the general public, but the meeting spaces for other folks are not. As long as you have that central location.

Larson explained the way he read it there was also a section where it talked about how all people whether with the interactive technologies or in-person have to be able to hear each other, to be able to participate. And that is the part Larson would be the most concerned about. Even just with some of the teleconferencing that we have attempted in the past. In order to achieve that we were literally passing around cellphones, or having people call in while they were sitting in a room muting and unmuting. That is going to be the biggest hurdle.

User Committee: (Paul McIntyre)

We will be meeting next week on the 20th jointly.

Reports: (Continued)EMS/Hospital Sub-Committee: (Paul McIntyre)

No report.

Executive Committee:

Met Wednesday. Myers explained we are creating a SharePoint site. We are looking at having the Executive Committee step through the plan. Steve Tait took the raw data that the workgroup had put together that Judy had provided and put it into the format. ECN has offered their service to be the scribe, but we will actually step through the document is our plan. Have it standing items on all the committees so that committees can see what is going on. If the committees want to weigh-in they can weigh-in at the regular meetings, so we do not have to try and do a separate meeting for those. The Executive Committee will pick each section and go and then present that back out to the group. That is the process we agreed upon at the Executive. We talked about some training. We also talked about the regional website and what it is going to look like now that all of the outside regions have given their notice they are going to be withdrawing from the regional website, so it will be a Central website only again. Talked about the memo that Booker had eluded to with going out to the sheriffs and looking at seeking their input in helping with the attendance.

Emergency Services Board: (Next meeting June 9, 2021)

a. CMNESB 2022 Draft Budget

Myers stated we made some provisions based on discussion we had at the Executive Committee. Now you see a line in for training. We have held the budget flat. Monies we had in the miscellaneous, or monies that would have ended up going to reserve, we put a portion of that into training. We made some adjustments on the website anticipating that our costs will go up a little bit on that.

Myers explained the logger we are funding the replacement fund at \$13,300, but as the work we did prior to COVID when we did the upgrade, we found out that number should be more closer to \$18,600 based on what it ended up costing us to do that upgrade at the time. We established a baseline as to what we are working toward. We also took into consideration now that we have non-JPA, or members outside the region, that are participating and their rates. If you look at that last line it says Non-JPA Member. Their number is a little bit off, but the Logger Committee voted on how they were going to allocate the money that comes in. Right now, that number is around \$6K annually that we will get for non-JPA participants. We did an even cost share to the Motorola, Northland, MnDOT maintenance. We had some that would go into what we called the core replacement. There is also something we talked about with the group looking at starting a reserve for if we have to put an additional console site on. If we continue to get additional members coming onto the logger at some point we are going to hit maximum density and we are going to have to stand-up another console site. There is a cost to doing that so we starting to establish a reserve. Their number is \$5,200. For the budget, we will be getting \$6,100 in next year because we raised the \$6,000 fee up a little bit. The allocation here for each of the members is what we typically do. It does not quite align when you look at the \$5,200, but they are paying more. They are paying \$6,100, but a portion of that is what is going into that console replacement site. We agreed if it is a non-JPA, because those are the folks that the more of those we get the more they would have to bear that costs. That is the only thing that would have changed. The census numbers Myers is hoping will come out before the final, because we can update that, but if you look in those buckets it is 25% of your population, 25% of the radios. You look at your radio costs. If your numbers are off you update them. You are allocating on \$11,200 on radio counts. \$11,200 of the annual budget is on population. There is the 50% that we have which is the \$22,400. Those numbers would change it a little bit when we update the population with the latest census numbers and your radios counts, but it is not going to be very large.

Reports: (Continued)

Emergency Services Board: (Next meeting June 9, 2021)

a. CMNESB 2022 Draft Budget

Myers explained your contribution costs stay close to the same if not go down a little bit depending on if you were part of the regional logger. This is what we are presenting unless there is something else we should be doing with this budget. This is what we will present to the board. The board will make their comments and then we will bring it back to the respective committees and then bring it back in their July meeting for their final approval.

b. SECB Standard IOP-9 (3.32.0 – Statewide Interoperable Plain Language)

Myers explained you will see the information that came from Anderson and Tait. This one could go to O&O or technical, but they are looking to try and get the regions to weigh-in and say they understand. This is more not using 10-codes, because 10-codes can be different in different areas. Reminding people we do have a plain speech process. There was some revisions made to this standard, so they wanted each of the regions to sign-off saying they acknowledge they had discussion on this.

Larson was on the standards call for this one. Larson explained as we were going through and doing language clean-up the discussion turned to the part of recognizing the importance of plain language for interoperability especially when you have got different disciplines or different users that are not accustomed to working with each other and getting rid of 10-codes during those interop events. That is where some conversations regarding the word usage of ‘should,’ ‘shall,’ came into play. Other conversations swirled around the training aspect. If you only use plain language when it is a critical incident more often than not the users are not going to remember to use plain language and they will continue to use what they normally use with their local agencies. That is where this conversation went. The recommendation was to send it out for regional input and see what everyone felt what you are doing at your home agencies and what you feel is important moving on for the system as a whole.

Sheriff Cruze asked is there a specific issue, or is this just looking at potential issues? Larson responded the issue that was identified was that some people felt if should or shall was put into the standard that it was creating a protocol for all agencies. And liability was felt for if agencies participating in interop incident were not using plain language that there would be some liability left open there and that was a concern. Sheriff Cruze would hate to see it where we are punishing people. We have local agencies that use codes. Cruze does not think you are ever going to get away from that. You have people who have been cops for 25 years they are always going to use codes. Generally, when Cruze listens, and we jump to a regional, we jump to a statewide the limited codes we use in our office do not get used on that. Cruze would hate to see where we are jamming people up whether it is cops, fire, or EMS, because they used a code that gets used at a local. If we leave it as you should do this and we make an effort to when we are all on the radio together we are using language we can all understand. Cruze thinks that is where we should be. That is why Cruze was wondering are there ongoing issues, or is it we are just looking at potential issues?

Larson replied it was more so around what would be a best practice if it is a standard for the statewide ARMER system for everyone to follow since it is an SECB Standard, on principle would be the best thing to do. Larson’s opinion on principle if you are going to talk about interoperability that is the fewest code usage as possible, because you might have agencies, especially we saw last year with civil unrest and also with the Northern Lights group up north pulling in agencies from all across the state to help out, and so in those situations code speak is very much a speed bump for any operations. But, as long as people are using plain language when they are interop’ing with people Larson thinks that is appropriate.

Reports: (Continued)

Emergency Services Board: (Next meeting June 9, 2021)

b. SECB Standard IOP-9 (3.32.0 – Statewide Interoperable Plain Language)

Larson explained there were a few people on the call that felt there was some major liability that was being injected with the word change, but also we have all acknowledged multiple times on that call and in regional meetings that there is not really an ARMER police. Really this comes down to standards of educating people how they should be operating on this system, anywhere from technical to operations personnel. Sheriff Cruze agreed 100% when we are on those ops we need to use that plain language. Cruze's opinion if we would just write language that would encourage it and we should be doing it. Cruze realizes there is not an ARMER police, but that will be the next thing is well this agency routinely uses code 4 and now we are going to go after them and Cruze would hate to see that happen. What Cruze hears generally in our area when Cruze hears people jump into regionals and states the limited codes that are used are not being used. It is pretty straight forward. We are in a pursuit we are doing this we are doing that. Cruze thinks it would be tough to go from should to shall or something like that. Otter Tail County (Karlgaard) echoed that. Just speaking strictly for Otter Tail County, this is a solution to a problem that does not exist for us. When we pulled in outside resources we have not experienced problems along those lines. We do have a couple of 10-codes and things that just do not die and will not ever die. When we are on larger incidences it is not an issue. Otter Tail County would be against something about that where agencies would be penalized for using codes.

Myers stated some of the challenges that you have on a state system, you have to have some baseline guidelines and to the point there is not an ARMER police, but looking at doing your best effort on those events where you are using mutual aid or joint resources that you watch for it. This is something looking at it from management of a statewide system you have to have some baselines, so that is why they are having it. This has been around for a long time talking about plain speech verses 10-code and it comes up it is cyclical. There is not the ARMER police that are going, but not to say there could not be. Just something to watch for. Myers asked if we needed to take formal action, because typically what we do with some of these standards, if they are technical in nature they go to the O&O and they approve them and then they report back to the ESB. The state is looking at saying the region has weighed-in. So, if there are concerns we have we will put those down and send those back with saying this is what we reviewed, but to the points Myers heard here today, do we want to take formal action noting what the sheriff and Otter Tail County had noted? Myers will reach back to Tait and Anderson on that. Lahr thought it would be interesting just to get a pulse on local 10-code usage. It has probably been about four years now that Stearns County and the City of St. Cloud eliminated 10-code use and we went to plain language. There are like two codes that we kept that are infrequent in nature to begin with. It would be interesting to see what agencies are still using 10-codes heavily in a local manner maybe that would give us an overall pulse of how frequent 10-codes are used throughout the region. Myers asked how do you suggest we do that, create a questionnaire are you using 10-codes, what examples of 10-codes you are doing in your regular daily operations, just asking them? Lahr replied if it is something the region is interested in, Lahr is personally, but Lahr is not saying let us create a poll just so Lahr's curiosity can be satisfied. Myers stated we could reach out just ask kind of informal. One of the things you start collecting data and then it becomes more on that liability side well you knew about it and you did not do anything about it. Otter Tail County (Seim) responded we do use some minor 10 codes in our daily language and Seim does not see if there is not an issue currently going on, why are we going to a poll. Seim just does not see if we do not have any outstanding issues we just leave it as is. Sheriff Cruze thinks the quick answer to that without a poll is most of the agencies use 10-codes in some form whether they are a lot or a few. If you monitor radios you hear it throughout the region. Swift County Sheriff piggybacked off of Seim and Cruze on this.

Updates from Partners on Current Projects:

Holtz reported the console project is coming along extremely well. Had some shocking news earlier this week. Holtz has a couple of partners coming on Monday to start programming everything. Holtz has training on Wednesday night, Thursday and Friday. Projected go live is May 25-26. We will be going live here real shortly, a lot faster than expected. We moved some timelines around for people to get in and get it done.

General Discussion and New Business:

NG911 Grant

1. GIS

a) Progress Reporting

Myers reported Douglas County congratulations you are one of four agencies that have passed that validation stage. And the Central Region has 2 of the 4 that are in the state that have passed.

2. CPE – Equipment

a) Progress Reporting

We just have a few agencies left that are in that initial project to go live.

SECB Grant Application

Myers stated if you are not on the list and you have something you want to throw in there. These numbers have been updated in the preliminary. We put these on the wish list both on the ones that are eligible for the SECB Grant funding which is very few as you are seeing the changes there. For the SHSP we put all of these on there to establish a needs basis so hopefully the funding can change. It was close to \$800,000 in asks that ECN has said that was denied for this current SHSP round which was \$175,000 they got for state projects. There was some discussion on those and we presented our list here to go into the next round of SHSP Grants. If you are not on the list get that information so we can update it and we will update our requests at the state level on that.

T-CPR Training Grant

Booker reported the IAED option it sounds like it will be available next week. Because of the delays in getting the IAED option rolled out from Priority Dispatch, the three agencies opted to go with the Virtual Academy option. That was reduction for \$50/person. Pope County did switch to the Power Phone Option which is also lower cost based on the number of persons they wanted trained. So, that did reduce our costs a little over \$2,000.

Training Roadmap

Myers has been working with On Target to get these scheduled. Myers sent out dates of availability for these. We are doing the pairings by the way you see them: Benton/Mille Lacs ½ day at each, Douglas/Pope and Grant/Otter Tail. Once we establish the dates Steve Olson will reach out to the PSAP Managers and coordinate the details of what is going to be covered. Please get back as soon as possible. Douglas County originally we had asked and got approval, but now we will have a little bit more money left for your CPE training. Myers also has an ask in, this stems back for two NG911 Committee meetings when we were talking about the turnback funds in that NG911 Grant Sandi Stroud was saying there is some other projects we could do, and Myers has not heard anything back on that. Myers is not going to wait for that, Myers would look at making the ask of the board for any of the leftover trainings to be applied to the trainings that Douglas County had submitted. Myers would look for a motion to approve this with any leftover dollars going to cover reimbursement for the additional training that Douglas County did for their CPE project. Douglas County motioned. Todd County seconded. Roll Call Vote: City of St. Cloud – Aye; Benton – Aye; Big Stone – Aye; Douglas – Aye; Grant – Aye; Meeker – Aye; Mille Lacs – Aye; Morrison – Aye; Otter Tail – Aye; Pope – Aye; Stearns – Aye; Stevens – Aye; Swift – Aye; Todd – Aye; Traverse – Aye; Wilkin – Aye; Wright – Aye.

General Discussion and New Business: (Continued)

Regional Strategic Plan

Myers reported we have the raw data that we talked about. That is the base document we are going to be working off. As we step through the document and make sure it aligns one of the things we would like to do with that document. It is one thing to put the document, but then putting out the achievable milestones to get to those. This is not something that is going to happen overnight. This is a 3-year plan, so our goal is to have the document ready to present to the ESB by either their September or December meeting for enactment in January 2022, because it will be our roadmap. And then we start working towards those goals.

Other

None.

Old Business:

Attendance Standard

View online.

SECB Committee Appointments

Myers explained we talked about the committee appointments. One of the ones we talked about was the alternate to the LMR. The LMR long-term funding workgroup is open if anyone wants to sit on that. That is what we have on the 403 rewrite. The other one we have open is the Interop COMU workgroup. Larson is sitting as the alternate, but if there is someone that wants to take the lead on that delegate that would be appreciated.

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. June 11, 2021 – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Adjournment:

Chair Myers made the executive motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was carried unanimously to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Shari Gieseke