

Minutes

South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council October 22, 2007

The South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council or SDPSCC as it will be named for the remainder of this document was held at 10:00 a.m., October 22, 2007 in Conference Rm. 314 at the Becker-Hansen Building in Pierre, SD. Any additions or corrections prior to the next scheduled meeting are welcome.

Members Present: Steve Christensen (SD Police Chiefs' Assoc.), Sheriff Fred Lamphere (SD Sheriffs' Assoc.), Dayton Myers (SD National Guard), Brad Steifvater (SD Emergency Managers' Assoc.), Dennis Gorton (SD Fire Fighters' Assoc.), Rebekah Craddock (SD Assoc. of Healthcare Organizations), Doug Koffman (sitting in place for Sgt. David Driscoll SD DPS), David Atherton (SD APCO/NENA Chapter), Danny Hayes (SD EMT Assoc.), Ken Wesche (SD DOA/Wildland Fire), Shirlee Leighton (SD Assoc. of County Commissioners), Jim Holmes (SD Dept. of Health) Larry Jandreau (Tribal Government), Christopher Lewis (Dept of Interior), Jeff Pierce (BIT).

Members Absent: Bryan Gortmaker (DCI), Emmett Keyser (SD Game, Fish & Parks), Greg Fuller (SD DOT), Sgt. David Driscoll (SD DPS).

Guests: Otto Doll (Commissioner of BIT), Rod Hall (Tribal Government), Bob Fisher (US Fish & Wildlife), Todd Dravland (BIT), Daren Ketcham (DPS), John Berheim (Homeland Security Coordinator), Curt Reese (Western Communications), Bill Davis (Motorola), Sonny Hagseth (Motorola).

10: 10 A.M. Chairman Gorton called the meeting to order.

Otto Doll, BIT Commissioner welcomed the Council and guests to the meeting; recognizing the importance of the issues that face the State of SD and Homeland Security. Mr. Doll also noted that the statewide representation is greatly appreciated and that BIT is looking forward to working with the SDPSCC and will do whatever we can to assure your success on this committee.

Fred Lamphere motioned to approve the minutes of the August 16th meeting, there being no additions or corrections, Chris Lewis seconded the motion—carried.

Clarification of the bylaws was discussed and it was determined that Member designees will be allowed to attend Council meetings but will not have voting authority.

Jeff Pierce provided budget information and this was emailed to each of the council members for their review. Explanation of what budget spending the council has control of was discussed. Supplies, assets, contractual services, travel are fluid and as long as they do not exceed the budgeted amount of \$1.9 million. See the attached information.

GPS/AVL/MDT updates:

GPS progress was tabled to the next meeting agenda.

MDT or Mobil Data Terminal update:

Jeff Pierce reported that Mobil Data will be available on integrated voice and data systems with mapping that will include the ability for AVL or Automatic Vehicle Location to tell where they are.

At the present time there are 25 tentatively approved mobil units that are on hold in the Eastern Region. The reason for the hold is so that information on the monthly fees can be obtained. Jeff also noted that Alltel was working trying to get a better price for the units.

Health Care Facilities:

Rebekah noted that the CEO's in the hospitals do not know much about the radios and there is a need to inform them.

Jim Holmes reported that all of the hospitals have radios and they are installed. Each Hospital is given both a hand held and a mobil radio. Drills are held every 3 months and the response is 50-55%, the day to day use is where there seems to be problems. The radio operators prefer to use the communications of their choice. So it seems the solution would be to apply a common communication system that everyone must use.

A handout of the South Dakota Hospital Talk Groups and EMS talk groups was dispersed: See the attached copies.

Each Hospital, EMS, ect should monitor their communications. Helicopters use flight tracking and this seems to work well for them, until they get to the hospitals. The State needs to set a standard for programming talk groups, at this point though, the State only maintains the system, there is no mandate in regard to how the system should be used.

HIPPA laws were discussed and the idea of possibly using some type of encryption was visited. The problem with encryption is that the user has to turn it off and on. Motorola representative -Bill Davis recommended that a Standard be set for using encryption and that maybe Jeff Pierce or Todd would be able to do this. Chris Lewis noted that for a group to work there needs to be a Standard in place and that certain agencies such as DCI, AES and Alpha team do have encryption in place.

Rebekah inquired about the feasibility of encryption due to the tri-state areas and how many of our hospitals fall onto bordering states. In this case maybe the state needs to adopt a Federal/State standard especially for agencies such as Wildland/Parks.

Action Item:

To have Danny ask the attendees at the EMS State Convention if encryption is a big issue and to find out how many people are using digital and why they don't use it if it's available to them.

Chris Lewis noted that we should get the word out that Digital is harder to hear because it's very expensive to buy the scanners and that may alleviate some of the HIPPA concerns.

PSIC Grant:

Information on the EF Johnson Upgrade to P25:

The following are some cost estimates for the radios; I will get the actual copies from Jeff Pierce to include with the minutes:

\$475 x 8000= \$3,800,000.00

\$450 x 6000= \$2,700,000.00

Alternate Financing Options: Municipal Lease from Motorola would be:

4.75% for 7 years

4.79% for 10 years

Payments would look something like this:

\$10 Million for 7 years- approximately 1.5 million annual payment

\$10 Million for 10 years- approximately 1.2 million annual payment

We could borrow up to \$20 Million.

Cops Grant Status:

We did not receive this grant and it may be that we needed to get our Congressional Delegation involved; this was something that we did not have the time to do.

Discussion on the EF Johnson radios:

Should the State recall those radios that are not being utilized? Each County needs to compile a listing of the radios that they have on hand. Fred Lamphere noted that we should make it a priority to locate those radios that are not being used and also those that are so we have some kind of idea of the actual radios in the State. EF Johnson is willing to get those radios up to date but that does not mean that all of them will be upgradeable. Of the 6000 Motorola radios we have; approximately half of them can be upgraded and if parts are available. The cost to do this would be more than the \$450.00 listed above.

Daren felt that the surveys would be a waste of time for us and that we could use the information that Todd Dravland can gather for us. He has the ability to tell us how many radios are being used and what for.

Action item:

Denny requested that Todd run a report for us and that the Council members take back a request for the different departments to report the number of radios that are out in the State.

Shirlee Leighton motioned that any non-state radio users contact Kristi Thurman with a compilation of the radios in the counties back to Jeff Pierce by November 1 and then have the Sheriff's and Police departments provide a follow-up listing. Motion 2nd by Chris Lewis—Carried.

Funding for the P25 system upgrade:

Jeff Pierce; Asked the council members if we need to continue to look for funding to upgrade the infrastructure of our system. What we need to figure out is how to obtain \$1.5 million annually to continue upgrading the network. Jeff provided slides that show we are in need of \$9,725,000.00 to do a system upgrade. Some of the options are to take out a long term lease. The council requested that Jeff continue to search for funding.

One of the items needed when we are requesting Grant funding is to have a resolution in place with a time line and a goal. What is a realistic time line? Jeff will begin working on the FY 09 Budget and it would be nice to have something in place to take back to the Legislators and to show the Governor that we have a plan.

Brad motioned that the Council set the timeline to have subscribers and infrastructure in place by July of 2010...Steve 2nd the motion—carried.

Homeland Security Updates: John Berheim

John mentioned to the Council that using the radio count would be good information to use for the PSIC grant, he noted that South Dakota doesn't get funding through grants many times because we don't really have anything and so they believe that we don't have a need for funding. We are small in population compared to other states. John would like to see what happens with the radio count data.

MOU Update: Chris Lewis

Chris informed the Council that Senior Leadership is very happy to know that we are interested in the MOU. This will help drive additional funding for our projects. The MOU is a 7 page document and Jeff will send a copy out to the Council to review.

Value of Infrastructure Review: Jeff Pierce

The costs of maintaining and developing infrastructure for different states such as California are astronomical compared to South Dakota. There are cities/counties in other states where the costs are millions of dollars compared to the State of South Dakota as a whole.

Although we did not receive the COPS grant we will be able to do some expansions and add capacity/coverage with Homeland Security funding.

Organization Reports:

Sgt. David Driscoll has retired and is asking that a replacement be found for him on the SDPSCC Council.

Motion to accept Sgt. Driscoll's resignation on the SDPSCC was made by Ken Wesche, 2nd by Fred Lamphere—carried.

Steve:

The Police Chiefs' comments were that the system doesn't work as well as it says it does, there are still some problems out there. He also noted concern about the EF Johnson radios. Steve mentioned that they also realize it is not their own money to spend, it is the taxpayer's.

Fred:

The Sheriffs' reported dissatisfaction with radios and coverage. It was mentioned that the radios may not be working correctly because of site switching. Fred will be attending a meeting in Deadwood and will try to gather more input while he is there.

Dayton:

Just noted that the National Guard has held off on some of their spending until they see what is happening here.

Brad:

Brad requested that someone be appointed as a liaison for the group so that changes and updates can be forwarded to them. Natalie Harer will be that liaison.

Denny:

Nothing for the Council at this time.

Rebekah:

Nothing for the Council at this time.

Doug: Highway Patrol

Inquired about the letters that Jeff Pierce sent out after the Rally in Sturgis, Jeff noted that those letters just informed some people that their radios were attempting to access talk groups that should not have been accessed.

David Atherton:

Could be more migration but the initial and recurring costs are issues.
PSAPS-Communication Centers should be included in the surveys
EM-would like to be included in the information on the Grants
Need to constantly upgrade radios and fees.

Danny:

EMT's want to have coverage upgraded West River.

Ken:

Discussed the importance of having radio coverage in case of wildland fires.

Shirlee:

Central Assessments funding is down.

Asked that we support the Liquor tax and increases in surcharges, they keep our county governments in business.

Jim:

Nothing to report at this time.

Larry:

See the attached Tribal Governments Organization report.

Chris:

Concern over the loss of 2 frequencies that the Federal government determined South Dakota does not need. This was an unexpected and they gave several reasons for dropping them. DOI has requested to obtain those 2 frequencies and the DHS is doing a baseline work up. It does not affect South Dakota at the present time but with expansion in the future this will become an issue.

Adjournment:

Chris made the motion to adjourn, Steve 2nd –carried.