

RADIO SYSTEM ADVISORY WORKGROUP
Zoom Call
September 17th, 2020

Members in Attendance: Tim Barber, Robert Barbier, Theresa Becker, Steve Denzien, Dick Isely, Joe Jeanty, Karl Koch, Brian Kohlmeier, Jason Orth, and Travis Waack. Other non-voting members were in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Travis Waack at 9:02 am.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Steve Denzien and Brian Kohlmeier to approve the July minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Review & Consideration of System Authorization Requests: Two authorization requests were considered. The first was from the Manitowoc Fire Rescue Department to add encrypted talk groups for MTSO, MTPD, and TRPD to their command vehicles and ambulances for interoperability during law enforcement related EMS calls. Discussion on the request followed. A motion was made by Steve Denzien and seconded by Theresa Becker to approve the request excluding MTSO & TRPD from the Chief's portable, which can have MTPD as previously authorized by the MTPD. The motion passed unanimously. The second was from Mishicot Ambulance to add encrypted talk groups for MTSO to Ambulance 15 for interoperability during law enforcement related EMS calls. Discussion on the request followed. A motion was made by Steve Denzien and Dick Isely to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on County Fire Pager Interference: Travis Waack presented an update on the interference being heard on County Fire/EMS pagers. It was noted that a letter was sent by the County Executive regarding the issue and another update was provided via email since the last meeting. The interference is not coming from the County system and is being heard directly from Benzie County, Michigan, on pagers and other devices without PL protection. Baycom analyzed the situation and determined that there is nothing Benzie County could realistically do to eliminate the interference and any action with the FCC would likely result in them advising Manitowoc County users to use pagers/radios with PL protection to filter the interference. Users are advised to place their pagers in private/page mode and use portables to monitor or investigate upgrading to pagers with PL protection as future interference from this or other sources is likely and unavoidable.

Update on Communications System SOP's and Interoperability: Travis Waack presented on how interoperability was achieved during the recent unrest in Kenosha where numerous law enforcement agencies from around the State provided mutual aid. Temporary repeaters were setup on VTAC36 & 8TAC92 and patched into the Kenosha law enforcement channels. Arriving mutual aid units with VHF radios were asked to switch to VTAC36 and units with 800MHz radios were asked to switch to 8TAC92 on arrival. This underscores the importance of having all VHF/800 national interoperability channels in all department radios per our SOP that encourages departments to "program into their department radios the VHF, WISCOM, 700, and 800 MHz interoperability plans as found in the Wisconsin Field Operations Guide (WI-FOG) version 1.0 to the extent possible based on the capabilities of their radios."

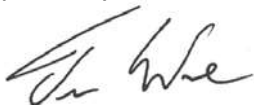
Manitowoc County Emergency Services current owns a deployable VTAC36 repeater and has plans to acquire an 8TAC92 repeater in 2020 or 2021.

Update on Communications Unit: No updates

Set Next Meeting Date: A doodle poll will be sent to select a November meeting date.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brian Kohlmeier and Jason Orth to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis Waack
Director
Manitowoc County Emergency Services