

Call to Order:

Curtis Powell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., in the Oconto County Sheriff Building, 301 Washington St., Oconto, Wisconsin 54153

Approval to the Agenda:

Curtis Powell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. There being none, a motion was made by Carol McLaughlin (Price) and seconded by Jim Clark (Portage) to approve the Agenda. All were in favor.

Adoption of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A change to the August 8, 2007 minutes was state by Andy Faust to change the Obey Appropriation amount from \$150,000 to \$250,000.a motion to approve last meeting's minutes with the change was made by John Sweeney (Oneida) and seconded by Mike Jensen (Oconto) to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

Introductions:

All present were asked to introduce themselves and state their name and county or organization that they represented.

NEWCOM Contacts, Email Server and Board Member List:

A copy of the NEWCOM List Server subscribers was passed around to the group. It was discussed if the list should be divided into three lists:

1. NEWCOM Board Members
2. NEWCOM Members
3. NEWCOM All.

No decision was made at the meeting. A handout of the rules of the NEWCOM Email List Server was provided to the NEWCOM members. The NEWCOM Board Member List was also updated.

Status of Obey Appropriation:

A history of the Obey appropriation was given by Andy Faust. \$235,000 was awarded to NEWCOM to help improve regional public safety radio communications. The monies will be coming from the DOJ. The final rules and details of the appropriation will be provided in early March. It was decided that that Communication Committee would develop a plan to utilize the appropriation to maximize the regional interconnect. It was suggested that it might help to stretch the funds by adding a percentage match to each participating county. A motion was made by Jim Clark (Portage) to have the Communication Committee develop a plan with the total cost and present it to the Board at the meeting in August for approval. Second by Tim Gould (Price) All in favor.

Status of Interoperability Communication Exercise Grant:

Ken Kortenhof (Oneida) applied for a grant for NEWCOM to conduct two exercises testing the sixteen county group's ability to communicate during a large-scale emergency response. A planning team of five will be responsible for planning and designing the exercises.

NEWCOM Position on State Trunking Project:

A letter was drafted that NEWCOM would be in support of the state's use of PSIC funds if the following items are in place:

1. A Users Governance group is created that is made up of 1/3 local municipal government users, 1/3 county government users, and 1/3 state government users.
2. The technical system design to meet statewide capacity and allow for connection with local systems.
3. Continued funding, maintenance, the creation of standard operating procedures, training and exercises for this project is a critical item.
4. The Users Governance group would have authority to direct projects and make fiscal and policy decisions.

A motion was made by Frank Szczepaniec (Oconto) seconded by Brad Henricks (Langlade) to send the letter. All were in favor.

Committee Structure Duties:

The following duties should be addressed by the committees.

Strategic Plan Committee

WISPERN MARC PL tones.
NEWCOM Encryption Standard
Narrow Band Migration

Communications Committee

A letter should be drafted that will be signed by each county allowing use of shared frequencies in each county. Andy Faust will coordinate with Alan Wisler (Marathon)

This committee will also work on the microwave connection plan to best utilize the Obey appropriation.

NEWCOM Budget - Bills:

NEWCOM Bank Statement showed a current balance of \$6,350.95.

The following bills were submitted:

1. \$382.95 for supplies, copies, and postage.
2. \$2,500 for staffing of the NEWCOM group 2008.

Invoice was paid for \$2,882.95 leaving cash balance of \$3515.55

There was also discussion on covering expenses to staff NEWCOM. Currently the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) spends over 200 hours per year staffing NEWCOM. The NCWRPC would like to be reimbursed \$12,000 per year to cover staffing and expenses. A few different options were presented to cover this expense. Splitting it equality, by population, or by equalized value. The Board at the August meeting will need to take action if they want to retain the NCWRPC to staff NEWCOM.

Other Business:

The following dates were set for NEWCOM meetings for 2008:

February 22, 2008 – Board Meeting

April 8, 2008

June 3, 2008

August 5, 2008 – Board Meeting

October 7, 2008

December 2, 2008

The DES-OFB NEWCOM Encryption plan needs to be reviewed and make sure everyone is in agreement as counties start to implement the encryption standard.

The WISPERN and MARC tones need to be installed. Andy Faust will coordinate with Alan Wisler

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Jim Clark (Portage) to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Carol McLaughlin (Price). All were in favor. A tour of the Oconto County 911 Center was given following the meeting.