

The meeting started with introductions of each person present.

Grants and Funding Sources

Ken Kortenhof (Oneida County) gave an overview of the current OJA grant for radio reprogramming or replacement. This grant now allows for the purchase of software and cables so that locals can now do their own radio reprogramming when needed. There was a discussion that NEWCOM should organize training on how to use the reprogramming software for those counties not currently programming their own radios.

There should be more information mid-July on additional federal funding that will be available through the state. This funding is from frequencies that the federal government has sold. NEWCOM will continue to watch for this program.

NEWCOM will continue to seek appropriations when available. NEWCOM has been in touch with Congressman Obey's Office.

There may also be some opportunities through partnerships with the Federal Forest and Tribal governments.

County Project Summaries

Langlade County – Going digital 6 to 8 weeks, Still looking at options for linking to other counties, Working with State Patrol for possible additional state tower.

Oneida County – Adding new tower locations based on NEWCOM plan. Installing VHF Simulcast system, Linking with Vilas County via BadgerNET

Shawano County – Nothing major with new system. Possible new tower being looked at.

Waupaca County – Upgrading microwave

Taylor County – Working on the OJA reprogramming grant, Upgrading new sirens for storm warning system.

Wood County – Working on a new Mobile Data System

Marathon County – Working on a new VHF Simulcast digital system. Paging staying the same.

Vilas County – Working on new tower locations for their new system. Working on link with Oneida County.

Menominee County – Dispatch upgrade, New repeaters being installed. 6 – 8 weeks to go digital.

Florence County – Continue to work on radio reprogramming.

Other Topics

It was suggested that NEWCOM create a map of who is currently digital and the status of when each county plans on going digital.

There was some discussion of county that are currently running all their radio transmission in encryption. This creates a problem with some of the State Patrol and neighboring counties that cannot read encryption. It was suggested that NEWCOM create an encryption policy of when encryption should an should not be used.

There was a discussion on surveying NEWCOM members on cost they are paying for tower space. It was suggested that the price varies based on the location of the tower. Towers in prime locations for communications fetch a higher price and towers in more remote locations relate to a lower price. So being that it would be hard to come up with an average per foot price. The average is about \$.50 to \$1.00 per foot per month depending on the location.

It was also suggested that with all the county projects currently going on that the NEWCOM user group should meet at least every other month to keep folks up to speed on what is going on.

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