

Call to Order:

Brad Henricks (Langlade) called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., in the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St., Shawano, Wisconsin 54166.

Approval to the Agenda:

Brad Henricks (Langlade) asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Andy Faust (NEWCOM) had one correction to item #5 should read Election of NEWCOM Officers, a motion was made by Jim Clark (Portage) and seconded by Carol McLaughlin (Price) to approve the agenda with the correction. All were in favor.

Adoption of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A motion to approve the last NEWCOM Board meeting's minutes was made by Gary Peske (Vilas) and seconded by Mark Handlin (Lincoln) to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

Introductions:

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

Election of NEWCOM Officers:

Brad Henricks, Vice Chair, NEWCOM (Langlade) called for nominations from the floor for NEWCOM Chair. John Sweeney (Oneida) nominated Brad Henricks (Langlade) the nomination was seconded by Frank Szczepawiec (Oconto). All were in favor. Brad Henricks (Langlade) called for nominations from the floor for NEWCOM Vice-Chair. Frank Szczepawiec (Oconto) nominated John Sweeney (Oneida) that nomination was seconded by Jim Clark (Portage). John Sweeney (Oneida) asked that the Vice-Chair be a county board member. John Sweeney (Oneida) nominated Carol McLaughlin (Price) for Vice-Chair that nomination was seconded by Jim Clark (Portage) all were in favor. Brad Henricks (Langlade) called for nominations from the floor for NEWCOM for Secretary-Treasurer John Sweeney (Oneida) nominated Jim Clark (Portage) that nomination was seconded by Brad Henricks (Langlade) all were in favor. The NEWCOM Officers for a two year term starting August 2008 are:

Brad Henricks (Langlade) – Chair
Carol McLaughlin (Price) – Vice Chair
Jim Clark (Portage) - Secretary-Treasurer

Approve Obey Appropriation Grant Plan:

Current plan is to purchase microwave links between Oneida and Vilas Counties and Marinette and Oconto Counties and use the additional funds to purchase subscriber equipment. A motion was made by Ed Bluthardt (Vilas) to move forward with the current plan with the following items added. 1. Not to exceed \$100,000 for Oconto/Marinette and \$116,000 for Oneida/Vilas and that there will be a 10% cost share for each project. The remaining funds would be used by NEWCOM counties to purchase subscriber equipment with a priority given to radio programming equipment and a 10% cost share would still apply. Seconded by Dave O'Melia (Oneida) all were in favor.

Status of Interoperability Communication Exercise Grant:

Andy Faust (NEWCOM) gave an overview of the NEWCOM Radio Interoperability Exercise.

NEWCOM will conduct a series of communication interoperability exercises in the year 2008. The first exercise will be a tabletop exercise involving a response to a large-scale hazardous materials incident. The objective of the exercise is to evaluate and plan how the MARC/WISPERN radio equipment would be most efficiently used in a large-scale incident. In addition the exercise will incorporate the use of the State Wide Mutual Aid channels. The second exercise would be a Functional Exercise expanding on what was learned at the Tabletop Exercise. The following dates should be saved:

Tabletop Exercise

September 17, 2008 – 10:30am - Waupaca County EOC

Functional Exercise

November 12, 2008 – 10:30am - Waupaca County EOC

Mutual Aid Agreement:

Steve Haskell (Shawano) talked about NEWCOM preparing a mutual aid agreement for communication resources in the NEWCOM region. Gary Peske (Vilas) mentioned that we might want to look at the Wisconsin Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (WI-TERT) to see if what they are doing is similar to what Steve Haskell is suggesting. Gary Peske (Vilas) will provide Andy Faust (NEWCOM) with more information on WI-TERT and Andy will forward it to the NEWCOM Group.

Committee Structure Status:

It was discussed that NEWCOM should change their committee structure. A motion was made by Dave O'Melia (Oneida) to combine the Strategic Plan and Finance Committees and the Communication and Liaison Committees into two new committees. The two new committees would be called the Strategic Plan Committee and the Communication Committee. The Strategic Plan Committee will be chaired by John Sweeney (Oneida) and the Communication Committee will be chaired by Terry Zimmerman (Marinette). Each of the Chairs will appoint a minimum of five members to their committees. The motion was seconded by Jim Clark (Portage) all were in favor.

NEWCOM Budget - Bills:

NEWCOM Bank Statement showed a current balance of \$3,515.55.

The following bills were submitted:

1. \$518.23 for supplies, copies, and postage.
2. \$75.00 for lunch for Board Meeting

A motion was made by Jim Clark (Portage) to pay the bills and seconded by Carol McLaughlin (Price) all were in favor.

Invoices were paid for \$593.23 leaving cash balance of \$2,944.31

There was also discussion about covering expenses to staff NEWCOM for 2009. 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 equally, by population, or by equalized value. There was a motion by Gary Peske (Vilas) to split the cost equally by county at a cost of \$750.00 per county to be billed in January 2009 to cover the staffing expense and keep NCWRPC to staff NEWCOM for 2009. The motion was seconded by Ed Bluthardt (Vilas) all were in favor.

Other Business:

The following dates were set for NEWCOM meetings for 2009 (1st Thursday of the month):

February 6, 2009 – Board Meeting
April 2, 2009
June 4, 2009
August 6, 2009 – Board Meeting
October 1, 2009
December 3, 2009

The survey of NEWCOM counties to create a database of all public safety agencies with each county and the number portable and mobile radio that each agency has been complete by the following counties: Florence, Langlade, Lincoln, Oconto, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas. This information will be used for future grants. It was asked that counties that have not provided this information to Andy Faust (NEWCOM) please provide as soon as possible.

Frequency sharing letters have been received by Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Price Counties. It was asked for counties that have not provided a copy of this letter to get this to Andy Faust (NEWCOM) as soon as possible so that he can provide it to each NEWCOM county.

An overview of NEWCOM was provided to the NEWCOM group. This overview was requested by John Sweeney (Oneida) to be used during the Governor in the Northwoods tour.

It was suggested that NEWCOM email list server be divided into two groups. One of NEWCOM members and one of non-members.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Ed Bluthardt (vilas) to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mark Handlin (Lincoln). All were in favor. A tour of the Shawano County 911 Center was given following the meeting.