



**Joint Board of Directors
MINUTES
January 26, 2012**

Maricopa Association of Governments
Ironwood Room – 2nd Floor
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

RWC Board Members Present

Paul Adams*	Mike Frazier	Charlie Meyer
Wade Brannon	Mark Gaillard	Susan Thorpe
Steven Campbell	Jim Haner	Shannon Tolle*
Wayne Clement	Bob Hansen	Marc Walker
Bob Costello	Jim Heger	Paul Wilson
Chris DeChant*	Danny Johnson	Ed Zuercher

Board Members Absent

Steven Conrad
David Fitzhugh
Brad Hartig

TRWC Board Members Present

Alex Deshuk	John Kross	Jerry Ward
Ajay Joshi*	Dave Montgomery	

Board Members Absent

Collin DeWitt

*Board Alternate

Staff and Public Present

Tahir Alhassan	Theresa Faull	Mark Mann	David Perdichizzi
Karen Allen	David Felix	Bruce McGregor	Bill Phillips
Bill Anger	Celicia Fiedler	John Meza	Elise Piatt
Harry Beck	Dennis Fulton	Tracy Montgomery	Dale Shaw
Jim Bloomer	John Gardner	Doug Mummert	Nick Spino
Gary Bradbury	Nolberto Gem	Chris Nadeau	Mike Sterling
Dan Campbell	Joe Gibson	Mark Nichols	Rick Tannehill
Jim Case	John Glorioso	Don Schilling	Randy Thompson
Dave Clarke	Jen Hagen	Nick Spino	Tim Ulery
Dave Collett	Dave Heck	Mike Sterling	
Jesse Cooper	Lonnie Inskip	Cy Otsuka	
Darin Douglass	Rick Kolker	Ron Parks	

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Opening Comments

Chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and roll call was taken.

Chair Kross expressed his appreciation for the time and effort extolled by many individuals to bring the joint meeting to fruition. He commended Alex Deshuk,

Mesa Police Chief Frank Milstead and Mesa Fire Chief Beck for their collaborative efforts. He conveyed that by the two cooperatives working together we were establishing a new norm for how to maximize the use of public resources for the region to obtain the highest level of performance.

Chair Meyer expressed that this was a historic meeting and important to the public safety community. He acknowledged and commended the work of the two Executive Directors.

2. RWC / TRWC Joint Objectives

TRWC Executive Director Dale Shaw introduced this item. He explained that the fundamental drive for developing the objectives was improved interoperability for public safety. He reviewed and described the concept for each objective. He stated that Objective 1 was about users, especially public safety, and ensuring that they have connectivity.

Mr. Shaw explained that Objective 2 highlighted the strength in working together to seek funding. RWC Executive Director David Felix stated that an example of this objective was applying for technical assistance funding through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications office to develop a strategic plan for both cooperatives.

Mr. Shaw expressed that Objective 3 focused on a broader, state level perspective and not just the immediate region.

Mr. Shaw stated that the fundamental concept for Objective 4 was that it made sense not to build infrastructure on top of existing infrastructure but instead to find economies of scale. Mr. Felix stated that an example of this objective was a federal grant used to build capacity on high sites; and although the capacity was primarily to serve as a backup resource, the RWC Policy Working Group was drafting a policy for broader and increased use of the sites. He added that some type of cost recovery model would then be associated with their use.

Mr. Shaw explained that Objective 5 stressed the importance of having a unified voice. Mr. Felix expressed that one area where a unified voice was being delivered was with the joint Federal Communications Commission (FCC) petition to address the FCC's mandate to narrow-band 700 MHz by 2017.

Mr. Shaw stated that Objective 6 focused on the need to closely coordinate the technology of both cooperatives, otherwise there would be a risk of the two systems drifting apart. He explained that Objective 7 stated that the resolution between the two Boards could be cemented in an Intergovernmental Agreement.

Mr. Felix explained that the Joint Objectives were well vetted and a result of several meetings among the Chairs, Joint Chair and Executive Directors. Mr.

Shaw expressed that the Joint Objectives were just words on paper unless they were executed in a more formal agreement.

Chair Meyer asked for questions or discussion from the Boards. He explained that the view taken at the Joint Chair meetings was to build something bigger than just the RWC and TRWC, and to be less critical of differences.

In response to a question by Mr. Gaillard, Mr. Felix responded that one area being looked into was broader, more economical procurement opportunities with Motorola.

Chair Meyer stated he received a speaker card from Mesa Fire Chief Harry Beck.

Chief Beck expressed that the Joint Board meeting was an amazing event to be occurring. He stated that a great deal of work had been done and acknowledged the huge improvement in the relationship between the two cooperatives. He proposed that a strategic plan be developed in which users could rate the performance of the system.

Chair Meyer thanked Chief Beck for his role in the process.

For the RWC, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Wilson and **SECONDED** by Mr. Heger to approve the Joint Objectives. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (18-0)**.

For the TRWC, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Montgomery and **SECONDED** by Mr. Ward to approve the Joint Objectives. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)**.

3. Regional Communications Systems Connection

Mr. Felix stated that several years ago, planning for the region included interoperability gateways or connections. He reviewed the Regional Communications System Connection (RCSC) and provided an example of how it would work: a user of one system, such as a Rapid Response Team, could establish communication with a user of another system while responding en route to the scene of an emergency. He stated the RCSC was simply another interoperability resource for rapid response and consisted of a “live” connection available at any time and managed by the Department of Public Safety. He explained that the RCSC required each participating system to dedicate four talkgroups and the systems would be linked at a very low cost. He added that the RWC already had a mechanism in place to connect, therefore there would be no additional funding required. He stated that the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) office provided the staff to write the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and it contained two parts: the Agreement and an Operational Supplement.

Mr. Shaw explained that the other participating agencies were talking with their respective Boards to obtain approval.

Chair Kross stated that this was another example of a partnership and working together for the region and state.

For the RWC, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Haner and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Thorpe to approve the Regional Communications Systems Connection. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (18-0).**

For the TRWC, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Deshuk and **SECONDED** by Mr. Joshi to approve the Regional Communications Systems Connection. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

4. Nextel Buy-Back of 800 MHz Frequencies

Bill Phillips stated that both cooperatives were facing Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandates to narrow-band 700 MHz frequencies and re-band 800 MHz frequencies. He provided a brief background of each mandate. He explained that contrary to what was previously heard regarding agencies that vacate the 800 MHz receiving greatly reduced cash out values, Nextel was paying actual re-banding costs. He reviewed four conditions that must be met to use a cash-out option: (1) whatever project is done with the money must be done in the same time frame as re-banding would take, (2) the project cannot cost more than re-banding, (3) if the project costs more, the agency must have the additional funding in place, and (4) the agency must have a contract in place.

Mr. Phillips explained that as it stands now, if the Treaty with Mexico is signed, re-banding would need to be completed by 2014. He explained that there were two items in opposition to each other: the re-banding timeline, which requires the project to be completed in the next two to three years, and the narrow-banding timeline, which the desire was to extend as much as possible. He added that a lease/purchase option may be something to look into to allow re-banding money to be used towards the 700 MHz narrow-banding project while still meeting the four cash-out conditions.

Mr. Felix stated that a great deal of coordination would need to occur and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Phillips for reaching out to the other systems.

5. RWC / TRWC Executive Directors' Report

a. National Public Safety Broadband Network

Mr. Felix reported that this item involves the proposed use of 700 MHz spectrum referred to as the D Block. He stated that the concept was to have the broadband network used nationwide by public safety to share and access improved information in the field. He explained that there was conflict with congressional bills that support the D Block allocation. He expressed that one

area of concern was that agencies would have to give back 700 MHz narrowband frequencies once standards were developed in broadband. He stated that this give back provision was in place even though there was no assurance that broadband would support public safety voice communications. He expressed that there was a large national public safety voice speaking out and that Senator Jon Kyl was assigned as one of the Senate Conferees working on the final language.

Mr. Shaw added that it was inevitable that public safety would move in this direction and that it was important for both cooperatives to be aware of this issue and to have a voice.

Vice Chair Thorpe inquired if it was possible to get the names of other conferees and coordinate with other public safety regions.

Chair Kross expressed that other major regions must be equally concerned.

Mr. Felix replied that he contacted seven other major regions and that he plans to facilitate a conference call to discuss this and other issues with them. He added that the Public Safety Alliance includes many groups familiar with the technical issues and it has also spoken out against the give back and other problematic language in the bills.

b. The Federal Communications Commission Petition

Mr. Felix reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has put everything on hold with regards to the Public Notice of Rule Making. He explained that his intent was to pursue filing the petition for review and expedited treatment by the end of the month of January. He added that the second petition is currently under review and edits by the TRWC and will be filed once it is finalized.

c. Motorola – Long Term Support Issues

Mr. Shaw reported that the TRWC administrative side participated in the joint discussions with Motorola following the RWC's Scorecard review with Motorola. He explained the discussion focused on long term support. He expressed that there were opportunities to have influence with Motorola in areas such as extending support for equipment and not forcing upgrades in an untimely manner. He added that the response by Motorola was positive. He added that another area discussed was collective volume purchasing and how it affects extended parts support.

Mr. Felix expressed that he was encouraged by the commitments made by Motorola Vice President Michelle Shaughnessy, who came to the meeting prepared. He added that he intends to facilitate a regional communications system conference call to further discuss the FCC and Motorola issues.

Mr. Campbell thanked the Executive Directors and recognized that agencies would feel the effects of costs.

Vice Chair Thorpe inquired whether the commitments by Motorola were going to be memorialized.

Mr. Felix responded in the affirmative, once Motorola brings back additional answers.

6. Call to the Public

None.

7. Announcements

Chair Meyer announced the retirement of Karen Allen from Tempe Police Department. He acknowledged her technical expertise and the work she performed on a regional basis.

Chair Kross thanked the group and all involved in this process. He expressed that the needs of the greater community were being accomplished.

Mr. Felix acknowledged the work performed by the RWC staff to put the meeting together.

8. Adjournment

Chair Meyer adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Faull, Management Assistant I
Regional Wireless Cooperative