



1. Attendance.

P = Present	T = Via Telephone	E = Excused	U = Unexcused	N/A = Not required
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User Council Members

Primary				
T	Cicciarella	Bob	Chief	Municipalities Central
	VACANT			DOD USAF, JBER
N/A	Eike	Erin	LTC	DOD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Fournier	Doug	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast
E	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
N/A	Nelson	James	Officer	Fed Non-DOD All Others, US Forest Service
U	Martin	Chris	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
P	Patz	Greg	Mr.	SOA DOT
P	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, Chair
E	Skinner	Nate	Mr.	SOA All Others, DNR Forestry, Vice Chair
U	Wolfe	John	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOI, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Alternate				
T	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
T	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
P	Eubank	Greg	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North
E	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
	VACANT			Fed Non-DOD DOI, Bureau of Land Management
U	Jones	Dave	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Loughton	Mike	Special Agent	Fed Non-DOD All Others, US Forest Service
N/A	Morgan	Leon	Mr.	SOA DPS
N/A	Mlynarik	Pete	Chief	Municipalities Central, Soldotna PD
E	Nelson	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
	VACANT			DOD USAF, JBER
N/A	Scott	Heath	Chief	Municipalities Southeast, Haines Borough PD
E	Williams	Rick	Mr.	DOD, US Army - Alaska
T	Young	Sam	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD All Others, TSA

Supporting Staff and Guests:

P	Conant	Travis	Mr.	System Manager
P	Kostelnik	Sean	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
T	Makalena	Sonny	Mr.	US Army Alaska
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Information Systems Security Manager
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	OEC Region X
T	Shafer	Sherry	Ms.	Document Specialist
P	Smith	Del	Mr.	Operations Manager
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	SOA OIT SATS/ALMR Manager



2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was in attendance. Ms. Erann Kalwara joined on the phone after the roll was read.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	There were no guests or special announcements	
Previous Meeting Minutes	John asked if everyone had a chance to review the June meeting minutes. Ms. Shafer advised there were some clarifications required under the 7.17 upgrade. After the clarifications were provided John asked for a motion to approve the minutes Motion: Approve the June 5 meeting minutes, as written. Motion: Mr. Greg Patz Second: Mr. Greg Eubank There were no objections. The motion passed .	
Issues & Risks Log Item Number	Active Issue	Action Items Assigned
	John requested Ms. Sherry Shafer to review the Issues and Risks Log. She advised both the DOD JBER positions were now vacant and although the replacements had been identified, no appointment letter had been received. Ms Shafer also noted that USARAK DPW had now refused the work to replace the rectifiers at the Birch Hill battery plant (OP02).	
	Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting	
Action Items Review	Opened Items	Resolution
	John advised there were no actions items from the June meeting.	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Del Smith, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Birch Hill Battery Plant Inverters	1. Mr. Del Smith asked if there were any updates on the Birch Hill battery plant. Mr. Sonny Makalena stated there was no change. He advised Mr. Rick Williams would be up at Fort Wainwright until September and he also verified that DPW had now refused the work.	



<p>7.17 Upgrade</p> <p>SOA FY20 ALMR Budget</p> <p>Letter to the Governor re: Quantar replacement</p>	<p>2. Del stated the Zone controllers and dispatch consoles had been updated and the site switches were currently being replaced. He added the replacement of DOD Quantars with GTR8000s at six sites was scheduled to start on July 9.</p> <p>3. Del advised the State budget didn't suffer any ALMR or SATS vetoes as far as he knew.</p> <p>4. Del briefed that all of the Executive Council member signatures had been obtained and the letter delivered to the Governor's Chief of Staff on June 7. He advised when he had talked to the Chief of Staff, he had made some suggestions.</p> <p>Del stated he received an email last week from the Governor's executive assistant asking him to provide an analysis for a lower cost option. He stated he called the Governor's executive assistant and steered him to all the previous studies on the web site and also informed him he was a contracted employee for ALMR and would not be providing any analyses.</p> <p>Del advised he invited the executive assistant to come and visit the ALMR office to see what it is that ALMR does and what it provides. He stated once again we are behind the power curve trying to get people to understand what we do.</p> <p>John added it was shortly after June 11 or 12 at the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) that he had a conversation with the Department of Administration (DOA) Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka and she had been asking similar questions. He stated the discussed cell phones and he had explained why they wouldn't work and that there is no alternative to P25. John advised he briefed we were one system for the State of Alaska (SOA), the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) with 125 agencies, over 25 thousand devices and over one million push to talks each month. He believed at the end of the meeting she understood they had been underfunding ALMR for many years and were in crisis mode now.</p> <p>John stated it is just a lack of knowledge and there is a tremendous need to educate the new commissioners what ALMR is and what it does.</p> <p>Greg Patz asked where do we sit with FirstNet and John stated there currently is no viable FirstNet Mission Critical Push to Talk (MCPTT). He expanded on the issues he personally had experienced with his FirstNet phone using AT&T's PTT.</p>	
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<p>Annual Subscriber Inventory Confirmation</p>	<p>John stated ALMR coverage is a perfect example why FirstNet won't work today.</p> <p>5. Del stated 100 percent of the forms had been received with the last one being received today.</p>	
<p>Cost Share/FY20 Membership Agreements</p>	<p>6. Del briefed 112 of the 124 membership agreements had been received. He advised the deadline was June 30. Del added there were six Kenai Peninsula Borough agencies which would be returned after their assembly meeting, which was tonight.</p>	
<p>FY21 OMO/SMO Budget</p>	<p>Del stated the newest member agency to join ALMR was the US Postal Service Office of the Inspector General.</p> <p>7. Del advised the FY21 OMO/SMO Budget was ready for the council to vote on its approval if they felt comfortable doing so at this time.</p> <p>John asked if everyone had reviewed the budget and noted it was similar to previous years. He point out there were required corrections with the footnote regarding the extension of the OMO contract and also the numbers for the essential equipment needed updated.</p> <p>John asked with to those corrections would someone like to make a motion to approve the budget.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the FY21 OMO/SMO Budget document with the requested corrections.</p> <p>Motion: Greg Patz Second: Greg Eubank</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p>	
<p>June Document Reviews</p>	<p>8. Del noted the Key Management Facility Policy and Procedure 400-17 and the Risk Management Plan were updated in June.</p>	
<p>June Metrics</p>	<p>9. Del advised the group calls went up from 1,222,634 to 1,235,887, which was a gain of about 13 thousand. He stated there were 2,310,993 push to talks, which was up around 23 thousand and the busies were up by around one thousand. He noted there was no particular reason why the busies were up other than increased military activity and the heavy use of the three-channel sites.</p> <p>John stated the location of the tower at Nenana was part of the issue.</p>	



	<p>Greg Eubank suggested they move the tower to North Nenana or install a repeater.</p> <p>Del stated Clear AFS also uses the Nenana site.</p> <p>Mr. Travis Conant advised in the last month it had been worse. He stated a new tower had been installed in the same area as the ALMR tower and he was not sure what was on it, but would check it out next week.</p> <p>Greg Eubank suggested they could also restrict site access to Non-DOD talkgroups as a way of helping with congestion.</p>	
<p>System Management Office</p>	<p>Mr. Travis Conant, System Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
<p>7.17 Upgrade</p> <p>New SMO Contract Extension</p> <p>Big Lake Coverage Issues</p>	<p>1. Mr. Travis Conant stated there were 10 sites remaining for the switches to be installed at and they were all helicopter sites. He advised they would be doing them this month. Travis also added they were still looking at the MotoBridge upgrade and hoped to have an answer by August 8. He briefed Motorola was cleaning up the work on the punch list and if anyone had any issues to call the Help Desk.</p> <p>2. Travis advised the new SMO contract extension started on July 1 and Soldotna and Goose Creek had been added.</p> <p>3. Travis stated they had been getting calls regarding coverage issues around Big Lake on the Parks Highway. He noted the Troopers were stating they were having dropped calls, so the SMO did some testing with the State's equipment and they didn't see anything. Travis noted they were looking at options to correct the issue.</p> <p>John advised he had heard the coverage had gotten worse.</p> <p>Travis stated they had tested the antenna at the New Knik site looking to see why it isn't covering Big Lake because they thought they'd have much better coverage than they did and didn't find anything, but the coverage is great towards Eklutna. He added they were hitting Alcantra, Site Summit, New Knik and Cottonwood sites, but they are still troubleshooting this and there will be more to come.</p> <p>John noted Big Lake Road is a very important area.</p> <p>Del advised he had suggested in-car repeaters. He noted the last discussion regarding coverage expansion was in 2017. He briefly went over the list of areas previously suggested for coverage expansion or new sites to be added.</p> <p>John suggested they review the site priorities at the August meeting.</p>	



	<p>Greg Eubank asked Mr. Bruce Richter if there were any grant opportunities for underserved areas and Bruce stated there were Homeland Security grants.</p> <p>John briefed there is a certain percentage that can go to each state and Department of Military Veterans Affairs (DMVA) usually claims they need the full 20 percent so there are no opportunities for anyone else to get any of the money.</p>	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
Deferred Maintenance	<p>Mr. Scott Stormo stated there is a lot of deferred maintenance to be performed over the summer including microwave hops and air conditioning at ten sites. He pointed out they had 95 high temperature alarms this past week and one site was up to 150 degrees. Scott added there were also 20 battery plants to install. He noted they were downsizing the plants whereas the sites may have run 24 hours on the old battery plants, the new plants would only supply 12 hours of run time.</p> <p>Scott briefed the good news is there was \$2-3 million worth of deferred maintenance being taken care of this year.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Tim Woodall was not in attendance and there was no DOD update.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
DPS Deputy Commissioner Change	<p>John briefed Deputy Commissioner Duxbury had put in his resignation as he had received an incredible opportunity to work at Homeland Security in Washington DC. He added Mr. Leon Morgan will be his replacement and that Leon has a lot of experience as the former DMVA Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and the Director of Alaska Interoperable Communications Council (AKICC).</p> <p>Del stated they would also need to address a new Department of Public Safety (DPS) alternate for the User Council.</p>	
Next meeting	Discussion	
	John stated the next meetings are scheduled for August 7 and September 4.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>John asked if there were any other discussion and hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the July monthly User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Greg Patz Second: Greg Eubank</p>	



Alaska Land Mobile Radio

*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: July 3, 2019

	There were no objections. The motion passed . The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.	
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