

Date: August 4, 2021

1. Attendance.

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

User Council Members

	Primary				
Т	Angell	James	SSgt	DOD USAF, JBER	
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service	
Т	Cicciarella	Bob	Chief	Municipalities Central	
N/A	Eike	Erin	LTC	DOD US Army - Alaska	
	VACANT			Municipalities North	
Е	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast	
Т	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOJ, FBI	
Т	Nelson	James	Officer	Fed Non-DOD All Others, US Forest Service	
Т	Martin	Chris	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB	
	VACANT			SOA DOT	
Т	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, Chair	
Т	Skinner	Nate	Mr.	SOA All Others, DNR Forestry	

	Alternate				
U	Boyce	Timothy	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOI, National Park Service	
N/A	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOJ, FBI	
N/A	Carrier	Chasen	A1C	DOD USAF, JBER	
Т	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT	
Е	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue	
Т	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough	
N/A	Jones	Dave	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB	
N/A	Mlynarik	Pete	Chief	Municipalities Central, Soldotna PD	
Т	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA, Vice Chair	
N/A	Roberts	Rick	Captain	SOA DPS	
U	Scott	Heath	Chief	Municipalities Southeast, Haines Borough PD	
Т	Williams	Rick	Mr.	DOD, US Army - Alaska	
t	Young	Sam	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD All Others, TSA	

Supporting Staff and Guests:

Т	Cordova	Jeremy	TSgt	Clear Air Force Station
Ρ	Letterman	Chris	Mr.	Operations Manager
Ρ	Miller	Fred	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
Ρ	Nicholl	Jim	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
Т	Shafer	Sherry	Ms.	Document Specialist
Т	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Т	Ulrich	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.



Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken, and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was in attendance.	
	Mr. Samuel Young, Mr. Jim Nicholl, Mr. Fred Miller, and Mr. Rick Williams joined the call after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	There were no special guests in attendance	
Previous Meeting Minutes	John asked if everyone had reviewed the July meeting minutes and if there were any requested changes. There were no responses, therefore John requested a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Motion: Approve the July 7 meeting minutes as written. Motion: Mr. Henry Cole Second: SSgt James Angell	
	There were no objections. The motion passed.	
Issues & Risks Log	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	John asked Ms. Sherry Shafer, Operations Management Office, confirm there were no changes to the Issues and Risks Log since the last meeting and she confirmed. Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting	
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Action Items	Review	Resolution
	John asked Sherry to also confirm there were no changes to the Action Items since the last meeting and she confirmed.	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Chris Letterman, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
GTR Upgrade	1. Chris briefed the crews are continuing to install antennas and installed GTRs. He noted that Mr. Travis Conant, System Manger, stated that after Cordova this week they are planning to do basically northern southeast over the next two weeks which would be Sitka, Juneau, Skagway area, and then as weather permits, they'll jog on down to Ketchikan when they can. Chris advised everyone to bear in mind that the weather is turning already, so they're going to be playing against that.	
FY22 Membership Agreements	 Chris announced we have all the membership agreements now and the last one was received on July 15. He reminded everyone to stress to their organizations and 	



New Approved Radios	 agencies that they are representing or that reach out to you to keep their points of contact (POCs) up to date. Chris added that he thought that was the only reason we faltered on getting all the membership agreements completed by the 1st this new membership year was some out-of-date POCs, so to make sure that we have all of our POCs up to date, and that's just an easy email to the Help Desk. 3. Chris advised there are a couple of new radio subscriber units that have passed the ATP process over the past month He announced the Harris XL200 and the Harris XL185 and BKR5000 are now approved for operation on ALMR. Chris stated the information on them out on the website. He also added the Motorola APX is listed now on the website thanks to some very quick ATP work done by the System Management Office (SMO) staff members. 	
Training	4. Chris stated the new training coordinator, for those that don't know yet, is Mr Dan Nelson, who is going to be moving on to his own private business doing support in this emergency services realm. He noted the Operations Management Office (OMO) met with him and Mr. Joe Quickel on July 19 and put together a transition plan. Chris added for those involved in the TTE exercise, that script is still being produced between basically between Dan and Joe and that's going to eventually go over to Dan completely. He also noted the participant roles have been assigned and for those involved to expect more on this later this month.	
Outreach	5. Chris briefed the OMO has started work on the surveys and that will continue through this month. He added he hoped to get them out the door by the end of August and reminded everyone they were the user satisfaction survey and the prioritization and coverage survey. Chris requested the User Council representatives to send the surveys on out to their agencies, so that we can get as wide of participation as possible.	
Vacant User Council Position	6. Chris reminded the group the Municipalities North primary position had been vacant for several months and he was bringing it up to get out on the table and wondered if anyone knew if anyone is even thinking about taking on the role. Chris asked if Deputy Chief Keith Berrian was on the phone and there was no response, so Chris tabled the discuss for now.	
July Document Reviews	7. Chris briefed the OMO had reviewed the High Level Strategy, Operations Management Office Customer Support Plan, User Council Charter, Interoperability Policy and Procedure 300-3, and the Key Management Facility Policy and Procedure 400-17 in the month of July.	



July System Metrics	 8. Chris advised there were 1,213,683 in July which was down approximately 14K. He added the push-to-talks were at around 2.2M and they were down around 32K along with the busies which were down by 564 at 1,040. Chris noted there was also an increase in subscriber units by 337 and the system was now at 23,884 and he once again reminded everyone that if they added new subscribers to remember to remove old ones being replaced. Chris stated the sites under three nines statistics were not available yet and the slides would be updated once they were. He noted the OMO was also tracking the web site metrics and there were 57 percent new visitors out of the 	
System	total visits, 165 sessions, and over 500 page views lastmonth.Chris reminded everyone that there was alsoavailable training information on the web site.Mr. Travis Conant, System Manager	Action Items
Management Office	Mr. Travis Conant was out in the field installing a new GTR at a mountain-top site and not available for the meeting.	Assigned
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
Annual Maintenance	1. Mr. Scott Stormo stated they were just rounding up a busy summer of periodic maintenance (PM) visits to all the sites. He noted they had not been able to do that very much over the last several years due to lot of vacancies and a lot of travel. Scott advised they are trying to do a purposeful visit to as many sites as possible during the summer months to take care of stuff from cutting the brush off of the grounds areas, to changing oils on the generator and fuel generators, to blowing dust out of the equipment. He explained this means most of their people have been out week after week much of this summer with very few people in the office. Scott added he appreciated all that there are doing to keep the system working for everybody.	Assigned
GTR Installs	 2.Scott briefed the crews are going at it still week after week and are hopeful that they will be able to get cooperative weather to get to the helicopter sites that remain because those are obviously the most challenging ones to get equipment up to and then they have good eight to ten hours there to do the work without getting chased off because of weather. He stated hopefully they will be able to get all those sites done before the light gets too short and the snow start to fall, otherwise they will be doing some more of them next spring. John asked Scott if there was a percentage of sites complete or an estimate regarding how far they were along the GTR upgrade and Scott replied they were about 2/3 of the way 	



Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Timothy Woodall was not present for the meeting	
	John asked if there was anyone else who wanted to brief for the DOD.	
	Mr. Rick Williams stated he could not speak for the DOD but would speak to what is happening with the Army. He briefed from the Amy perspective they are working through the proposed upgrade and looking at their options, but at this time they are not prepared to move forward with an investment. Rick added they have made, over the last four years, about \$7 million worth of investment and right now the well is a little dry. He explained they would see what tha' is going to look like next FY. Rick advised they have completed power upgrades at Black Rapids, Donnelly Dome, and at Fort Greely and are looking at some capital improvements at Birch Hill. He noted that last month they had some equipment malfunction and the whole place overheated and then a lot of other equipment malfunctioned, so they were looking into the causes of that and the best possible remediation.	
	John asked Rick to clarify, with regard to the upgrade, if he was talking about the 7.20/21 upgrade that is anticipated first quarter of calendar year 2022.	
	Rick confirmed that was correct, and they are unfunded at this point, but of course that is a volatile environment with the Army and can always change, but if not, they are going to have to look at a means to remain a viable part of the cooperative until this until this is funded.	
	John asked Rick if when he mentioned the next fiscal year, did he mean starting October 1st of 2021 or was he talking about 13 months or 14 months from now.	
	Rick clarified their new fiscal year starts 1 October and they could be talking either a few months or many months because that is based on Army priorities which means the guys in Washington DC, so based on big Army priorities is how they will be able to make their investments.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Iridium Demonstration	Chris stated this may have been a leftover item from last month's agenda, but he remembered it went pretty well. He briefed there was a demonstration that was held at the Arcticom headquarters here in Anchorage there were representatives from Meridian, Icom, and Satcom, and they were able to demonstrate an Icom piece of equipment that interfaces with a land mobile radio over satellite. He noted	-



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	probably the most intriguing thing was the antenna system that connects to the Iridium satellite service runs over Ethernet and is all contained within the antenna system that is just on top of the roof, so there is no coax, plus power etc., that has to be run, so in terms of installation costs, that is a huge win. Chris stated the demonstration was successful and the audio	
	was very good for the test calls that were done over ALMR with the Iridium push-to-talk radio. He added they talked to someone in Georgia and someone in Colorado and it was all. surprisingly clear. Chris advised there was a little bit of delay that has been programmed in to establish the audio path, a couple of milliseconds, but that can easily be trained into user operations. He stated he thought it was a successful test and the group was very interested in getting back up here and doing more testing and demos and getting the word out that this is a viable solution. Chris added he thought it was exciting because it essentially makes the footprint of ALMR much bigger.	
	John stated he agreed with Chris 100 percent and in the past DPS did an Iridium push-to-talk test and he was excited about this potential upgrade on the public safety side. He admitted unfortunately he had dropped the ball a little bit over the last three weeks on getting the phones back to get the upgrade and then back out in the field, but he would work on doing that and make sure to put that on the front burner this time.	
Next meeting	Discussion	
	John reminded everyone the next meetings are scheduled for September 1 and October 8.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	John asked if there was any other discussion and hearing no response, he requested for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Adjourn the August monthly User Council meeting.	
	Motion: Mr. Jim Goodman Second: Mr. Chris Martin There were no objections. The motion passed.	
	The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.	