



**ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)**



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

October 27, 2021

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 15 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan | State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety |
| Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis | Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 |
| ASAC Adam Pierce | Alaska Federal Executive Association – Federal Bureau of Investigation |
| Deputy Chief Mike Kerle | Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department |
| Assistant Chief Alex Boyd | Alaska Municipal League – Anchorage Fire Department |

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. John Rockwell | User Council Chair |
| Mr. Chris Letterman | ALMR Operations Manager |
| Mr. Travis Conant | ALMR System Manager |
| Mr. Scott Stormo | SOA ALMR Program Manager |
| Mr. Trygve Erickson | Municipality of Anchorage |
| Mr. Timothy Woodall | ALMR PM/COR – ALCOM/J6 |
| Mr. David Reed | Information Systems Security Manager |
| Mr. Nik Fahnstock | ALMR System Management Office |
| Mr. Colton McCullar | ALMR System Management Office |
| Mr. Jim Nicholl | Motorola Solutions |
| Nr, Fred Miller | Motorola Solutions |
| Mr. Joe Piksa | Motorola Solutions |
| Mr. Tim Thometz | ICOM America |
| Ms. Sherry Shafer | Operations Management Office |

1. **Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The roll was read.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** There were no opening statements or other announcements.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if the members had reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the April Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes.

Motion: Approve the April, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

Hearing no requests for changes, Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked for a motion for approval. Colonel Matthew Davis made a motion for approval and Deputy Commissioner Morgan seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Deputy Commissioner Morgan turned it over to Mr. Scott Stormo to give an update on the Quantar replacements.

Mr. Stormo advised they would be going pretty much non-stop between now and the end of August. He briefed they had finished most of the drive-to site equipment and refreshed the Quantars to GTR. Mr. Stormo stated they would be working on the helo sites and the southeast sites over the next month and a half, so more to come.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan commented that it looked like they were making pretty good progress on the project and asked if it would go on beyond 2021.

Mr. Stormo responded that they were still on track though to get it completed in the fall unless something goes horribly wrong.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked for any updates in the SIGB but remarked that as he recalled it was still dead as of April.

Mr. John Rockwell advised the SIGB is still kind of in the background waiting for additional Governor's direction regarding the whole 9-1-1 and interoperability governing body.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed there was an individual in the Governor's office, Mr. Tyson Gallagher, who is an assistant chief of staff, and he was sort of working on this whole issue. He noted that they have briefed Mr. Gallagher from a department level on some of the issues and would expect him to come out with something maybe this fall.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan added everybody who talks about the issue, whether it's 9-1-1 or telecommunications or push to talk, agrees the state needs some kind of statewide interoperability governing body. He noted it feels like we've been talking about this for 15 years or 25 years or more, but maybe somebody above us will make that decision.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Rockwell to provide an update and asked if the locals were going to pay anything.

Mr. Rockwell briefed not at this time, but one thing that has been talked about is having different scenarios where we can create a statewide 9-1-1 surcharge and possibly include the unorganized boroughs. He added this has been brought up to different levels of government and so far, no one is willing to champion it, so we don't have any type of sustainability funding outside of the current operating funds or any type of capital funds to do as a capital improvement.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated this goes right with the SIGB from the troopers or public safety perspective. He noted they are not really looking to advocate being the ones to charge people, so we would rather have a statewide body that develops a cost sharing plan outside of the current contributors to the system, and so we have not pushed it, nor will we. Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised they were sort of leaning towards getting some kind of statewide body that will decide if other people would be brought into the cost sharing structure.

d. DOD Contract for System Upgrade. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Timothy Woodall for the update on this item.

Mr. Woodall announced the Air Force had confirmed funding as stated in the previous minutes, but the Army, as they understand, their funding is not firm. He explained the agency that normally funds LMR for the Army stated that they have funding for land mobile radio, but they did not have the funding for ALMR, because it is not above the red line from a priority perspective. Mr. Woodall added there would be a concerted effort on ALCOM's part to engage the Army and finding the required funds. He stated that they would also work with Mr. Stormo and with Motorola to come up with some courses of action if the Army is unable to fund their requirement so the system can move forward with the upgrade. Mr. Woodall advised there will be consequences to that, but they understood funding for the state and for the Municipality of Anchorage has a shelf life and it's coming close to the end of that shelf life and it needs to be executed. Mr. Woodall reiterated they would come up with some course of action and noted they would provide those to the Executive Council to go forward.

Colonel Davis noted Army General Andrew Jack was leaving in the next couple of weeks so he will request a meeting with the new general or the deputy and do what he can to get a decision out of them, so that ALMR can move forward And the Army is not holding us hostage. He advised he would provide an update at the next Executive Council meeting whatever happens with the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated as a representative for the state, they have certainly had their share of times where they have delayed the process and so no sweat at all; we will get there.

5. User Council Update.

Mr. Rockwell briefed the User Council continues to meet monthly and is well attend. He noted there was one open position on the council for the Municipalities-North.

Mr. Rockwell stated the theme of the past meetings has been focused on the ALMR upgrade and following the progress of the GTRs. He added another current need is the replacement of the aging XTS and XTL radios. Mr. Rockwell reemphasized the UC concern that there is no funding currently outlined for the aging fleet of handhelds and mobiles.

Mr. Rockwell added that the UC working groups have been very active and the SCIP and interoperability plans were very successful. He noted the new interoperability plan was rolled out and training is in progress.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were local agencies that had not budgeted for new radios and were looking for the state to provide money for that.

Mr. John Rockwell responded no one was looking for the state to provide money at this time, but there are local agencies who have not budgeted for radios, and they do not know what to do. He explained that they are not necessarily looking for the state, even though you know in previous implementations the state has had federal grants to assist them and supply radios. Mr. Rockwell stated the agencies are asking what's going to happen in a few years when they are basically in the analog mode and the state is now on digital-focused channels, so there is just a lot of discussion and concern.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Outreach. Mr. Chris Letterman briefed he had completed all of the calls to the user agencies and the conversations he had with folks who were very appreciative of the outreach and the additional concerted effort on training. He added he was considering making that an annual effort to keep those lines of communications open and build relationships up with those organizations. I think that really paid dividends.

Mr. Letterman advised the other thing the Operations Management Office (OMO) was working on was fine-tuning the customer satisfaction, training, and the coverage and priority surveys. He noted they would all be going out in the next two or three months.

b. Annual Inventory Confirmation. Mr. Letterman stated all the annual inventories have been received with the last one received on June 28.

c. FY22 Membership Agreements. Mr. Letterman stated as of today the membership agreements have all been entered with the last one received this morning, so that's good news.

d. Training. Mr. Letterman noted the current training coordinator that we had, Mr Joel Quickel retired as of June 30, but will stick around and assist our incoming training partner, which is Katmai solutions which is run by Mr Dan Nelson who some of you may know is the Kenai Borough emergency manager. He added Mr. Quickel and Mr. Nelson are continuing to work on a virtual tabletop exercise to demonstrate interoperability because when we talk about interoperability, that's one of the key things that we hear from the agencies that they don't quite have it down yet, so we're trying to put some resources in front of them.

e. Alaska Municipal League Representative. Mr. Letterman stated the new Executive Council representative from the Alaska Municipal League (AML) is Mr Alex Boyd, Assistant Chief at Anchorage Fire.

Mr. Letterman he had some meetings with Nils, the Executive director of AML down in Juneau and had shared some of the concern from the locals about replacing radios just to get the political discussion rolling.

f. FY23 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Letterman briefed the FY23 OMO/SMO budget was sent this morning in the meeting packet for council approval.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if the council would be voting on it via email and Mr. Letterman stated that was the plan.

g. June System Metrics. Mr. Letterman concluded with the system metrics noting there were 1.2 million calls which was up 12,000 from the previous month. He added there were 2.3 million push-to-talks, up 25,000 and the council could see that it was starting to get back to normal usage. Mr. Letterman stated the busies did go up by over 1,000 for a total of 1,604, possibly due to fires. He noted the subscriber count was up to 23,547, an increase of 100 units from the previous month. Mr. Letterman stated he reminded the UC folks that they are adding radios to remove radios if they are no longer in service.

Mr. Letterman pointed out the next metric is new and shows sites under three nines availability. He advised the current spike was mostly due to the GTR and antenna installations which can take anywhere from three to six hours. Mr. Letterman pointed out for the council the second page provides the sites along with the reason for the failure to meet the standard five nines metric.

Mr. Letterman briefed his final metric was for the new website which had 148 sessions and 452 page views, 59 percent being new visitors. He added last thing he wanted to share with the council was if they had not signed up for the ALMR Twitter feed, they should. because he shares information on current installations and pictures out there.

7. New Business.

a. Project 25 Technology Interest Group. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated the under new business was the board nomination for Mr. Letterman. He explained Mr, Del Smith retired, and his replacement needs to be appointed to the P25 interest group.

Motion. Executive Council nominates Mr. Chris Letterman to a Board of Directors position on the Project 25 Technical Interest Group.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion as presented and it was seconded by Colonel Davis. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. Interagency Agreement. Mr. Woodall asked to add a second item to New Business and Deputy Commissioner Morgan agreed. Mr. Woodall explained there had been some recent discussions about contract payment issues and although ALMR has a cooperative agreement, service level agreement, and a membership agreement but we really don't have governance laid out that covers funding obligations, payments, and processes for payment. He noted this is a very complex situation on the state side where you have to have federal receipt authority and how those funds line up and so forth would be very helpful to have a working group put together or something similar to develop that governance for the DOD folks. Mr. Woodall further explained the Army and the Air Force or have separate funding lines and they are tied into a contract for the payments to be made against, but we don't have a contract for ALMR, but if we have an interagency agreement that ties into a Community Partnership Program, we could use an interagency agreement to point at that would help make things more fluid through our finance through our contracting. He noted if it is addressed it might help clean up some of the problems that are being experienced not with the payments and it is something to discuss, and then if it's viable to move forward.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated he had no objection to this and asked Mr. Letterman to get with Mr. Woodall and flesh out what the council needs to look at. He added he had not considered the issues the DOD was encountering. Deputy Commissioner Morgan cautioned with state procurement processes and contracting there might be some bureaucratic hurdles, but once they identified those, they could skip right over them.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any further New Business and there were no responses.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed the next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021, at 1:30 at 5900 E. Tudor, and he would like to get together in person.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any other comments or anything to add to the meeting and hearing none, he made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the July 15 Executive Council meeting.

The motion was seconded by Colonel Davis. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce
MOA, Deputy Chief Michael Kerle
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
OMO, Mr. Chris Letterman
SOA DMVA, Deputy Commissioner Craig Christenson
SOA DMVA, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
SOA DMVA, Mr. Buckley Clarke