



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**November 7, 2024**

**FROM: SOA Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: April 18 Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members:**

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
Chief Michael Kerle	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)
Bradley Wayland	Assistant Federal Security Director- Mission Support (via teleconference)

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:**

Mr. Anthony Naciuk	Operations Management Office (OMO)
Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Mr. Joe Piksa	Motorola Solutions
Ms. Mary Burnham	Operations Management Office
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies
Mr. Jim Nicholl	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage
Ms. Maymie Noble	Motorola Solutions

**1. Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The roll was read, and a quorum of Executive Council members were present.

## **2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.**

a. Chief Michael Kerle retirement: Mr. Trygve Erickson stated, "I think it is worth noting that Mike Kerle is still actually Chief for a few more days." Deputy Commissioner Barlow commented "before we move onto the meeting minutes we would like to acknowledge, Chief Kerle and his service to the Municipality of Anchorage and to the United States of America. Chief Kerle will move on to his next adventure here at the end of the month. Chief Kerle, I am just here to acknowledge your service, thanks so much for being part of the Executive Board." Chief Kerle said, "Thanks, Bryan! Captain Bianca Cross will be taking over as Chief of the Anchorage Police Department (APD). She is not going to appoint a Deputy Chief right away. I imagine at the next Executive Council meeting in July, we should have a good picture at APD, who the Deputy Chief will be going forward. I have already informed her to assign her Deputy Chief of administration to act on the Executive Council. You can send emails to her and hopefully we will get someone assigned to the Executive Council as soon as possible."

b. Colonel Timothy Meerstein departure: Mr. Timothy Woodall raised that Colonel Meerstein will be moving on from Alaskan Command over to another organization in July and he may or may not be attending another Executive Council meeting. He noted that Colonel Meerstein's replacement has been announced, but it is unclear if he will be here in time for the July meeting.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked the members if there were any discussion items, comments, or questions regarding the minutes from the January 18, meeting. None were offered and he requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.

**Motion: Approve the January 18, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.**

The motion was made by DC Barlow and seconded by Chief Kerle \*(ex post facto 23 April). There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

## **4. Old Business.**

a. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Barlow presented the subject, and Mr. John Rockwell noted this item was still tabled.

Mr. Rockwell announced that he just completed interviews for a 9-1-1 coordinator, which is part of the interoperability governing body, and it will be a few weeks before an official offer can be made. He advised that once that can be done, the council could start working back on this topic.

b. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Barlow presented the subject, and Mr. Rockwell said there were no updates for the meeting.

Mr. Rockwell shared that with the budget talks in Juneau now, it was not the right time to say they need to up taxes or get more money through different teams, or what have you. He explained it was not that they are not moving forward or continuing to discuss ways, whether it is going to be your license plate, or fish tickets, but they have nothing to add to the discussion yet.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow wanted to clarify for those on the phone or online that when he asks if anyone has comments or questions, remember that pertains to them too and he is not forgetting about them.

c. Fiduciary Responsibilities. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Woodall for an update.

Mr. Woodall noted update attempts are moving forward on establishing the process, procedures, and responsibilities related to fiduciary responsibility, and in this case third-party contract relationships with the State of Alaska. He stated they really had to work out the U.S. Army Alaska transfer to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne, and then understand organizationally who would be paying, at what level payment would come from, and what organizations would be responsible.

Mr. Woodall explained, U.S. Army Alaska has made some changes that should have been seen in terms of the User Council. They have moved their responsibility away from the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne, which does not really have a garrison level mission, but rather have moved to a garrison level command structure or installation command level. We are working through that process that will help us find the right responsible people and agencies to be identified in the agreement, to ensure that invoices are paid, budgeting is done correctly, and can participate in contract types of activities.

Mr. Woodall briefed; the DoD (Department of Defense) can start moving a bit faster now that this has been worked out. They can now move forward with getting the documentation in line and bring it over to the state to document their process and responsible agencies. From a contracting standpoint, DoD's participation calls for a third-party contract relationship with the State of Alaska, meaning that the State of Alaska is the contract administrator. The DoD is an agency that utilizes that contract for services and is considered the third-party in the contractual agreement. The agreement will address the responsibilities of third parties in the contract award and execution process.

Mr. Rockwell stated that the concept has already been vetted, so, you know once the documentation goes forward, it has already worked through what it will take to implement it on the state side. He noted that no one has questioned what we are trying to do, but we understand we need a sole source for the vendor and to ensure the

funding is guaranteed, and a mechanism to accept the funding and pay for the bifurcated/separated contracts, to reduce the risk of agencies lacking funds, which will lead to streamlining the process.

Mr. Woodall added that this would be an agreement that points to the cooperative/overarching agreement, as the source agreement, and the new Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) would be a sub agreement to that. As Mr. Rockwell said the purpose would be to streamline the processes and responsibilities, while identifying the responsibilities of the agencies providing funding, participating in contracts, understanding their contract responsibilities, complying with the contract administrator's requirements for paying invoices, and providing funding prior to the contract period of performance. This will include all things related to the transfer of money, roles, standing, and participation in contract administration, execution, and payment. That is the goal.

Mr. Rockwell went on to state that another important aspect of this, for the good of the order, is that the Service Level Agreement is based on all the infrastructure and that hopefully, the contract identifies all the ancillary equipment pieces on everyone's property account that they would also be responsible to maintain. He emphasized that it must ensure there is no party unfairly responsible for maintaining equipment on the other party's land or that falls within the other party's maintenance scope.

Mr. Woodall concluded that it is good to have a document that ensures everyone understands the financial responsibilities and relationship between entities, plus, it gives the agencies a framework and timeline to do financial funding and budgeting; working with legislators to get funding appropriated; and to set up the process to coordinate and communicate more closely as part of the Executive Council.

d. TDMA versus Non-TDMA Inventory. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Paul Fussey for an update on this item.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he emailed every member agency what radios they had listed as TDMA or FDMA per the registration number. What ALMR is looking at now, once ALMR goes full TDMA and everything is up to speed, is to go through and look at radios that are transmitting TDMA. An example would be, we were talking with a certain group this past week to join ALMR, they have APX8000 that they purchased, but TDMA was not an option when they purchased the radios, so all those radios will need a flash upgrade.

Mr. Fussey and Mr. Fahnestock when looking at the system, an APX 8000 should be TDMA, but we cannot say with 100% certainty that the TDMA capable radio right now has TDMA on it. Once converted to full TDMA, December 31, 2026, they can see on the system if that radio is indeed transmitting TDMA and if it is not, then they can reach out to those entities and have them do a flash upgrade or software upgrade with those radios.

Mr. Fussey added that Mr. Fahnestock and his team have been asked to create another spreadsheet so that another group of emails can be sent out to every individual agency. This will be done every quarter until December 31, 2026, to ensure ALMR are up to speed, and progressing towards fully TDMA. We are still getting quite a few subscriber requests from agencies to delete the non TDMA radios from the system,

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked for any questions or comments on inventory.

Mr. Rockwell stated that he had a statement but not a question and it has become a huge discussion within the public safety community. He noted, as everyone is aware, that it is difficult sometimes to budget for new equipment, whether it is radios, computers, etc., and there has been a lot of discussion on how many radios do we really need. Mr. Rockwell stated with what Paul described as far as sending out inventory lists quarterly, will have people thinking about how many radios they have versus how many they need. He provided that an example would be AST having 2800 radios and then AST realizing they only need 950, and they may then wonder where all the radios are and whether they have sponsored accounts, or cached radios and if they did how many do they truly need, so in a way, this is doing a "spring clean-up."

Mr. Fussey noted that everything that ALMR is doing, especially in the OMO, is to alert everybody of what is on the system, and it has had some incredibly positive effects on thinking about the number of radios and the true usage that makes sense.

Mr. Woodall inquired if the users are considering their subscriber handheld systems only, or are they also considering mobile radios and consoles?

Mr. Fussey responded that when he talks to the agencies and member organizations, he reminds them about their consoles, dispatch centers, aircraft radios, and vessel radios and that those are all part of the system. He stated he makes sure that they understood all the radios, not just portables, everything, and anything that they have on their system applies.

Mr. Rockwell commented that when requesting radios sometimes members forget about counting mobile radios, vessels, or aircraft and he thanked Mr. Woodall, for what he had just asked, as it was a very relative question.

f. Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse BDA. Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated that he initially mentioned this, and the big issue was the funding for it, which is still being worked on.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said there is no update on that, however, there is a request to re-scope some different capital funds with OMB and it is under consideration. He pointed out that it is possible that there are a lot of budget discussions going on in the state government right now, so they are a bit tasked with that. In a relative sense, it could be very soon that we hear back from OMB on the decision regarding the re-scope of some capital funds that would in turn fund this work. Deputy Commissioner Barlow

noted he personally wrote up the language for the re-scope and that it makes sense. At the next meeting, they can continue down the road realizing this project.

Mr. Rockwell stated the only other update he had was that they have already routed the change order through the system and that it has been signed all the way through to be able to add the BDA to the courthouse building, so it is ready to go when it is time to do so.

Mr. Fussey added that the BDAs (bidirectional amplifiers) were a large topic recently at the Fire Chief's Conference. At the International Wireless Communications Expo, there was a large push, and a lot of seminars on BDA systems and they are changing the fire codes pertaining to the BDAs. He noted there were 14 vendors at the IWCE specifically for BDAs, and since the fire codes are changing, they are becoming increasingly mandatory.

Mr. Fussey briefed that one of the things that ALMR is being proactive about along with the Executive Council and the User Council is, as Mr. Rockwell suggested and mentioned, that ALMR is making change requests to keep track of where these BDAs are being put in. He explained that one problem that the San Francisco Fire Chief mentioned was with all the buildings needing to have BDAs, that they had lost track of where they are located and that you can have one BDA in one high rise that is impacting the radio traffic of the BDA in another high rise building across the street. Mr. Fussey explained that as the system starts adding more BDAs, ALMR needs to ensure that the BDA is being added by the Fire Marshall or any other fire entity, so we know where they are at and that ALMR is keeping track of them to ensure that any that are put in are not interfering with other radio traffic. He added that BDAs are great, but we do have the capacity to get too many, that are too close and will interfere with each other and therefore eliminate the positive, and that BDAs are becoming more on the forefront due to the National Fire Code.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow inquired if there is currently a catalogued list in Alaska, a way of determining where they are and what structures have them.

Mr. Fussey replied we do have change requests where they are going in, we have one prepared for the Rabinowitz Courthouse, and there is one at the Menard Center, the Whittier Tunnel, the airport, and there is another one that is waiting. He also stated this is a list of several BDAs and there might be some out there that ALMR is not aware of, but as ALMR becomes aware of them, ALMR works on the change request to document where they are. ALMR does currently have a running list of BDAs that are installed and touching the ALMR system.

Mr. Rockwell commented that one issue is that Alaska is a home rule state, and therefore the municipalities/boroughs can make their own rules. Wasilla and Fairbanks have been working through requiring BDAs in large buildings that would be impacted. He advised if it is part of the building code, then the council must ensure other entities coordinate with us now to be able to put it on the system. Mr. Rockwell stated that ALMR

would not know if a business finds out from some other contractor to add a BDA, and then it could sneak on without us knowing and they would have to have a BDA to pass and move forward.

Mr. Woodall asked, in order to understand BDAs better, other than amplifying the signal, does a BDA have a receiver and does it transmit, and if it does, does it care if it is a FDMA or TDMA signal, and do they care about TDMA flashes?

Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock responded yes, but it is all about modulation, whether AM or FM.

Mr. Woodall said we must add our BDAs onto the TDMA flash requirement.

Mr. Fahnestock commented that it is assuming that those radios that are in the BDA are a radio that is, per se, on the system. They can be a passive BDA, where it is not an actual radio with a radio ID, but it is just receiving the signal without a re-transmission.

Mr. Woodall noted that the council will have to address updating those BDAs or flashing those and he will take action, and get with Zack (Motorola Solutions), and find out the technical aspects of flashing the DoD versions. It would be good for us to know where they all are and then find out who is the owner responsible for the BDA.

Mr. Joe Piksa made the statement that you will only know what you know, and that each organization will know where each of their BDAs are. The ones that are unknown now, you will know when someone must go in there when there is a problem with too much noise, etc. He explained that equipment can be bought that will pinpoint and find that. Then the entity can be asked why they are on a particular frequency, and if they are not allowed then they can be kicked off. It is a very cumbersome process.

Mr. Scott Stormo inquired if we must register BDAs?

Mr. Fahnestock replied that it is typically not. They are going to be within the same locational region of the FCC license under the same frequency and that it would apply all at one entity.

Mr. Woodall stated a record should be put in the database, so it is identified for interference analysis purposes, but other than that, it is not required to be licensed.

Mr. Fussey reiterated that ALMR has been tracking the BDAs with a change request, which also tells us who is responsible for that device. Keep in mind that the BDA comes in 700/800 megahertz, VHF, UHF, depending on what the agency is using. He pointed out that as Mr. Piksa said, an example would be San Francisco where they put in so many BDAs, they lost track of where they were, so that now they are interrupting each other's frequencies, so nobody's radios are working. Mr. Fussey stated in Alaska, ALMR must get to the forefront and make sure not lose track of where they are. Mr. Fussey, Mr. Stormo, and Mr. Fahnestock have a meeting set up through the State Fire Marshal's

office, to talk about BDAs and if there are some out there that ALMR does not know about, so that they can start documenting them. He stated ALMR is trying to be proactive with their tracking of BDAs.

Mr. Woodall recommended that we might want to put in our next newsletter, for the people who own BDAs to consider including that in their TDMA upgrade budget.

Mr. Rockwell thanked Mr. Fussey and the group for the newsletters, and stated they have been awesome, especially the one about BDAs, and he appreciates it.

g. Motorola Contract. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked for an update on this topic.

Mr. Stormo stated no changes yet, and he is engaged with DPS procurement now that they have had some personnel changes there. They have started the process to get the next contract going and have approximately two more years left, but there is nothing wrong with getting it done early. It does not need to start until July 2026, so they can get started early if they want the new contract to go in instead of executing the next option year.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow said that is always a good thing to start earlier if you can. Then he asked if there were any questions, comments, input on the services contract.

Mr. Woodall inquired of Mr. Stormo if this item could be tabled for now until the start of the contract process or do we want to keep it active.

Mr. Stormo responded that it can be tabled, even though some behind the scenes conversations with that idea of the end state, figuring out what requirements they may want to change, and what funding is going to be allocated towards the contract and how that is going to impact on what they are trying to do.

Mr. Woodall suggested for the record that it be tabled until the contract participants complete the initial performance identification and contract requirements.

Mr. Jim Nicholl noted that when this was done the last time DoD and the state were in the same room, and we want to do that again. If there are additions to coverage or deletions that we want to cover it is an innovative idea. That would have to be approved by the contract officer to take place during that process.

Mr. Stormo noted that we have a unique advantage because Mr. Woodall has been through the process two or three times, and he had been through it once before. We have some processes that we have learned over the years that we would like to do differently. We have some ideas that we want to see if they can be incorporated into the contract that make things smoother and beneficial for all parties.



Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted there are more discussions to come on the topic, but it is tabled until there is a relevant and meaningful update.

Mr. Woodall mentioned that we would not want to eliminate the contract officer and cause some kind of prejudice and we would not want to speak directly to a potential contractor entity without the contract officer saying how they are going to execute the contract. Doing otherwise would potentially eliminate or could create a protest to contract award. The need to maintain our interactions with potential contractors per guidance from the Contracting Officer to avoid potential issues later in the contract solicitation and award process. Mr. Woodall does not, however, think that the DoD are prohibited from sitting down and talking about what is currently covered in the existing contract, and where there are problems or areas that could be improved. Mr. Woodall does not know if solutions could be addressed yet and would require specific guidance from the contracting officer.

h. Tudor Road Electrical Work. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked about this item.

Mr. Stormo noted some updates like changing out the battery system was a nightmare. A whole lot of different electrical work would need to be done in the building. They are falling back to the easiest solution, which is changing the 12-volt batteries, that are about 8 years old with new 12-volt batteries, even though it is not necessarily a system that the manufacturer says it still supports. The activity to change it over would be too disruptive. The batteries will get refreshed as part of the building electrical system update. The building electrical update needs the batteries changed first. Chugach electric said that the power of the building is going to be lost for two to three days while they change over the transformers outside. Discussions are taking place with ALCAN Electric, through the state electrical contract to wire up the backup generator through different panels that will be safe for the transformer work, especially the parts of the building they would much rather not have offline for two to three days, for example, there may be no or computers, but keep the master site and communications equipment rooms where connectivity is flowing through. This needs to happen, so tests can take place and prove that. In the end, it might have to be done anyway. Then it will quickly be discovered if everybody's PACE plans start with the P and ends with the P, and they do not have any Alternate communications, Contingency communications, or Emergency communications.

Mr. Stormo briefed that in the FEMA conference this week, this is a subject that was heavily talked about. Most entities cut the budget for this type of item because that is an extra cost to have redundancies and backups. They do not fund it and they do not exercise it and when the time comes, they are not sure how to use it. It obviously would be painful, but it would be accurate proof of concept if we are going to have an earthquake, which is what the FEMA exercise was about. It would not be the worst thing to have realistic exercises for two to three days, but they will not do it on purpose and obviously they will not do it without any approval through the user community. There are other technologies like DSR that have never been implemented that would allow this master site to be offline. If we had DSR on the system, this would be a minimal impact technical changeover. Like the PACE Plan, it is expensive to set up, but without that

technology to make our system even more robust, then it may have to be taken down for 2 days.

Deputy Commissioner inquired what the time frame for this update will be.

Scott Stormo replied that a solid date has not been received yet, but this will be sometime in summer; pending response from Chugach Electric on when they can do the work. Even if they do not expect an outage, this can be an opportunity to prepare for alternate communications, so that they at least test it and try to make sure they are ready just in case something does happen.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted this could be a significant event planning. He inquired if there were any questions or inputs on this topic.

## **5. User Council Update.**

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Rockwell to provide an update on the User Council.

Mr. Rockwell noted he missed the last User Council meeting. There are two positions filled at the Army, alternate and primary, awaiting appointment. As far as the council itself, it is fully staffed, topics have been around the upgrade and the TDMA requirements. The inventory we discussed earlier today is very pertinent, and the User Council is on board. The only caveat to add is that everyone is concerned about funding, they are looking at grants, to DOT to see what they can do, can broadband money be used, and trying to look outside the traditional box of capital items.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow inquired if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Woodall noted the appointment records show that the Army has personnel appointed, and Colonel Meerstein has provided his signature of approval for the new representatives, and the Operations Management Office has those names.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed us that it has been a busy quarter. The new April video vignette was Communications Incident Reporting. Mr. Nelson continues to put out the videos and we are getting positive feedback from people who have been watching them.

Recently, State Forestry was training their new incident commanders, they do this class every couple of years, and some APSCS personnel and myself were asked to go out and work with their incident commanders on the radios. Our group went out there for the day, worked with their radios, talked to them on how to use ALMR, and then gave them a class on how to use their Iridium radios regarding slowing the process down. Mr. Fussey and Mr. Anthony Naciuk were invited back the next day to observe their incident

tabletop exercise and were there to make sure that there were not any hiccups when they were working on their radios. Mr. Fussey and Mr. Naciuk wanted to make sure the radios worked when they were on ALMR, there were not any busies, and received good and positive feedback.

Mr. Fussey attended the SEOC monthly training regarding the Tsunami Center and through that, talking to other individuals, an invitation was received to, what Mr. Stormo talked about, the FEMA concept meeting. Mr. Fussey, Mr. Fahnestock, and Mr. Stormo went there and were able to answer questions regarding ALMR with the 9.0 earthquake scenario. It was a very productive meeting.

Mr. Fussey also attended the March and February APIP (Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection) meetings and as an entity for ALMR, if there is a natural disaster, ALMR needs to be involved, so that is why he attends those meetings.

Mr. Fussey briefed that last week, there was a 2024 Emergency Preparedness conference held by DHS-EM, and he was asked to give a presentation on ALMR. He was given an hour time slot, and discussed ALMR, the history of the system, where ALMR towers are located, he also brought maps so everyone could see where the towers are and how the SATS system integrates into ALMR, and finally how it is jointly owned and operated by DoD and State. A lot of people came up later saying that they did not realize it was a joint agency. Most thought it was just the state system and did not realize the large complex interagency and operability that is done.

b. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that Mr. Fahnestock and his team have been very busy, they have conducted 12 PMI and site inspections since January already, and that they are being proactive, going through and making sure that the towers are up to speed and screening for interferences.

Mr. Fussey advised that the Motorola team arrived on April 2 and started with the Blueberry site and proceeded to the other drivable sites, putting the Juniper routers into the sites in anticipation of TDMA. There were some issues with a site by Fairbanks east of Birch Hill, and Mr. Stormo and his team went out and assisted with the microwave backhaul and got that up and running.

Mr. Stormo discussed what the situation was and how it was resolved, and he commented that they have been talking with the DoD about trying to find out who is their equivalent to all the DoD sites, so they can be more proactive.

Mr. Rockwell stated that Mr. Stormo and his team have been doing a remarkable job, and thanked Mr. Stormo for doing a fabulous job keeping the system going.

c. FY24 Membership Agreements. No update given.

d. System Metrics. Mr. Fussey noted that the multigroup and individual calls were

down from last year, however, they are still over 1.4 million. The monthly push to talks was down a little from last year and are at 2.2 million. Mr. Fussey wanted to explain the February spike, which was when the DoD had a huge exercise in the Fort Greely area, and they put an additional 10,000 troops into that area. Even with the huge spike, busies were at 2068, but were only at .0014%. Mr. Fussey continued with the sites below three nines, of which there were 10 with quite a few of them from PMIs and then the GCI circuit issues.

Mr. Fussey added that Mr. Stormo's team have been talking to GCI since GCI decided to do an upgrade with their connection down the southeast and never told us, which crashed several sites down the southeast where the dispatchers did not know the system was down because they were not getting an alert on their consoles. The ALMR team is having discussions with GCI to make sure this does not happen again. Mr. Woodall asked if we sent them a letter to identify the issue and to establish a procedure to coordinate with the Operations Management Office (OMO). Mr. Fussey replied they have the letter drafted and are having a couple more people review it before it goes out. The circuits have now been identified as public safety.

Mr. Woodall asked if Mr. Fahnestock could address the interference occurring in the northern tier area. Mr. Fahnestock stated that there has been interference since 2019, which is a repetitive interference issue going on up north around the Birch Hill area, and sometimes down into the Donnelly Dome area as well. Mr. Fahnestock has been working with Mr. Woodall to try to identify who, what, where, and when. They have some suspects that he was not going to name, but there is some interference that is causing disruption for a lot of users up in that area, including local government.

Mr. Woodall stated from the DoD standpoint, they have gone through all their authorized assignments, and have identified frequencies that are close to the VHF frequencies used by DOD. It is happening in the 138- to-144-megahertz range, it is not in the 154 to 156 public safety range. It is happening in the military training band. They have licensed air to ground radios that operate at 50 watts that are close, but they are a megahertz off and there should not be any issues unless there are some tuning issues with the radios. He noted they are having the techs go back through all the radios and have sent up a joint spectrum interference report to the national level, which goes up to the NTIA, National Telecommunications Information Administration. Mr. Woodall explained this will help them by submitting that report if they cannot resolve it locally and to have a national level team come down with some better resources to DF and identify the signal. They will bring in engineers and determine what the interference is.

Mr. Woodall stressed that they must do all their homework to try to resolve it and give them all the information by continuing the reporting process when their operations are being impacted, even though it feels like they are reporting it over and over. They want them to report because of the need to capture the times and the characteristics of the signal that is interfering with them, so that is important in assisting them to resolve the issue. They would like to communicate with those agencies that are in that area, to get

the word out if they are receiving interference to please report it through the OMO so that they can continue to investigate what and/or who is causing the interfering signal.

Mr. Piksa commented that this could be a rogue signal, for example, a local tow truck company and that there are tools that should be able to pinpoint the signal.

Mr. Fahnestock stated the SMO (System Management Office) has some of those tools, but even with said tools, it is a broad range that it is occurring on and exactly pinpointing who it is and making them take accountability, is a process especially since it is not every day, it is intermittent.

Mr. Woodall commented it is important and if they must pay for a team to come and camp out there with DF equipment and so forth, that is what they will do. That is the alternative at this point, and they are doing all the detective work to identify the source and ensure that the equipment is properly tuned and operating at the standard. However, you can never rule out a rogue individual tuning their radio with a frequency that they are not authorized to use, unless you catch them in the act.

e. Other. Mr. Fussey briefed APSCS members, System Maintenance Operations (SMO), and he attended the IWCE back in March, there was valuable information and seminars.

Mr. Fussey noted the quarterly ALMR newsletter was mailed out to all the legislatures yesterday, it is posted on the ALMR website, and electronic copies were sent out to all the members, and he strongly encouraged everyone to look at it because there are a lot of good articles in there.

Mr. Fussey stated that April 14 to 20 is National Public Safety Telecommunications week, and then April is also Emergency Communications month, so he gave a big thank you to all the public safety dispatchers that are keeping everyone safe.

Mr. Fussey advised April 15 to 19 is National Work Zone Awareness week, the DOT is a large member of ALMR, and he wanted to let everybody know that construction season is starting back up in Alaska.

Mr. Fussey briefed on March 4, he had the Zone One master site inspected by the State Fire Marshal's Office and the plan review supervisor for fire suppression compliance. He noted the OMO received the report back saying that the Zone One master site meets the current fire codes, however if ALMR wants to look at something to be added on, they could look at it later. Mr. Fussey noted this is one of the things he looks at when he does his inspections of the building to ensure compliance with the fire codes for Zone 1.

Mr. Fussey said the SEOC conducted briefings this week on River Watch. River Watch is when the DHSEM starts looking at breakup for the Yukon delta, specifically the Fairbanks area, Kenai River, and southeast. He will be monitoring that, and making sure that it is not going to impact any of our sites. Fairbanks, occasionally, does flood out and

areas in southeast will flood out because of the ice jams, but ALMR is monitoring it to see how the ice is going away and hopefully it will not impact any of the sites near the rivers.

Mr. Fussey wanted to say thank you to Chief Kerle, and he appreciates his wisdom and knowledge on Emergency Management, happy retirement.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there were any questions or comments on the report from Mr. Fussey.

## **7. New Business.**

Deputy Commissioner inquired if there were any items for New Business, and hearing no responses, stated there is no New Business.

**8. Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised the next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2024.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there was any other business and hearing no responses, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

### **Motion: Adjourn the April 18 meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.**

The motion was made by Chief Kerle \*(ex post facto 23 April) and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Barlow. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

**\*Special Note** - (ex post facto 23 April) – Mr. Woodall who originally seconded the motion to approve the January minutes and made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Per the Executive Council Charter only the Executive Council or Associate Members are permitted to perform these actions, and no one can act as proxy for these individuals.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow  
Department of Public Safety  
ALMR Executive Council

### **Distribution:**

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow  
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein  
MOA, Chief Michael Kerle  
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd  
SOA DPS, Mr. Scott Stormo  
OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey

ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall  
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson  
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell