



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

1. Attendance.

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

Primary				
T	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
T	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
E	Goggia-Cockrell	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central, Vice Chair
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
T	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
P	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA Chair
U	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Rodriguez	Joe	MSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
P	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, SWIC
U	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
N/A	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
E	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
E	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
P	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
T	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Hammer	Nathan	SMSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
N/A	Herman	Mary	Captain	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
U	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Maley	Christopher	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

Supporting Staff and Guests

P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager
P	Jones	Ryan	SPC	Army National Guard
T	Lane	Donald	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) DPS
Al	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) DOT
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
T	Remaley	Dakota	Mr.	City of Palmer – Communications Trainee
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS - CISA
P	Rockwell	Evan	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF)
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) DPSCS
T	Wiley	Naomi	Ms	Motorola Solutions

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. Scott Nelsen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 1:32 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken by Ms. Mary Burnham, and there was a quorum of User Council (UC) members in attendance for the meeting. MSgt. Joe Rodriguez, MSgt. Kayla Draves, Ross Atkinson, and Naomi Wiley joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	Scott N. asked if there were any special guests on the line. Mr. Dakota Remaley introduced himself and stated he is with the City of Palmer. Scott N. welcomed Dakota then moved on to the next agenda item.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Scott N. proceeded to the review and approval of the December meeting minutes. He stated he would entertain a motion to approve since there were no questions or updates. Motion: Approve the December 4 monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Mr. John Rockwell Second: Mr. Henry Cole Scott N. stated that if there are no objections or calls for any further discussion, he stated the motion is passed.	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

	Scott N. commented that the next item on the agenda is the review of the Issues and Risks Log and deferred to Mr. Paul Fussey.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	<p>Paul briefed that the updates available are from the R1 N battery plant. He had a briefing with Mr. Jeremy Rose, ALMR Motorola Representative for the base, that the batteries were on ,back order the batteries will be here in the first week of March. Paul commented that the batteries will be installed once they are received at R1 N and he will update that information but, unfortunately, he was just briefed on this information right before the meeting.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions regarding the issues from this log.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Keith Berrian asked if there were any updates on the Birch Hill interference issue.</p> <p>Paul responded that it is being worked on by the Department of Defense(DoD) and they are working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to get in contact with those individuals that are creating the illegal carrier signal.</p> <p>Keith thanked Paul.</p> <p>Scott N. stated without anything else, he moved on to Action Items and deferred to Paul.</p>	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Paul briefed that the only action item currently is from Mr. John Rockwell, and that Motorola will brief all the agencies when ALMR has APX NXT on the system, so it is a carryover from October 2023. He also stated that ALMR is still waiting for Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approval and once that is done, ALMR will ask Motorola to come out and give a briefing on Smart Connect. Paul asked Mr. David Reed if there were any updates for the FedRAMP approval.</p> <p>David stated that there were not, and that he checked within the last hour, and it is still in the finalization stage.</p> <p>Paul stated that was all he had.</p>	



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, he asked Paul to provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) updates.</p>	
<p>Operations Management Office</p>	<p>Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
<p>Training</p> <p>Outreach</p>	<p>1. Paul briefed that he and Mr. Dan Nelson are setting up the ALMR training program for this year, and he noted that at the last User Council meeting they asked for some suggestions and ideas for training topics. He stated that the training schedule through August will be: Cybersecurity; FedRAMP; AWARD vs ALMR; ALMR governance; Battery Basics; How the Push to Talk works; ALMR site PMI; and Radio Interference. Paul commented as a reminder, if anybody has any ideas or suggestions for training, he and Dan will be happy to entertain them and add them.</p> <p>2. Paul briefed that the 34th Legislative Session will start on January 21st, and as the legislature goes through their schedule, anyone can go on their website and see any bills that are going on, especially when it pertains to the ALMR budget and how it impacts people.</p> <p>Paul noted that on December 16 the System Management Office (SMO), OMO, DoD, and Mr. Scott Stormo and his team met with Alaska Command (ALCOM) and some of their cybersecurity members to discuss possible upgrades to the system, with more meetings taking place in the future.</p> <p>Paul stated that he sent out emails to some of the local fire chiefs and fire inspectors that Motorola Trunked Users Group (MTUG) are going to be having a Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) subcommittee Teams meeting on January 14 at 11 am Alaska Standard Time. He commented that if anybody wants to be informed of what the MTUG subcommittee is talking about later on, any slide decks, or anything, please send him an email and he will send them out. Paul noted that this will be dealing with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and international fire codes regarding BDAs for buildings and how that is going to impact Alaska.</p> <p>Paul noted the APIP meeting, which is the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection, will be meeting on January 16 at 10 AM, and then as a reminder for everyone, the Executive Council for ALMR is also on January 16 at 1:30 PM, which will be on Teams, and Mary will send that out to everyone.</p>	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

<p>Upgrades</p>	<p>Paul stated that the Alaska Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) meeting will be held on January 23 at 2 PM. He noted that APCO deals a lot with dispatch and emergency operation centers. Paul commented that the point of contact (POC) is Nicole Becker.</p> <p>Paul briefed that the ALMR Quarterly Newsletter has been completed, and it will be sent out on January 15, and Mary will also put that out on the ALMR website.</p> <p>3. Paul briefed that the battery replacement for R1 N has already been discussed, and the battery upgrade for the Zone 1 Master Site has been completed. He stated that Side A and Side B are done, and the TAS and TAN, which are the two portable towers and dispatch containers, are still being upgraded by Motorola on base. Paul noted that both units are still located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER).</p> <p>Paul asked if anybody had any questions for him before he moved over to document reviews or the metrics.</p> <p>Mr. John Rockwell thanked Paul for the training videos, and he stated that, regarding the ALMR website, what incredible resources have been put on there. He noted that on the training page, there are dozens of valuable trainings, and he encourages everybody to look on the ALMR website every once in a while, because there is new information that comes up all the time.</p>	
<p>December Document Reviews</p>	<p>4. Paul briefed that the policies and procedures reviewed were: Security Controls Review; Radio Usage and Transmission Protocols; System Account Control; System Vulnerability Management; and Vendor Equipment Evaluation, and the other documents that were completed were the Roles and Responsibilities and System Description. He noted that since November and December are kind of a slow time for field work, the bulk of the policies and procedures are reviewed, and each one goes onto the website and is reviewed yearly. Paul stated that the OMO team has them broken into sections on the website and when they are reviewed.</p>	
<p>December System Metrics</p>	<p>5. Paul briefed that at the end of 2024 there were 1,533,657 calls and the monthly push-to-talks (PTTs) were 2,402,130, which is almost identical to last year. He noted that the monthly busies were 210, which equals a bunch of zeros followed by a 1, so less than 1%. Paul commented that it is due to Scott Stormo, the State of Alaska (SOA) Telecommunication System (SATS), and Mr. Nik Fahnestock and his team with the preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs) and keeping the towers up.</p>	



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

<p>Other Items</p>	<p>Paul noted that the subscriber counts were 32,677, which is how many radios are on the system. He stated that the sites below three 9s were only four, which consisted of Hill 3265, Pole Hill, and Quarry Hill due to multiple power outages, but the ALMR team worked with the individuals in Fairbanks and they went and reset everything. Paul also noted that Hurricane was the fourth one and that was a failed generator on 30 December. He asked Scott S. if that had been fixed.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that is not an SOA generator, but it is a generator powered area and they got it restarted.</p> <p>Paul asked if there are any questions on the metrics so far before he covers a little bit more about them.</p> <p>Scott S. went on to brief that he wanted to make a comment about subscribers on the system, and, unfortunately, Nik is not here to say the exact number, but ALMR is approaching their license limit for how many subscribers are allowed on the system. He stated that ALMR can buy more licenses if they have to, but he brings that up only because he is pretty sure there are older radios that have not been removed off the system, so if that is not an encouragement for agencies to maybe pull some of the old radios off the system, that would be good because ALMR does not want to buy more licenses if it is not necessary and ALMR does not want to get to a point where ALMR cannot add somebody because ALMR hit the ceiling.</p> <p>Paul noted that the subscriber count is 32,677, and there are different organizations that are getting their TDMA radios in, so as of July 1, ALMR has increased by 978 radios on the system. He commented that to follow up with what Scott S. way saying, if you have updated your radios and put your TDMA radios on the system, please fill out a subscriber request and have your older radios removed. Paul stated it was nice to see that increase, but that means there are a lot of older radios that could be removed off the system.</p> <p>Paul went on to brief that the metrics for January 1 to December 31, 2024, show there were 17,714,270 total calls for the year, PTTs were 28,797,345, and total busies were 7232 for the year, which is only 0.0004% for the whole year.</p> <p>John asked if Paul said 28 million PTTs.</p> <p>Paul replied that is correct, for the year over 28 million. He asked if anyone had any questions on the metrics. Hearing none he moved onto Other Items.</p> <p>6. Paul briefed that this is more for the dispatch centers and 911 operators, but the FBI updated the Criminal Justice</p>	
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*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>Information Service (CJIS) security policy that took effect on October 1, and it marks a significant shift in how agencies must approach cybersecurity. He noted that among the most critical updates are those found in Section 5.15 and 5.19, which introduces stringent system integrity and risk assessment requirements, and the requirements are enforced through the FBI's rolling agency audits and any agency with access to CJIS is subject to these audits, including emergency communication centers and other agencies that are granted access to the CJIS database. Paul encourages everyone to take a look at that, and he notes he sent out a workbook that highlights the changes to the different dispatch centers and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), so if anybody has any questions, reach out to him or your dispatch centers which will have more information.</p> <p>Paul noted that two reports, the annual Information Assurance (IA) and User Council (UC) Assessment, will be going out to the user council via email later on in the week and the OMO would like everyone to take a look at them and make sure that it is approved, so look for an email from Mary on those two annual reports.</p> <p>Paul commented that some positive news is that he and Nik have been working with different agencies to turn on TDMA. He states that December 31, 2026, is the goal date to have all radios on the system TDMA capable, however, with the upgrades completed, Paul has worked with the Seward Fire Department and Western Emergency Services to turn on their talk groups to TDMA next week. Paul noted that those two agencies will start using TDMA. They are working with them because the majority, if not all, of their radios are already TDMA capable and they are smaller areas, which is a smaller footprint, so as ALMR is turned on, they are going to start expanding out to larger and larger agencies. He stated that as ALMR starts moving forward expect a call from either himself or Nik to start turning on other talkgroups to TDMA.</p> <p>Lt. Ben Endres inquired on how that will affect State Troopers in that area that may have a non-TDMA radio and Seward Fire is TDMA, is it going to knock that tower down to the legacy capacity if they are using a non-TDMA radio in the area.</p> <p>Paul responded that if you have another agency that has an FDMA radio and they want to talk to Seward Fire Department, they will lose a channel, for instance, if there is a three channel site that is going to go to five channels, with one control channel and four operating, so if there is someone with an FDMA radio that is talking to someone with a TDMA radio, it will drop down to four channels instead of five for that site.</p>	
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***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>Ben then asked if it would just affect that tower in that area.</p> <p>Paul said that is correct, and that is why ALMR is looking at the smaller agencies. He noted, keeping in mind the Seward Fire Department does not use ALMR a lot, so working with their team, they are going to have a couple of radios on ALMR and use ALMR for testing purposes.</p> <p>Scott S. added that it is by talkgroup on the tower, so if there is an FDMA radio on a talkgroup and a TDMA radio on a talkgroup on the same tower, it will broadcast on FDMA. He noted that it goes to the lowest common denominator, and if it is just TDMA radios on that tower, then that channel will be TDMA, however, if somebody else is on another tower with FDMA then that will use FDMA on the other tower. Scott S. commented that bigger agencies like the troopers, who are spread all over the place, touching a lot of towers would be provided the most benefit with TDMA radios, but a place like Seward is just one tower themselves, so it is not like systemwide people would be impacted.</p> <p>Paul noted that ALMR specifically picked those two agencies because of the smaller footprint they have, so that way if there are any issues it is not affecting all the agencies.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that the top groups are not all turned over to TDMA yet, that is why the system has been set to TDMA, but the top groups have to be enabled for TDMA, which has not happened yet. He commented that ALMR is doing a slow test with a couple of groups of people, and then just to make sure there is nothing wrong, which there should not be since there is half of the systems in the country running on TDMA, so it is not like this is new technology but new to ALMR. Scott S. stated that ALMR wants to put a foot in the water before they jump straight in.</p> <p>Ben thanked Paul and Scott S. Paul asked if there were any other questions for him, hearing none he stated that completes his report.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Paul and stated that the next item would be the SMO overview, which Paul is going to cover.</p>	
System Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey for Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>Paul briefed for the group, that Nik is out this week, and that Paul has one thing that he has been asked to bring up through the SMO office. He commented that the Anchorage area had a huge weather event, and he knows it is snowing a foot, foot and a half in Cantwell right now, however, down in Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula there was a lot of rain and high wind. Paul stated that he keeps track of different weather stations around the state and the Tincan weather station, which is in the Turnagain Pass area and is managed by the Chugach Avalanche Center. He noted that at 1:00 PM in the afternoon on Monday, January 6, the wind anemometer hit 111 mph, so hurricane force winds are 100 mph and ALMR did have a little bit of bouncing in a couple sites, but the ALMR system kept running through the hurricane force winds. Paul stated that is the one thing that Nik and his team wanted to bring up, that with hurricane force winds there was only a little bit of signal bouncing incidences, but the ALMR system worked very well through the storm. He noted that was the end of his brief on Nik's behalf.</p> <p>Scott N. said that ALMR has lasted through a 7.2 magnitude earthquake and it has survived almost a category two hurricane, so that is pretty good, pretty robust.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if anybody had anything to add, hearing nothing he stated he would continue on to the next item, which is the state and DoD updates.</p>	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Scott S. briefed that he does not have a whole lot to add, but just a quick update on the upgrade project. He stated that the state is very close to being done, and the Juniper routers need to go into the dispatch centers, state and local, so once that is done, other than some final close out stuff that Motorola is delivering to us, then the state will be done with the project from the state side. Scott S. noted that the DoD side is still waiting for the weather to improve so they can complete some microwave work that they have on their sites, and their Juniper routers part of their project has not started yet. He commented that the Juniper routers are required in order to switch over to Ethernet connectivity to all the sites. This will simplify and complicate it, it simplifies in the sense that Ethernet is what most Information Technology (IT) people deal with, but what complicates it is, the state does not have IT people. Scott S. stated that the state does not have the staff that are specialized doing that business, but they do</p>	



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>have the staff that has spent time wiring Q1 and stuff like that, so it is changing technology but difficult to change staff's mindset because it is two thoroughly different things but over time it happened. He commented that, unfortunately, today is the last day for one of the state's most experienced people, so the state is losing one of the good people to troubleshoot those things when they happen, but if anyone knows of anybody the state will be having a job opening in their engineering side soon.</p> <p>Scott N. noted that he is going through the same training, learning how to do punch downs and networking, since his department is building a new network site, however, they have IT staff, but they don't have engineering or telecom specialists who know how to do those things.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Scott S. for his update and asked if anybody had anything else to add, hearing none he moved on.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Scott N. noted that Mr. Timothy Woodall was not in attendance and moved on to the represented areas, starting with the SOA component.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DOT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Henry Cole stated he had nothing to add, but they are continuing to try and secure funding to enable them to purchase TDMA compliant radios for the bulk of the agency. He noted that DOT is one of the larger agencies with over 1,000 subscribers or units and a small percentage of them are TDMA compliant now, so they are aware of the problem trying to get funding for it, but public agency funding is tricky and complicated. Henry commented that was all that he had for now. 	
SOA DPS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. John Rockwell deferred to Lt. Ben Endres for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) brief. <p>Ben briefed that they have been trying to work on a few areas where they know there is not ALMR connectivity and looking at different options and talking to Scott S. and Paul and it seems like the best solution is to build, for about \$1,000,000, a new ALMR site in those places. One of them being in the valley near Alaska Regional</p>	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

<p>SOA All Others</p>	<p>where there is a terrain issue that is a low ground area, and the troopers have had a couple of incidents where they could not communicate. He noted that different things have been talked about and that seems like the best solution, alternatively, DPS would hope maybe the N70 series would solve that depending on the Long-Term Evolution (LTE) connectivity available in those areas, so DPS is still pushing up the chain that they need to try to buy some of those radios, but they just keep looking at options to try to get connections.</p> <p>3. Scott N. asked if Mr. Karl Edwards had anything, hearing none he went on to brief that for Military Veterans Affairs (MVA) they are working on getting TDMA capable radios, and they almost had a purchase secured but ended up losing it at the last minute, , funding was the issue. He stated that they are working on recovering that and looking at around 30 or 40 handheld portables and then upgrading our mobiles to TDMA compliance, so that is where they are at, at this time.</p> <p>Karl apologized for not responding earlier but he had someone talking to him, but he went on to brief that he is in the process of buying radios like everybody else, and he was informed that procurement will be working on it shortly, but other than that he does not have anything else to add.</p> <p>Scott. N moved on to the DoD.</p>	
<p>DoD JBER</p> <p>DoD Eielson</p> <p>DoD US Army Installations</p>	<p>1. MSgt. Kayla Draves briefed that they have also been working on upgrading to TDMA, which they have gotten over 200 flash upgrades done so far, so things have been going smoothly for them.</p> <p>2. MSgt. Joe Rodriguez briefed that things are still progressing slowly there, coming back from the holidays, and they are nailing down the plan to schedule and install those roughly 230 mobile radios that they received. He noted that they also have a lot of software upgrades to take care of and should be starting shortly.</p> <p>3. No representatives in attendance.</p>	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

<p>Federal Non-DoD DOJ</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD DOI</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD All Others</p>	<p>John asked if any Federal Non-DoD components had any updates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No updates noted. 2. Mr. Ross Atkinson briefed that the Alaska Fire Service is upgrading all their handheld radios, and in fact, they are in the process of programming them to the Bendik King Radios (BKR), which should be TDMA compliant. He noted they will just need to upgrade their mobiles after that, which is about 40 or 50 mobiles, but all their handhelds should be TDMA compliant this year, which is the end of his report. <p>Scott N. stated that is excellent and thanked Ross.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. No representative in attendance. 	
<p>Munis-North</p> <p>Munis-Southeast</p> <p>Munis-Central</p>	<p>Scott N. moved onto the municipal components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No updates noted. 2. No updates noted. 3. Mr. Jim Goodman asked the Chair if he could speak to Scott S. and Scott N. said yes. Jim spoke to Scott S. and asked if he could call him after the meeting to give Scott S. and update, which Scott S. responded yes. 	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
<p>CISA – Salt Typhoon Update</p>	<p>Scott N. stated that he was moving on to New Business and he recognized Mr. Bruce Richter with Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).</p> <p>Bruce briefed that he wanted to share his latest open-source information on the Salt Typhoon threat from People's Republic of China (PRC), which continues to be like reading a spy novel. He noted that on January 2, three of the big telecoms issued statements stating that they had eradicated the evidence of the Salt Typhoon intrusion from their networks, and on January 6, another press release came out stating there were three new victims of the attack, so the honest truth is people are still trying to get their hands around what the extent of that penetration really is. Bruce noted that if you saw the news about the U.S. Treasury being a victim,</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: January 8, 2025

Election Tie Breakers	<p>the part of the U.S. Treasury that was a victim was the companies that are subject to foreign sanctions, a brilliant espionage tactic that is to be able to go into that database and know which companies are being specifically targeted for sanctions and which companies they might have to set up a shell company to avoid those sanctions. He commented that it is a story that is going to continue, and the big message is if you are dependent on commercial telecoms for your infrastructure, just have a backup plan if they become unavailable to you.</p> <p>Bruce also briefed that in the news, both in the Baltic Sea over by the coast of Denmark and off the straits of Taiwan, there have been commercial cargo vessels dragging their anchor back and forth on the ocean floor specifically to break communications undersea cables, and it is all going on right now. He noted that is his update.</p> <p>Paul briefed that as just a recap, he thanked everyone for voting multiple times, and that there was nothing in the User Council charter which explains what to do in case of a tie, now keep in mind the council has 12 components which is an even number. He noted that he did some research, which he will bring up here, this is what he took off the email that he sent out to the chair and vice-chair. Paul stated that there are two options that he is going to put out to the User Council to amend the bylaws for elections, so if the council looks at Robert's Rules of Order, with parliamentary procedure, it specifically states tie votes in elections, which ordinarily a tie vote in an election means that another election must be held, however, it is possible to include a provision in the bylaws and in case of a tie, it will be chosen by lot, options include flipping a coin, drawing the long straw, or putting names in a hat, which is verbatim through Robert's Rules of Order. He commented that the SOA has an Alaska statute 15.20.530 for the determination of tie votes. On the Alaska Division of Elections website and find this if they are after a recounted appeal of 2 or more candidates tie and having the highest number of votes for the same office, the director shall notify the candidates who are tied, then the director shall notify the candidates at a reasonably suitable time and place to determine successful candidate by lot. Paul stated that after the determination has been made by lot, the director should so certified and then it goes on to a subtitle by law to determine candidates eliminated in advance to the next round. He commented that a lot means, which they took it right from Robert's Rules of Orders: flip a coin, draw a name, draw straws, and the same applies for the last two remaining</p>	
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***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: January 8, 2025

	<p>candidates, so if there are 3 candidates or more that are tied, they start breaking it down, flipping a coin. Paul stated that his suggestion to the User Council would be to amend the User Council charter and add either Robert's Rules of Order provisions or verbatim the Alaska State statute. He noted that is the end of his report.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Paul and asked if there were any comments or questions on that through the chair.</p> <p>John stated that he would like to make a motion to amend the bylaws and adapt the Alaska State statute 15.20.530 regulations regarding tied votes.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that his only comment is who is the director.</p> <p>Paul responded that the director would be the chair.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he just wanted to make sure that it is clear because the council is not sitting here thinking that the division of elections director is going to do this.</p> <p>Henry noted he would like to second the motion with, and if he can, make an amendment with the second or should he make that as a second motion through the chair.</p> <p>Scott N. stated that Henry could make an amendment to that, but the amendment would have to be voted on to be added to the original motion for Alaska State statute 15.20.530.</p> <p>Henry commented that was fair, and he went on to state he would like to second the initial motion in any case and then move for an amendment to replace "the director" with Mary Burnham or whatever her current title is.</p> <p>Paul noted that he wants to make sure that Henry's amendment would be changed from "the director" to the ALMR Document Specialist, instead of just having Mary's name, that was a way to have it carried in perpetuity, and he asked if that is how he is understanding it.</p> <p>Henry responded "yes," that is correct and stated that he was unaware of the title, but ALMR Document Specialist, yes thank you.</p> <p>John stated that he seconded that amendment.</p>	
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ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2025

<p>Other New Business</p>	<p>Scott N. opened the floor for discussions on the amendment as proposed and seconded.</p> <p>Henry stated that the only comment he would just make in defense of the amendment is that the document specialist is unlikely or not going to be a candidate for chair, so that way there is clearly no conflict of interest.</p> <p>Scott N. commented that is correct, so with that the council is ready to vote on this amendment. He noted all four in the room say aye and asked if there were any abstentions.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there was a quorum for yes and Mary signaled yes, so Scott N. stated the motion is adopted and next the council is going to be voting on the motion itself. Scott N. noted the amendment has been adopted and asked if there were any objections to the motion, hearing none, he stated the motion is passed as amended.</p> <p>Paul noted that what he and Mary will do is update the User Council charter with the amended motion as it is written, and per the bylaw, this is a significant change, so it will have to go out to the User Council until all the members for their approval of the change to the charter, because this is a significant change and per the charter anything of significance then will have to go out, so expect an email from Mary with the changes. He commented that everyone should take a look at it and approve as amended.</p> <p>Scott S. stated he wanted to mention something else, maybe for another new business topic at some point, because this just reminded him of other conversations that have been had over the years. He commented that the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is an infrastructure owner in ALMR, yet they are not a voting member of the User Council or the Executive Council. Scott S. stated that it his understanding that it is historical because ALMR came before Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) and the charters were never looked at to address that fact, and ALMR obviously cannot upgrade the system releases without the MOA doing it, so it seems like something ALMR should at least consider that they should be part of ALMR or have the opportunity to vote on these measures because a lot of those things require the User Council and Executive Council to vote on, and one of the primary infrastructure owners does not actually have the right to vote on either of those. He noted he is not making a motion or anything, but he is just thinking the councils need to look at the charters a little deeper and look at how to</p>	
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	<p>maybe make sure they are brought up to speed and include what today is because they were written 20 years ago, but at that point in time the MOA is not here to comment on that right now.</p> <p>Henry noted that he just would add to that, that his opinion is that if the council has a way to amend the charter to off a seat on the User Council to the MOA, he does not know what that would take, that seems like it would be even more significant of a change, but he thinks that is a reasonable decision given what Scott S. just said.</p> <p>Scott N. stated that at that point, they would be a voting member, but it makes sense, but he certainly does not want to comment on their behalf.</p> <p>John noted that this is worth looking at though, he believes since it is an open discussion right now, the municipalities, North, Central, and Southeast, are represented as primary voting members here, so that means that would be like Central, the new spot of Anchorage would be considered a central, and so he somewhat disagrees with they don't have a voice. He states that he does not disagree that the User Council could add them because they are an owner about the way the charter is listed is that it is regional more so than who owns what.</p> <p>Scott S. commented that maybe it is more of an Executive Council Charter, because the voting members on the Executive Council are not this far down, but it is DoD, State, and Non-DoD Federal representatives, so it is just those three that vote and the Non-DoD Federal is not an infrastructure owner and maybe the MOA should be on there as a voter. He noted that if there is Non-DoD Federal on there, maybe the council should have the Alaska Municipal League (AML) as well, but that is an Executive Council conversation. Scott S. stated that if he was the MOA, he would argue that they would still want to vote on the User Council, so he would almost say make Anchorage another municipal component, which would be his stance. He commented that he does not think they are overly concerned about it because he knows they talk to ALMR enough and they do what they need to do behind the scenes, but if it was really something that was important to the whole system, ALMR cannot do anything if they do not agree and do not do that.</p>	
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	<p>John noted again, just for clarification on the Executive Council, the municipality is listed but not as a voting member, and so he agrees that it would be good to bring it up to the Executive Council to maybe change their bylaws to include MOA as a voting member, and currently they have Captain Gina Burington as the representative and so that would just elevate that position somewhat to be included in the voting. He stated that he knows they have talked about it before, but they have not had any action on it, and so he wonders if the council should have an action on it and asked Mary, to have the User Council somehow bring it up to the Executive Council in the next meeting.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that even to just do kind of a deeper dive for each of the charters to look into, maybe there is other stuff in there too that might need to be thought about. He stated that he just brought this one up because it is something that has been talked about before and he realized when the council was talking about changing the charters that it refreshed his memory, but maybe a deeper look at each one of those charters just to make sure they are still accurately reflecting what the situation is today, and he does not know what the process for that is.</p> <p>Mary noted that everybody can view the User Council and Executive Council charter too, but everybody could review it without having to send it to everybody, but she can send it out to everybody and ask for them to read through everything.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if anybody else would like to add something or if there is any other new business. Hearing none, Scott N. moved on.</p>	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	Scott N. briefed the next meetings are currently scheduled for February 5 and March 5	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>Scott N. stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the January 8 User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. John Rockwell</p> <p>Second: Fire Marshal Kyle Green</p>	



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	Scott N. noted at this time, the meeting is adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.	
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