

Date: June 4, 2025

1. Attendance.

P = Present T = Telephone/Teams E = Excused U = Unexcused N/A = Not requi

User Council Members

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

Alter	nate			
U	Adams	Nathan	Mr.	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
Т	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
U	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
Т	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
Р	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
Е	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
Т	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Awaiting	Assignment		DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
U	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests

Т	Brackin	Richard	Mr.	Bear Creek FSA Fire Chief
Р	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
Т	Drennon	Allan	SrA	USAF PACAF 176th Wing CS/CYOP
Т	Erickson	Trygve	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
Р	Fahnestock	Nikolas	Mr.	Bering Straits IT (BSIT) - SMO
Т	Fernandez	Preston	TSgt	176 th Wing CS
Т	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies



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Р	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
Т	Haas	Zachary	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
Т	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	Department of Transportation (DOT)
Т	Merkouris	Paul	Mr.	BK Technologies
Р	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
Р	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
Р	Rockwell	Evan	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF)
Т	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
Р	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - APSCS
Т	Ulrich	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
Р	Woodall	Tim	Mr.	Department of Defense (DoD)

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 1:31 p.m. He asked Ms. Mary Burnham if there was a quorum, which Mary replied in the affirmative.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken by Mary. TSgt. Preston Fernandez, Mr. Richard Brackin joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	Scott N. asked if there were any special guests. Mr. Paul Fussey stated that Mr. Mark Neuman, from Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN), will be giving a presentation after the meeting about the AWARN system and how it is tied in with ALMR Scott N. thanked Paul and asked if that was all for special guests, hearing none, he stated the council could move on to the approval of the meeting minutes.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Scott N. inquired if everyone had a chance to review the May meeting minutes and if there were any requested changes at this time. Hearing none, he asked if he could have a motion and a second to approve the May minutes. Motion: Approve the May 7th monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell Second: Mr. Karl Edwards Scott N. asked if there were any objections or further discussion, and hearing none, he stated	

	the motion has passed and the minutes are approved.	
	Scott N. commented that the council could move on to the Issues and Risks Log.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	Mr. Paul Fussey briefed that the council was kind enough to remove some of the items off the Issues and Risks Log during the last meeting, however, the council has two concerns still listed. He noted that the council is looking to find an alternate for Southeast and an alternate Federal Non-DoD representative, so those are the two items on the Issues and Risks Log. Paul stated that was all he had.	
	Scott N. thanked Paul and stated that the council could move on to the Action Items.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	Paul briefed that item number three, from the April 2 nd meeting, requested that he create a step-by-step standard operating procedure (SOP) checklist for site owners in the event there is a volcanic eruption. He noted that he created the SOP and sent it out to all the members, but had not received any feedback. Paul stated that Mary sent it out to all the primary and alternate members, but no feedback, changes, or suggestions were received, so for right now item number three will be kept on the list.	
	Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall stated that he thought it was sufficient and each individual entity has things they may want to add on their own that pertains specifically to them, but in general, it was a sufficient checklist, which was prudent for the council to put out and he thinks the council could close this item.	
	Scott N. stated that, for the group, if the members have not had a chance yet to take a look at that document that Mary sent out, it is very thorough. He recommends that members at least glance over it, because it addresses a great number of things, and he liked it personally, so he puts down an accept on that,	

	but please glance over it and if you have any requested changes, forward them on to ALMR.	
	Tim commented that if he were able to make a motion, he would make a motion to close item number three. So he is asked for someone to put forth a motion to close that item.	
	Motion: To remove Action Item number three from the Action Item list.	
	Motion: Lt. Ben Endres Second: Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell	
	Scott N. stated that unless there are any objections the motion is closed. He asked Paul if that was it for the action items.	
	Paul commented that it is the only one, since on number one ALMR is still waiting for the testing and then number two follows up with item number one, once all the testing is done.	
	Scott N. asked Paul to provide the Operation Management Office (OMO) updates.	
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Operations Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager 1. Paul briefed that if members go to the training section on the website (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/training-videos-2/), Mr. Dan Nelson has uploaded a training video highlighting the use of the Wi-Fi and LTE functions on radios. He commented he would like to thank Mr. Nik Fahnestock and the system management office (SMO) for their help with the software and what ALMR can do after receiving the recent Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approval.	
Management Office	1. Paul briefed that if members go to the training section on the website (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/training-videos-2/), Mr. Dan Nelson has uploaded a training video highlighting the use of the Wi-Fi and LTE functions on radios. He commented he would like to thank Mr. Nik Fahnestock and the system management office (SMO) for their help with the software and what ALMR can do after receiving the recent Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP)	

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them, but today became too busy for he and Nik, so they will work on that.

Paul stated that ALMR met with the Army Corps of Engineers' civil disaster planner to discuss their radio needs and what they will need for TDMA.

Paul commented that he is working on articles for the July 15th newsletter, so if anyone has any ideas or would like to write an article about a topic, to please let him know

Upgrades

 Paul briefed that the quarterly zone control rollover was successful, and completed May 27th through the 29th with no issues.

Paul noted that Motorola is working with a local vendor on link testing and installing new antennas. He stated that the antennas are being swept, and they are working on logistics for getting the crews out in the field.

Paul stated that he wanted to thank everyone for their due diligence and their work rebooting their dispatch consoles. Mr. David Reed, the security manager, has been doing weekly scans of the system and last year there were a lot of consoles that were not being upgraded and rebooted. He noted that David's latest scan only had three consoles that needed to be rebooted, which is the lowest that ALMR has ever seen and it shows everyone is being proactive and their work is paying off. Paul wanted to thank David for doing the weekly scans and for all the centers that are rebooting all their consoles and doing all the work, it is really appreciated.

Paul commented that the preventative maintenance inspection (PMI) counts for May were thirteen completed, and three of them were helicopter sites with ten of them being sites that could be driven to. He stated that for June only one has been completed, but the teams are getting ready to head out into the field. Paul noted that there are thirteen PMIs left for June, which eleven will be helicopter sites and two will be drive to sites, so with better weather ALMR is going to be getting a lot of helicopter sites done.

4. Paul briefed that there were no document reviews scheduled for the month of May, but

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May Document Reviews

there are some for June that ALMR started working on.

May System Metrics

5. Paul briefed that the calls for May were 1,646,325; the push-to-talks were 2,719,199; and the monthly busies were 952, and the sites below three nines were 12. He stated, however, that when looking at the reasons, Nik's team has been doing a lot of PMIs, so the bulk of the sites below three nines were because of PMIs, there was a state fiber patch by ALCAN electric at Haines which impacted two of the sites and then ALMR has a few maintenance issues over at Pillar Mountain and Women's Bay.

Paul noted that as of last month, ALMR has new slides for the subscriber counts, which is 32,508 and that is broken down by the zones for everyone, so if you look at the State of Alaska (SOA), Department of Defense (DoD), and Federal Non-DoD (Fed) they have subscribers in zone one and two, and then zone 4, which is the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). He commented that ALMR has a total of 32,508 subscribers; keep in mind the system is approved for only 33,000, so he wanted to stress to everyone that if members have any radios on the system that they are not using, please remove them. Paul stated that ALMR did recently receive a subscriber request form to remove 42 radios from just one agency, so as members go through and do an upgrade for new radios, please remember to return a subscriber request form and have the old radios removed.

Paul asked if anybody had any questions about the metrics, hearing none, he stated he would finish with his "other" items.

Other Items

6. Paul briefed that Mary is working on sending out the membership agreements and they need to be signed and returned by June 30th.Make sure to check emails, including spam or junk files, but she has been getting quite a few back, so it is appreciated.

Paul noted that the operations management office (OMO) is working with Mr. Scott Stormo to finalize the ALMR budget amounts for FY27 per policies and procedures. He stated that the completed budget draft will be presented at the July User Council meeting, and after the User

	Council looks at it, then it will be presented at the Executive Council meeting for approval. Paul stated that since the council did talk about Mount Spurr, he commented that he has been keeping track of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, who still list Mount Spurr as yellow, however, no changes have been observed in the monitoring data which indicates the volcano is not moving any closer to any eruption, so no news is good news from the volcano. Paul noted that this completes his report pending any questions. Scott N. asked if there were any questions from the group for the operations management portion of the meeting. He stated that hearing none he would move on to the System Management Office (SMO) updates.	
System Management Office	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
	Nik briefed that, like Paul said, the SMO team is doing a lot of PMIs, so he thanks everyone for	
	your patience as they go through these summer months where the PMI completion is increased compared to the rest of the year. He noted that it can be frustrating sometimes when trying to talk on the radios and issues come up, but the PMIs do help identify issues before they actually become problems, and that way users know their operations will be less interrupted.	

	is a programmer or if anyone knows a programmer, just try to pay attention to those areas and that they are both set correctly.	
	Nik stated that the last thing he wanted to add, like Paul mentioned, is that as ALMR is getting close to the 33,000-license cap for the radios, he just wanted to reiterate again that he does not know what happens when ALMR hits that limit, he can speculate that nothing per se will happen in the system, but he cannot say that for certain, so if members do have radios that can be removed, please do so.	
	Nik noted that is all he has.	
	Tim asked if that is a system limitation or is it a license limitation.	
	Nik stated that it is a license limitation, so more licenses can be purchased to increase that limit, he believes up to 250,000.	
	Scott S. noted that it was a significant dollar amount, otherwise he would have bought it if it were like \$500 to \$1,000, but it was more like \$5,000 to \$10,000 per 500. He commented that he is sure those 32,000 radios are not all actually being used on the system.	
	Tim stated that he just wanted everyone to understand the reasons, and the potential impact.	
	Scott N. asked if there were any further questions for Nik, hearing none, he stated the next item is the SOA and DoD updates.	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	Scott S. briefed that to follow up on the antenna changing that was mentioned, there were a bunch of antennas that got put in under the project, which are being replaced under warranty. He stated that essentially, there was a defect in them, so the manufacturer is changing them all out over the next month or two. Scott S. noted that one of the sites that the manufacturer is going to change the antenna out had notably poor coverage over the winter and when the snow melted, the SOA team discovered the reason for the poor coverage was the antenna was laying on	

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the ground, because it had snapped off the tower, so the SOA team has been looking for a good weather window to go up and put one up, but as it so happens that is one of the antennas that is going to be replaced by the manufacturer in the middle of July. He commented that it was getting into the question of since ALMR has been without it, probably for a few months and it will be an effort to go up there and slap one on and then have the manufacturer go right behind the SOA team and change it out with a new one, so it is the Ernestine site and it will probably not get fixed until the middle of July.

Scott S. stated he is asking again, like he has kind of asked before, about the SOA looking at getting some antenna monitoring equipment, which would be a pretty expensive purchase to put them on all the sites, but if members notice coverage is not what it used to be, please call the help desk and let them know so they can start a process of looking into that. He commented that unfortunately in Alaska, the teams cannot do much about things in the wintertime sometimes, and if it is in the summertime the teams definitely can get there, but in the wintertime, at a minimum, the team tries to take a look at it.

Scott S. noted that the state is under a hiring and out of state travel freeze, but thankfully, Alaska Public Safety Communications Services (APSCS) just got approved for hiring, so most of the positions in the state shop are able to continue the recruitment process, which is significantly important for the Fairbanks area, because the state only has one technician up there and he retired last Friday, so there is nobody in the northern region to respond to any of our sites or to assist any state agencies with the radios. Scott S. stated that was Mike Grant for those members that may have known him, he was one of the old school radio guys, started a long time ago, worked in a for private company up there, and eventually came to work for the state for the last 10 years or so.

Scott stated that the out of state travel for state employees is pretty much stopped, so the state team has had to cancel the couple of us that were going to attend the Genesis User Forum, the Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials (APCO) conference, and the Motorola Trunk Users Group (MTUG), which provides

	extremely important information for APSCS and ALMR. He noted that the team members attending canceled because they were denied out of state travel, however, the good news is that he put it in the contract to make the Operations Manager (OM) go to this, because this is not the first time that the state team has been under an out of state travel freeze in his ten plus years. Scott S. commented that he put it in the contract to make sure that the OM goes to it, so at least ALMR has somebody from this group that can go out of state when they are in these kinds of situations. He noted that Paul will be there to bring back whatever information he can bring back for the teams. Scott S. commented that other than that, unless anybody has any questions, he does not have anything further to say. Scott N. asked if there were any questions for Scott S. from the group, hearing none he moved on to the DoD and asked if Tim had anything to update.	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Tim briefed that he does have an update and it seems like a year from when the process was started requesting the approval fromm the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Army to execute a intergovernmental service support agreement (IGSA) with the SOA to provide operations management and infrastructure maintenance services to deal with the infrastructure that is a part of ALMR. He noted that the Air Force has completed their determination and approval for that, authorizing the SOA and DoD to execute on behalf of the Air Force installations in the SOA and IGSA with the state. Tim stated that ALCOM/DoD are holding off on executing this solely for the Air Force, they are waiting for the Army to do the same and provide us that determination and approval. He commented that what the IGSA does is that any part of the infrastructure, batteries, battery plants, to microwave guides to dishes to whatever make up the infrastructure, the DoD as infrastructure owners can look to the SOA as an active contractor to provide those services that are administered through their contract administration or infrastructure operations and	

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maintenance or operations management services or services they deliver from their inhouse SOA team. He noted that there will be more to come with how those services will be delivered, how payment for those services would be executed, and all of that will be worked out, but essentially this is a ten-year agreement. Tim stated that it is exactly the same, and has the same status as a contract, meaning that it is in terms of a funding perspective, a must pay, a requirement in terms of having a contract in place, and it is something that can be funded under continuing resolutions and that sort of thing. He noted that it will rectify the situations where the DoD was a third-party beneficiary to the SOA's signed contract, as members may or may not know, the DoD wwas not signatory to the contract, but they were receiving services from contracts administered by the state. Tim briefed that this provides a legal contractual relationship for the DoD with the state to receive those services, so more to come on that as the DoD works with the state to learn how the state will deliver services, pricing, how to invoice, and those sorts of things as they work through the IGSA. He noted that if members were not aware, there will be new contract requirements coming up in the next year, so in addition to the new contract, the group can anticipate that there will be a cost increase in the services that would be delivered in support of ALMR in the budget that is coming out. Tim stated that they are hoping to provide some good rough numbers that would help the ALMR budget and then inform leadership on what those costs would be, and then part of that process as members know, or maybe they are not aware, the DoD was late to need and getting funding and executing the technical update that the just got. He commented that the normal lifespan for an upgrade is five years, he thinks the DoD, was already three years into that upgrade's lifespan, which left us with about two years left of that lifespan, when they were able to actually get it executed due to funding delays and other issues. That is another reason why it is really critical that the DoD get their funding lined up and executed at the same time so that they can get into the upgrades when it is at the beginning of their life cycle versus near the end. Tim noted that it is of importance in the next contract to look at a process whereby the DoD is on a continual upgrade plan and that

	will require them to be at the latest technology version when they execute that, so there is the potential that they will be looking at an upgrade in the next year and a half or so. He asked Scott S. if that was correct.	
	Scott S. responded in the affirmative that an upgrade would be due before starting a system upgrade agreement (SUA) program.	
	Tim stated he just wanted to let the council know that and keep that in mind when the budget comes out. He noted the DoD will send those figures to ALMR, so ALMR can work through the budgeting process and start advocating for the appropriate funding to move forward.	
	Tim commented that is all that he has, pending any questions.	
	Scott N. thanked Tim and asked if there were any further questions, hearing none, he stated he would be moving on to the Council Representatives updates.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
Representative	1. Mr. John Rockwell stated that he would like to basically endorse everything that Tim was discussing, and that number one is SOA/APSCS are at the end of the current contract, so there will be negotiations, and they anticipate the funding to be a bit higher than what they currently are paying since they had the luxury of a ten-year nocost-updated contract, and so the new contract moving forward is going to be a challenge. He noted that Tim mentioned that this is going to take grassroots endorsements from all of the members for us to continue to move forward successfully and he appreciates Tim and what Tim was talking about and getting that budget out to the user community, so SOA/APSCS can get some support for that additional funding in the future. John commented that he did not have anything else and that he would turn the floor over to Lt. Ben Endres.	Assigned

meetings with the FirstNet folks to look at testing the FirstNet Rapid Response Push-to-Talk and had meetings yesterday with the Iridium Push-to-Talk folks with the Commissioner, who shared with everybody the rather bleak budget outlook, so they will keep plugging away and see what they can do , at some point, to get all the radios upgraded.	
No representatives available to provide an update.	
3. Scott. N stated that, like Lt. Endres, they are in the process of replacing radios, but he does not want to say any more that that because the last time he did it got canceled right at the last second, so obviously it was jinxed. He commented that he will just refrain until he actually has the radios in hand.	
Mr. Karl Edwards stated that the exciting thing is that he does have radios in hand and he is starting to work with the radio shop to get some code plugs generated because he has some dual frequency stuff and he is excited to get them up and running, so hopefully things quiet down and he can concentrate on it.	
Scott N. stated that is excellent news , and that the radios are TDMA.	
Karl stated that he has not opened the software yet, so that is the exciting part to come.	
Scott N. commented that he looks forward to picking Karl's brain once he gets through programming the radios.	
1. MSgt. Kayla Draves stated she had nothing to add but just know that their new commander should be taking over in about two weeks, and she has the appointment letter and user agreement ready for him once he gets in seat, which he plans on reviewing the appointment letters and everything like that, so she commented that they have not forgotten about it, but just waiting on the new commander. Tim stated that if MSgt. Draves needs him to come over and brief the new commander when	
	had meetings yesterday with the Iridium Push-to-Talk folks with the Commissioner, who shared with everybody the rather bleak budget outlook, so they will keep plugging away and see what they can do, at some point, to get all the radios upgraded. 2. No representatives available to provide an update. 3. Scott. N stated that, like Lt. Endres, they are in the process of replacing radios, but he does not want to say any more that that because the last time he did it got canceled right at the last second, so obviously it was jinxed. He commented that he will just refrain until he actually has the radios in hand. Mr. Karl Edwards stated that the exciting thing is that he does have radios in hand and he is starting to work with the radio shop to get some code plugs generated because he has some dual frequency stuff and he is excited to get them up and running, so hopefully things quiet down and he can concentrate on it. Scott N. stated that is excellent news, and that the radios are TDMA. Karl stated that he has not opened the software yet, so that is the exciting part to come. Scott N. commented that he looks forward to picking Karl's brain once he gets through programming the radios. 1. MSgt. Kayla Draves stated she had nothing to add but just know that their new commander should be taking over in about two weeks, and she has the appointment letter and user agreement ready for him once he gets in seat, which he plans on reviewing the appointment letters and everything like that, so she commented that they have not forgotten about it, but just waiting on the new commander.

	he gets in on ALMR, just send him an email or let him know, he would be happy to do that.	
	MSgt. Draves stated she would appreciate it and asked Tim if he could send her an email with the new J6, so she can put it on the appointment letter.	
	Tim stated that he would.	
	Nik noted that if MSgt. Draves and the new commander want to come over to ALMR and see how everything works, they are more than welcome.	
DoD Eielson	MSgt. Draves stated that she will definitely keep ALMR in mind and that she appreciates it.	
	No representatives available to provide an update.	
DoD US Army Installations	No representatives available to provide an update.	
Federal Non-DoD DOJ	Mr. Jon Kroona stated they had no updates.	
Federal Non-DoD DOI	2, No representatives available to provide an update.	
Federal Non-DoD All Others	3. Mr. Bobby Carter stated they had no updates.	
Munis-North	No representatives available to provide an update.	
Munis-Southeast	2. Ms. Erann Kalwara stated that she did not have anything for the region, but for Juneau they are getting ready to put out a request for proposal (RFP) for new subscriber radios for the police and fire departments.	
Munis-Central	3. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she had nothing new to report, but she wanted to express her heartfelt thanks for all the support and assistance she has had over the last month from the ALMR staff, including Paul, Nik, and Mr. Chris Frase, and Nik in particular has gone above and beyond to assist her with different things she has needed to do at a console level, some planned, some right on the spot that she	



New Business	needed help with. She commented that she is just grateful to have such a skilled and supportive team to tap into and the team is incredible, so thank you. Mr. Jim Goodman stated he did not have anything to add. Discussion Scott N. asked if there was anything for New	Action Items Assigned
	Business, hearing none, he moved on to the next item.	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	Scott N. briefed the next meetings are currently scheduled for June 3 and August 13.	
Adjournme nt	Discussion	
	Scott N. asked if there was anything else anyone would like to offer up. Paul commented that he just wanted to remind everyone that Mr. Mark Neuman will be giving a presentation as soon as the meeting is over on AWARN. He thanked Paul and stated that at this time he would accept a motion and a second from any of the council members to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Adjourn June 4, 2025, User Council meeting.	
	Motion: Mr. John Rockwell	
	Second: Mr. Bobby Carter	
	Scott N. stated that the meeting was now adjourned and thanked everyone for attending.	
	The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.	