



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2025

1. Attendance.

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

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

Alternate				
E*	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
E*	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
E	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
N/A	Dante	Ray	SSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
T	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
E	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
E*	Guetaloreto	Christian	SSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
E*	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
E*	Roberts	Nathan	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast

E* = Excused Due to Federal Government Shutdown

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Becker	Max	Chief	University of Alaska Fairbanks – Police Dept.
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Fahnestock	Nik	Mr.	Systems Manager - SMO
T	Fernandez	Preston	TSgt	176 th Wing
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	Department of Transportation (DOT)
T	McRae	Zack	Mr.	Matanuska-Susitna Borough



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T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	WISN
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
T	Roberts	Scott	Mr.	Alaska Railroad
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - DPSCS

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. Scott Nelsen called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. Scott N. asked Ms. Mary Burnham to read the roll call.	
Roll Call	Roll call was presented by Mary and she confirmed there was a quorum. Ms. Erann Kalwara, Lt. Ben Endres, Mr. Max Becker, and Mr. Rikk Rambo joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests and Special Announcements	Scott N. asked if there were any special guests. Scott N. stated, hearing none, the council could now move on to the approval of the previous month's meeting minutes.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Scott N. asked if everyone had a chance to review the September 3 rd meeting minutes, if anyone needed a moment, and if there were any changes requested. Hearing none, he asked if he could please have a motion and a second to approve the September 3 rd meeting minutes. Motion: Approve the September 3, 2025, monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Mr. John Rockwell Second: Mr. Karl Edwards Scott N. asked if there were any objections or further discussion, and hearing none, he stated the motion passed. He stated the council was moving on to the Issues & Risks Log and asked Mr. Paul Fussey to please provide an update.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	Paul briefed that there are still active issues and noted that Mary has sent out emails on August 4 th and then again on September 23 rd . He stated that the council is still looking to find alternate members for the Southeast and for the Federal Non-Department of Defense (DoD), Department of the Interior (DOI) representatives. Paul commented that the Operations	



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	Management Office (OMO) has not received anything back but is actively working on it. Scott N. asked if there were any questions concerning the Issues and Risk Log, hearing none, he then moved on to the Action Items.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	Paul briefed that ALMR is testing non-stop, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has some of the APX N70s out in the field. He stated that he is optimistically looking at maybe November/December of having a Motorola representative come to the User Council meeting and talk about the radios and what they can do, so hopefully the council can get item numbers one and two off of the list, which is his plan. Scott N. asked if that was for mobiles and portables, which Paul answered in the affirmative. Scott N. commented that he could tell everyone from personal experience that he thought all their mobiles were upgradable and apparently they are not, so if people run into that issue, he understands. Scott N. asked if there were any questions or discussions, hearing none, he asked Paul if he would provide the OMO updates at this time.	
Operations Management Office (OMO)	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	1. Paul briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson is working on a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) programming video, which Mr. Nik Fahnestock was kind enough to give Dan some of the programming forms. Paul stated that Dan has been working on that because as the OMO and System Management Office (SMO) teams are turning on more and more areas with TDMA talkgroups, the team is running into some programming issues, so that is what the OMO is working on this particular training video because there are specific things that need to be checked on agencies programming software to make sure it will work on TDMA and that agencies can also talk to other individuals that are on TDMA. Paul noted that the OMO/SMO team has run into a few issues, that is why the OMO is working on that training video.	
Outreach	2. Paul briefed that all the membership agreements have been signed, finalized, and sent back to all the member agencies, so he thanked everyone for getting that done. Paul stated that on October 9th, he will be attending the Alaska Digital Government Summit that is going to be held in Anchorage.	



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	He noted the key themes that will be discussed are cybersecurity, digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) implementation, data governance, and fostering collaboration around multiple stakeholders, which he is looking forward to. Paul noted that the ALMR newsletter is completed and will be sent out on October 15th, and Mary will also email it out and put it onto the website. He commented that, as a reminder, all previous versions of the ALMR newsletter, <i>Insider</i>, are on the ALMR website: https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/membership/newsletters/. Paul commented that he has been sending emails to all of the agencies regarding their subscriber numbers, because ALMR is trying to bring the total number below 33,000. He stated that Nik and his team gave him an updated list, which he appreciated the SMO for the help, and he thanked the agencies that have submitted forms already. Paul noted that everyone will see in a little bit that ALMR has actually dropped below the 33,000 mark, so he thanked everyone for being proactive. Paul briefed that he attended the Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) Distributed Antenna System (DAS) seminar that was sponsored by the Safer Building Coalition (SBC) in Anchorage on September 25th with Mr. Scott Stormo, which provided really good information. He stated that there were a couple of vendors that actually install the BDA/DAS systems, but the focus was on the changes to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Fire Codes (IFC), and the building codes. What the SBC has done is that they also submitted some paperwork to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for some changes. Paul noted that he compiled his notes and put them into a PowerPoint presentation that he sent out to the state and local fire marshals. If someone else wants a copy just email him and he will get it out to them. He commented that there were some changes in NFPA 1225 and that is what the SBC focused on and specifically the BDA/DAS systems. Paul stated that Mary is working on the renewal for the ALMR website, which is completed every three years, so what that means is that the OMO is in charge of the ALMR website and the OMO has to renew the license every three years, which is being worked on. Paul noted that all cost share amounts have been submitted to Ms. Terri Warren, with the Alaska Public Safety Communication Services (APSCS) office, except for two, but the two were scheduled for payment after 1 October, but ALMR and APSCS is waiting to see what is going to happen with those two, since the federal government shutdown. He commented that they are smaller amounts, but APSCS still wants to get them taken care of.	
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System Upgrade	3. Paul briefed that on September 8th, the generator and battery backup were tested at the Zone 2 Master Site and no interruptions to ALMR were observed. He noted that it went smoothly and ALMR did not get any complaints from the field about any performance with the towers or any radio traffic. Paul stated that the APSCS, SMO, and OMO teams are still meeting regularly with Motorola regarding closing up the upgrade project. Paul noted that he and the SMO worked with the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough radio shop and completed turning on TDMA for all of the borough's channels. He commented that does not include Palmer Police Department (PD) or Wasilla PD, that it was just the Mat-Su Borough talkgroups. Paul stated that they have been on for a week and a half now and there has not been any issues, so he thanked the Mat-Su Borough radio shop for working with ALMR. He noted that slowly the ALMR team is turning on TDMA.	
September Document Reviews	4. Paul briefed that the September document reviews of the Social Media Account Use policy and procedure; Asset Management policy and procedure; and Cooperative and Mutual Aid Agreement were updated and sent out. Paul asked if there were any questions from the council before he goes to the metrics.	
September System Metrics	5. Paul briefed that the monthly individual calls ALMR had were 1,541,849; the monthly push-to-talks were 2,455,615; and the monthly busies were 364. He noted that the monthly sites below three nines were 6, with commercial circuit issues at High Mountain, Pillar Mountain, Sunnahae, and Women's Bay, and then ALMR had some power issues at Hill 3265 and Quarry Hill. These two sites are sort of connected, so if ALMR has a little bit of a power issue with one they have it with the other. Paul commented that no major issues were reported to us from ALMR users. Paul stated that on the ALMR website, which he thought he would bring up since the OMO is renewing the license, ALMR had 322 sessions and 695 page views that is up 12% from the previous month. He noted that 90% of them were new users, which is encouraging, since the OMO office has been promoting the site and the training videos a lot more. Paul noted that, the subscriber counts for Zones 1,2, and 4 breakdown is displayed on the metric slides, and that the number last month had gone over the 33,000 number. He commented that ALMR had 224 radios taken off last month and now the subscriber count is 32,812. He has received more emails from agencies stating they are working on getting subscriber forms	



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Other Items	filled out and sent over to Nik and the SMO team to remove more radios. Paul stated that once again he appreciates everyone being proactive on the emails he has been sending out and removing the radios that have not been on the system for quite a while. Paul asked if there were any questions about the metrics, hearing none he continued. 6. Paul briefed that he is required to do inspections at the Zone 2 master site and the off-site storages, so last month he traveled up to the Zone 2 master site in Fairbanks and he was up there from September 15th to the 17th. He stated that he conducted the inspection of the backup and maintenance of the system and did not see any issues and completed his report and sent it to Mary for filing. Paul noted that during his trip to Fairbanks he met with as many ALMR members as he could, but obviously he could not meet with everyone. He commented that he did meet with members of the Fairbanks Fire Department; University of Alaska Fairbanks Fire and Police Department; Tri-Valley Fire Department in Healy; and Anderson Volunteer Fire Department. Paul also met with the State Troopers in Fairbanks and looked at their new dispatch consoles they recently had installed. He talked with their leadership to see if there were any issues or complaints with their new setup. Paul stated that ALMR did turn on TDMA for the Denali Borough Fire talkgroup but had to turn it back off the following day due to some issues. He noted that one of the agencies that had mutual aid agreements with them had some TDMA programming issues. Paul commented that ALMR worked with that agency and once they get the programming completed for their radios, they will turn TDMA back on for the Denali Borough fire agencies. Paul noted that he also delivered an external hard drive to the Motorola technician in Fairbanks to use for the Network Access Storage (NAS) backup. This is required under the ALMR policy and procedures. Paul commented that the Alaska Fire Conference is currently going on in Sitka, from September 29th to October 3rd, so he knows a lot of folks in the fire service are down there right now. Paul stated that the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is being held October 18th to the 21st, which will be in Denver. He noted that a lot of law enforcement chiefs and deputy chiefs will be down there at the end of the month. Paul noted that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and it is also Fire Prevention Month with October 5th through the 11th being Fire Prevention Week.	
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	Paul commented that was all he had pending any questions. Scott N. thanked Paul and asked if there were any questions. Scott N. stated, the next item is the SMO update.	
System Management Office (SMO)	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
	Nik briefed that he had a couple of small things to mention with the TDMA issues. He stated that it actually is pretty difficult to determine if it is a programming issue with the radio dealing with the TDMA. A user would experience just a bonk and most bonks on the user end can appear to be any number of things from audio interruption to not being able to connect to the site or whatnot when this particular instance occurs. Nik noted that he can look into the raw logs essentially for the radio and determine if it shows that the calls went through successfully and if there are no issues then that usually is the first indication to him that there is a programming issue with TDMA, but it is not the definitive issue. He commented that If users do have these kinds of issues, please call the ALMR Help Desk and SMO team, that way he can dig into it and figure out what is actually going on, and he may require to see the code plug to verify some things. Nik stated that it is, like Paul said, an increasingly common problem that has been coming up. Nik stated that while talking about system backups, generators, everyone knows all the master sites have them, but one particular type of backup power supply that is often forgotten about is the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) the computers are sitting on. Whether it is the dispatch consoles themselves, a company laptop, or whatever. He noted that typically those batteries inside should be replaced every three to five years and he can tell everyone from a personal aspect that he does not always think about that. When issues come up and commercial power goes out, everyone is abruptly reminded that they should do that because the battery is no longer working. Nik stated that he had nothing else to add. Scott N. thanked Nik and stated the next item is the SOA and DoD updates. He asked Mr. Scott Stormo if he had an update for the state.	
State of Alaska (SOA)	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	Scott S. briefed that as the snow is starting to appear, especially at the higher elevations, the SOA team is trying to finish off a few key projects they have been doing over the summer. He stated that one of them is replacing generators at the Honolulu site on the Parks Highway. Scott S. stated that turning on the commercial power line that the team worked on with a partner down on our	



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	Tsina's mountain top site. It has been an extremely difficult and expensive site to maintain over the years because it ran entirely off generators and it had a 1000 gallon diesel tank that had to be fueled throughout the year. The State is hoping to be able to get cut over to commercial power before being too deep into the winter. Scott S. noted that the last one is the Heney Range site, which the team is up there right now, but the weather has been continually chasing people off the site. He commented that they are probably not going to get the ALMR equipment pulled out of the generator shelter and into the new shelter on the new tower down there this trip, so they are going to have to watch the weather to get back down there to complete that project. Scott S. stated that it is just another example of how difficult it is to do things in Alaska, and the team has been to that place probably five or six times over the summer working on this project for a new shelter, new tower, and move equipment in and out. He noted that the state has had contractors do most of the tower and shelter part, it is just the state team trying to move all the equipment out and stage it in the generator shelter and now get it moved back. Scott S. commented that the BDA processes are looking like they are supposed to work. He noted that if there is a radio signal outside of a building, that radio signal, by code, is the responsibility of the facility owner to ensure that radio signal is also available inside of the building, and inside of the building really means everywhere inside of the building. Scott S. commented that there is just a minor exception of maybe it doesn't have to be 100% coverage, but it is a very high expectation that in most of the critical places, like stairwells or places where people would be in an emergency, that there is great coverage in there and maybe throughout the rest of the place is supposed to be 90 plus percent coverage. He stated that it is not really well known nationwide and there are a few states that are pretty advanced in in that process. The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is typically somebody from the fire side, so a fire marshal and maybe fire chiefs that that would be asking those facility managers to make sure that is happening. Scott S. noted that in theory, the facility managers, if they are building a new facility, as an example, should know they are supposed to check for radio coverage and they should be investigating and reaching out to ask those types of questions. The radio frequency owner, which in the case of ALMR, is the State of Alaska office, has got to have permission from the frequency owner to rebroadcast that frequency inside of the building to ensure that they are not doing any harm outside of the building, which is fairly easy to do if it is not done correctly. He commented that it is a complicated process, he knows building coverage is always an issue, but the good news or bad news is there is probably a regulatory requirement to hold building owners	
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	responsible for compliance, and the reality of it is that it is not an inexpensive thing to fix, so it is kind of up to the local government as to how aggressive they want to be on pursuing compliance. Scott S. commented that was all he had. Paul noted that some of the issues that he and Scott S. saw in the meeting were donor antennas pointing too many BDAs at one ALMR tower. He asked Scott S. if that was something Scott S. could talk about just a little bit for the group. Scott S. stated that he does not think it is an issue because of how limited the need for stuff like BDA's would be in Alaska. He noted he does not know if the state is going to have the same kind of problems that big cities would have, but whoever is designing and installing the system is required to work with the frequency owner and the State would have to be involved with some of that conversation to make sure they are directing that signal to the proper site. Scott S. commented that would be most advantageous for them and the ALMR team, and that the team is then making sure that nothing that the people installing BDAs are doing is not causing any harm to that site. It is basically shooting a signal at the site that has the potential to impact the ability of that site to function for everybody else who is outside of the building if they are overpowering it. He stated that it is a very complicated thing and there is not a large vendor pool that is experienced in doing this type of work, especially up in Alaska, just because the state is not full of tall buildings and downtown areas where people are used to doing this type of work. Scott N. asked if anybody had any further questions for Scott S., and hearing none he continued on.	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Scott N. stated that Mr. Timothy Woodall was not in attendance at this meeting and asked if anybody was standing in for him. Scott N. stated that not hearing anything, he would move on to the council representatives starting with the SOA.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DPS	1. Mr. John Rockwell stated he had nothing at this time. Lt. Ben Endres added that he joined late but had nothing at this time.	
SOA DOT	2. Mr. Henry Cole stated that the agenda said he resigned, which is maybe not quite correct, but today he started a new position	Add item to Issues and



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Federal Non-DoD DOJ	1. No representatives were available to provide an update.	
Federal Non-DoD DOI	2. No representatives were available to provide an update.	
Federal Non-DoD All Others	3. No representatives were available to provide an update.	
Munis-North	1. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated that he had nothing to add.	
Munis-Southeast	2. Ms. Erann Kalwarano stated that they are actively working on their dispatch console redundancy and resiliency project, which will include connecting to ALMR, so they are very excited about that. She noted that she did not have any reports from any other agencies.	
Munis-Central	3. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she wanted to report that they have a new agency coming online hopefully towards the end of the month, and that is the Mobile Crisis Team under the umbrella of the Central Peninsula Hospital. She noted that it has been a long time coming and they are waiting for radios to arrive and they have already done their paperwork with the ALMR Help Desk. Tammy commented that she is looking forward again to having that resource in their community and that was all she had to report.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
	Scott N. stated that this brings the council to New Business and asked if anyone had any new business they would like to bring up. Paul stated that, due to the User Council Charter, now is the time for the annual Chair and Vice-Chair elections nomination process. Just to make sure everyone is aware, October is the beginning of the annual election process. He noted that nominations are held in October and then the voting occurs in November, so then the selectees can be announced in December, when they take office starting in January. Paul commented that after today's meeting, Mary will be sending out the email notifications to all the members, and for those new the process the email explains what council members need to do. He stated that, additionally, when members do respond, respond only to Mary, and nobody else. Paul state that there will beno announcement who is being nominated or chosen until December. Paul noted that to just make sure to email Mary only. Paul thanked the chair. Scott N. thanked Pau and stated again that the contact is Mary.	



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	Scott N. stated that in other new business, he just had an additional statement. mentioned that he is aware of a few of absences of representatives that have gone beyond five months. He will be sending some memos out to them directly and just to ask them about not attending meetings. Scott N. commented that the council is not kicking anybody off, that is not the intent, but he is informing those members that are here in this meeting just in case they hear about it, which he does not expect anyone will, but the council does have a few that have been missing for a while, so he just wants to check up with them and see how things are going. Scott N. stated that was all he had for New Business.	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	Scott N. briefed that the next meetings are currently scheduled for November 5th and December 3rd.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	Scott N. asked if there was anything else anyone would like to offer before asking to adjourn. He stated that at this time she would accept a motion and a second from any one of the council members to adjourn the October 1st User Council meeting. Motion: Adjourn the October 1, 2025, User Council meeting. Motion: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian Second: Mr. Henry Cole Scott N. stated that the meeting was now adjourned and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.	