



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 4, 2026

1. Attendance.

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

Primary				
T	Adams	Nathan	Mr.	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Muni-North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
T	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
T	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
T	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
U	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, SWIC, Chair
U	Shumpert	Amber	Ms.	SOA DOT
U	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

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

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Becker	Max	Chief	University of Alaska – Fairbanks Police Dept.
T	Bishop	Erika	Ms.	SOA
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
T	Clyde	Zoey	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
T	Cook	Casey	Mr.	Mat-Su Borough
P	Fahnestock	Nikalus	Mr.	Systems Manager - SMO
T	Fernandez	Preston	MSgt.	176 th Wing
T	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO



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T	Lane	Donald	Mr.	SOA 911 Coordinator
T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	Department of Transportation (DOT)
T	McRae	Zack	Mr.	Mat-Su Borough
P	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	AWARN
T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	WISN
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
T	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS CISA
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Rose	Teresa	Mr.	SOA
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - APSCS
T	Wiley	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. John asked Mr. Paul Fussey if there was a quorum and Paul answered in the affirmative, and then he asked Ms. Mary Burnham to read the roll call.	
Roll Call	Roll call was presented by Mary, and she stated that at this time, there was a quorum. Mr. Bobby Carter, Mr. Eli Barry-Garland, Mr. Bruce Richter, Mr. Casey Cook, Chief Max Becker, Mr. Mickey Flores, Ms. Naomi Wiley, Mr. Pete Rogell, and Ms. Zoey Clyde joined the meeting after the roll was taken. John noted that he would move on to the introductions of guests and new members.	
Introduction of Guests and Special Announcements	John inquired if there were any introductions of guests and new members. John stated that hearing none, he would move on to the first agenda item, which is the review and approval of the January meeting minutes.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	John asked if he could have a motion and a second to approve the January 7 th minutes. Motion: Approve the January 7, 2026, monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Mr. Scott Nelsen Second: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian	



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	John stated that hopefully everybody had a chance to review the meeting minutes and stated that the floor is open for any comments, suggestions, questions, and/or changes to the meeting minutes. He commented that, hearing none, the council could move to the next agenda item, which is the review of the Issues and Risks log. John asked Paul if he could please review that for the group.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	<p>Paul briefed that at the last meeting, item UC98 is closed for the primary and alternate that was needed for the Department of Transportation (DOT). He noted that UC97 is still open, which is the alternate needed for Southeast.</p> <p>Paul stated that was all he had for the Issues and Risks Log, pending any questions.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions regarding the active council issues. He stated that he would move onto the Action Items list and asked Paul if he could see if there were any additional actions that the group is tracking.</p>	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Paul briefed that, for the group, at the last meeting the council discussed the two items that were about the briefings from Motorola. He noted that the Operations Management Office (OMO) has not had any requests to add anything at this time.</p> <p>John stated that the council could move on to the Operations Management overview, and he turned the floor over to Paul.</p>	
Operations Management Office (OMO)	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	1. Paul briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson has created the ALMR YouTube channel, so the OMO will be sending the link out to everyone after this meeting. He noted that Dan has been working diligently to move the training videos and sync them up with the ALMR website to the YouTube channel, so that is now active. He commented that he went and played around with the videos, which was very smooth. Paul noted that not all of the videos are on there yet, but the majority of them are. He stated that the OMO is trying to get more people out there to see the videos.	
Outreach	2. Paul briefed that the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) meeting will be on February 19 th and the DOT is going to be giving a presentation on their emergency response capabilities. He noted if anyone wants to join to let him know and he can send them a link.	



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<p>System Upgrade</p>	<p>Paul noted that ALMR has been working with a new agency down by the Homer/Anchor Point area. He stated that ALMR has a new member, which is Kachemak Rapid Care Ambulance and right now they are just a small entity, but they requested radios and membership, and they meet the qualifications.</p> <p>Paul stated that the legislature is back in session, and ALMR is watching the department reports if there are any ALMR budget requests.</p> <p>Paul commented that he attended the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) meeting, and it was a good presentation from Anchorage Police Department on their drone programs.</p> <p>Paul briefed that he attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10, Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Work Group (RECCWG) on January 29th. He noted that it was very educational, listening to the other states' reports on what they are doing with their radios and their systems.</p> <p>Paul noted that Mary had started to contact all the agencies to confirm their point of contact and make sure if there are any changes from last year. He stated this is the initial phase for creating new membership agreements. Paul commented that there have been some changes since last year, so Mary is working with Ms. Claire Wittschiebe, at the ALMR Help Desk, to update the contact checklist.</p> <p>3. Paul briefed that the Genesis upgrade installation took place January 27th to the 30th. He noted that Genesis is what ALMR uses to track performance statistics of the system. Paul asked Mr. Nikalus (Nik) Fahnestock if he had anything he wanted to touch on or give his report on the update.</p> <p>Nik briefed that there is not a whole lot of difference on the back end of it, it is more just visual, and some people are excited that there is a dark mode now. He noted that it is really about it, it is the same reports that everyone is used to. Nik stated that some people have already requested certain reports, for their own purposes, essentially they look pretty much exactly the same as they were before.</p> <p>Paul noted that coming up at the end of the month, ALMR will do the quarterly security patching, so all the dispatch centers can expect phone calls from he and Nik before they do that to make sure there is nothing going on.</p> <p>Paul stated that ALMR is actively working with the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center's (AKRCC) console upgrade. He commented that once that is completed, ALMR will work to turn</p>	
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<p>January Document Reviews</p> <p>January System Metrics</p>	<p>off the old MotoBridge™ units, since they are no longer supported. Paul briefed that with AKRCC still using them to talk to the rescue the helicopters, ALMR is not going to turn that off until that upgrade has been completed.</p> <p>Paul commented that if anyone has seen a flurry of emails coming from him today and yesterday, Mr. Patrick Thornton conducted radio diagnostics on eight towers and sent Paul the radio list. He briefed that he has been emailing all the agencies about radios that need recalibration. Paul noted that right now the eight towers that have the diagnostics machines on them are Valdez, Ski Hill, Ester Dome, , Tok, Seward, Cottonwood, Auke Lake, and Site Summit. After they have been on there for a while then Patrick and his team will move them around to different towers. He stated that what they are looking for is radios that are almost out of calibration or out of calibration. In the emails it will have a list and that members can work with a state radio shop, or if not a state agency work with your own radio shop to have the radios bench tested and recalibrated.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any questions about outreach and the system upgrade before he moved on, hearing none, he moved on to the January document reviews.</p> <p>4. Paul briefed that Catastrophic Natural Events (CNE) Contingency Plan; New User policy and procedure; Grant Guide; User Council 2025 Annual Assessment on System Operations and Management Performance; 2025 Annual Business Case; and OMO 2025 Annual Information Assurance (IA) Audit Report of Findings were completed.</p> <p>5. Paul briefed that the metrics have been changed, so at the request of a member, the new metrics will give council members a couple of years of change. He noted that for those who were not here at the last meeting, there are totals from 2022 to 2026. Paul stated that the monthly groups and individual calls were 1,922,971 in January. Paul stated that the monthly push-to-talks were 2,914,074, and for busies ALMR had 285. He commented that the sites below three 9s were 7, and the causes were an ACS fiber issue; Copper Valley circuit issue; preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs), and a power outage that impacted commercial circuits. Paul briefed that the subscriber counts by agencies for their zones, which the total for the month was 32,423, with the State of Alaska (SOA) having 9,402; Department of Defense (DoD) at 9,188; Alaska Municipal League (AML), which includes local and city, at 11,940; and Federal Non-DoD at 1,893. He asked if anybody had any questions for him about the metrics or would they like him to go over the slides again.</p> <p>John asked Paul if he could go back to the busies slide, and he stated that he just wanted to point out the incredible work that the</p>	
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<p>Other Items</p>	<p>team has been doing. He noted that this is everybody from the OMO, the System Management Office (SMO), Mr. Scott Stormo's team, the technicians, the engineers, and down to the people who are plowing the snow so people can get up to the sites. John stated that this is a perfect example of how members know the ALMR trend over the years and over the months has been going down. He commented that he just wanted to congratulate everybody who has been working on the system and point that out, and he thanked everyone.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any other questions or comments on any other slides someone would like to see before he moves on. Hearing none, he continued to Other Items.</p> <p>6. Paul briefed that he and Mary were looking at the ALMR website as Dan was moving stuff over to the YouTube channel, and they noticed some of the hyperlinks were not working. He noted that Mary has been doing phenomenal work with Hoke, who is the OMO contractor for the website, to update the hyperlinks; cleaning some things up; and, also, the hyperlinks were a subdued color, so Mary worked with Hoke so they are more visible. Paul stated that Mary is cleaning that up right now, and she noted that some of the links to the Executive Council agendas and minutes from 2009 to 2019 are not currently linked, so she has been working with them, adding them back in. He commented that congratulations to Mary for all that, it is a lot of work trying to update things on the website.</p> <p>Paul noted that the annual reports were approved by the User Council and the Executive Council.</p> <p>Paul stated that the January off-site security audit was completed on January 14th.</p> <p>Paul commented that that was all he had pending any questions.</p> <p>John thanked Paul and asked if there were any questions for Paul. Hearing none, he stated that the council could move on to the Systems Management Office, so he turned the floor over to Nik.</p>	
<p>System Management Office (SMO)</p>	<p>Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock, System Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>Nik briefed that he honestly did not have anything to add in addition to what Paul had already covered or that the group had already talked about. He noted it is all good with nothing to add.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions for Nik; hearing none, he stated the council could move on to the SOA and the Department of Defense (DoD) overviews, and he asked if Scott S. could start it off.</p>	



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State of Alaska (SOA)	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Scott S. briefed that he just wanted to add a little bit to what Paul was saying about the diagnostics solution. He noted that what those boxes are is that they set up at the radio frequency (RF) sites and listen to radios talking to the RF site, and it determines if the radios are starting to get out of tune. Scott S. stated that the state only has eight of them, so it is kind of important to get the radios fixed. He commented that users then need to reach back out to the team, so they can mark them as fixed in the database, otherwise users may risk showing up on the report again the next time, and users may think that they still need to troubleshoot that radio. Scott S. noted that he just brought that up to try to help avoid somebody from having to look at the same radio twice if it was already fixed. He stated that this is a problem because the state is a big system spread all over the place, and they do not have 85 of those boxes, one for every site. Scott S. commented that if that were the case, then they would detect users' radios again and he stated that if it was noted that it was no longer a problem and marked as good in the database. Scott S. noted that, however, because the state team is trying to move the boxes around as much as possible, they might move the device, and the user's radio would not be talking to it anymore. He stated that it is so important to let the team know, or just be aware, that if the user shows up on the list again next quarter, they are sure they have already dealt with it, so the user does not have to touch it again.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that some of the updates on the upgrades is that the state and local part is completely done, and ALMR has closed out that project. He stated that ALMR is still working with the DoD, as many of the console sites still require Layer 3 Ethernet circuits, and the team is still working with them and Motorola on how they can obtain that stuff.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he does not have anything else to add.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions before moving on. Hearing none, he continued on.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall was not in attendance at this User Council meeting.</p> <p>John stated that he would move on to the User Council representatives starting with the SOA.</p>	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned



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<p>SOA DPS</p>	<p>1. Lt. Ben Endres briefed that the state did get approval to move ahead with a limited number of the FirstNet rapid response push-to-talk. He noted they are still somewhat testing out where they are going to get the most for their money out of where troopers do not have ALMR but can connect into ALMR through the FirstNet push-to-talk on their phone. Ben stated that it did remove 10 or so radios from the system. He commented that they then did get some positive feedback from a couple troopers that are using the N70, one in Ketchikan gave a pretty descriptive detail of how he can now move around most of the area, almost all except the south end of the island there, and communicate on his on his portable radio. Ben noted that a similar report in Anchor Point from a trooper who got it down there, is able to communicate now in areas where he could not before, so those are positive reports. He stated that was all he had.</p> <p>John thanked Ben, and asked him, for the rest of the members, could Ben talk a little bit about the FirstNet rapid response and how that works, he is not sure if everybody really understands how that connects.</p> <p>Ben noted that basically it is an app on the phone, so if users have a government issued FirstNet AT&T phone, it is very simple to set it up and has a charge of \$18.00 a month for that phone. He stated that the users download the app and then the APSCS radio shop has set users up with two locality boxes, which gives them a total of eight channels. Ben commented that within that talkgroup, the user can select from one of those eight channels. He noted, however, there is a slight delay compared to using a radio, he does not even know if he would say maybe a second delay when he was listening to the radio and using push-to-talk. Ben stated that it is pretty simple and easy to use because again it is an app, so once that is active on your phone any place that users have a cell phone signal, in the case of the FirstNet phones, it automatically connects to any FirstNet AT&T. He commented that there is also the capability to cross license over to the GCI phone. Ben noted that has been interesting, because ALMR has a lot of users, and they have a GCI phone because there is no AT&T in their area, and for many of them, for instance, Western Alaska, there is no ALMR. He stated that for those users, it gives them the ability when there is cell signal in a village, even if it is GCI as long as they have purchased the cross license for that phone, they can listen to dispatch and key up for immediate push-to-talk, just as though they had a radio. Ben commented that it does add a communication option where there was not a good communication option before.</p> <p>John noted that this just expands upon the fact that the state is working hard to supplement where they cannot keep building some of the radio towers, so they supplement with new technologies. John stated that issues that ALMR had with going forward and getting the DoD and the Federal Risk and</p>	
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<p>SOA DOT</p> <p>SOA All Others</p>	<p>Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approval for some of the technologies, like the FirstNet device. He commented that the team is never stopping and they are constantly moving forward with what can be done to enhance the technology and build upon what the state currently has and what technology gives to the group.</p> <p>John thanked Ben for the update and asked Scott S., if there is a limitation to the number of boxes the state can plug in together. He noted that right now there is a limitation of eight channels that can be cross connected to work with. John asked if Scott S. knew of a limitation now or is that something that they are still researching.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he does not know if there is a physical hardware limitation there. He commented that the team may be able to just keep adding locality boxes and Conventional Channel Gateways (CCGWs) to put them into. Scott S. noted that he does not know if, for example, Motorola has a limit or if AT&T has a limit, but at some point this is something like Critical Connect that was meant to be for much bigger use. He stated that using the locality boxes was meant for smaller use, and using something like Critical Connect may be required to go through a risk management (RM) process, so it is not something that he will have a lot of talkgroups added to it. Scott S. commented that he would just put it that way because they have a lot more hardware to keep adding.</p> <p>John thanked Scott S. for that because he just wanted to point out that there are limitations to this. He noted that he is glad that the rapid response from FirstNet is working in some of the areas for the troopers, and he thinks there are areas that the group can utilize some of that technology as they continue to move forward also with the Critical Connect. John commented that he guesses there is more to come.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions about anything that Ben mentioned; if not, he will move on to DOT, Ms. Amber Shumpert, or Mr. Henry Cole.</p> <p>Paul noted that none of them are online.</p> <p>2. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p> <p>3. Scott N. stated that he had nothing new to add.</p>	
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DoD US Army Installations	1. No representatives were available to provide an update.	
DoD JBER	2. Ms. Kaitlyn De Hart stated that they had nothing new at this time.	
DoD Eielson	3. TSgt. Nathan Roberts stated that there was nothing at the moment to add for Eielson.	
Federal Non-DoD DOJ	1. Mr. Jon Kroona stated he had nothing to add.	
Federal Non-DoD DOI	2. Mr. Eli Barry Garland stated that they are just moving ahead on their TDMA updates, where they have almost all of their law enforcement folks updated to TDMA now.	
Federal Non-DoD All Others	<p>3. Mr. Bob Carter stated that he was just curious to find out if he might be able to get some contact information for Lt. Endres regarding this communications capability that is out there. He noted that they have several airports that do not have ALMR access, but they do have GCI or AT&T cellular service, and it could be beneficial to them in some situations. Bob commented that he is curious to find out a little bit more about this.</p> <p>John asked if Ben wanted to put his contact information in the chat.</p> <p>Ben stated he did not have his computer in front of him, but he would get it done.</p> <p>John stated that it was excellent.</p> <p>Bob thanked Ben and stated he appreciated it.</p>	
Munis-Central	1. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she had nothing new to add.	
	Mr. Jim Goodman stated that he had nothing.	
Munis-North	2. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated that he had nothing to add today.	
Munis-Southeast	3. Ms. Erann Kalwara stated that she had nothing to report.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
	John thanked everybody and stated he appreciated the discussions. He noted that New Business is the next agenda item, and that the agenda does have a request from Alaska Power Association regarding ALMR membership, and he asked Paul if he would address that issue.	



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	<p>Paul briefed that the majority of the time when ALMR gets requests for a membership, they fall under the two aspects. He noted, while displaying the ALMR “How to Join” page (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/membership/how-to-join/) through Teams, when an agency asks to join the ALMR system in bold are the two: “Is my organization or agency part of a federal, state, local, or tribal government?” and “Does my organization or agency provide public safety service, police, fire, EMS, rescue?” Paul stated that those two are almost always exclusively met, so the agency and OMO talk about it, and ALMR allows them to become members He commented that the Alaska Power Association sent him an e-mail, which Paul displayed through Teams, so Mr. Don Maynor is the point of contact for Alaska Power Group, and they represent power companies. Paul noted that Mr. Maynor was talking to him about how down in the Lower 48 a lot of the power companies or electric companies are members of the mobile radio systems. He stated that, for instance, Tennessee has a lot of power companies are part of the Tennessee mobile radio, so with the email, Mr. Maynor stated that they are looking to become members of ALMR. Paul commented that the Alaska Power Group would be an umbrella organization, and as can be seen, utilities like Golden Valley, Copper Valley, Municipal, Homer, and Chugach Electric . It would be up to each utility to put in an application, so that is what Mr. Maynor was proposing. He noted that now the reason he is bringing it up to the user council is, if you look at policies and procedures and the New User procedures 300-4, under section 2.3.5 it states, “Some agencies may require an in-depth review to determine if they meet the defined public safety and or government agency criteria outlined in the Spectrum Sharing Memorandum of Agreement. The OMO will then make a recommendation to the User Council regarding membership approval.” Paul stated that when you have the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), the Anchorage wastewater utility is on ALMR under the MOA, and they have the plows and graders under the MOA. He commented that ALMR does have utilities that are already on ALMR under the umbrella of another group. Paul noted that, for the council, some of the agencies that the Alaska Power Association represents as active members are King Cove, Dutch Harbor and Unalaska which are not in the ALMR area, but there is Golden Valley, Homer, I-N-N Electric, Copper Valley, Kodiak Electric Association, Cordova Electric, Ketchikan, Matanuska Electric. He stated that those are some of the power companies that would put in an application to become members of Alaska Land Mobile Radio under the Alaska Power Association, and obviously, none of those entities meet this criteria, so this would be new for ALMR to have a utility as an individual member. Paul commented that, as he said previously, under MOA, there are some utilities there, so he leaves it up to the floor to see if the members would entertain an idea for him to do further research on this. He noted that right now, a lot of them</p>	<p>OMO to perform further research to ensure all FCC regulations are followed.</p>
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	<p>do not have TDMA radios, only FDMA radios, so they would not even be able to come on board until they get all new radios. Paul asked if there were any questions from the group about this request.</p> <p>John asked Paul, from the OMO perspective, if Paul was going to make a recommendation on whether Paul feels that they meet or do not meet the criteria, and if the council should move forward or not</p> <p>Paul stated, through the chair, to Deputy Chief Keith Berrian that he saw Keith had his hand up.</p> <p>Keith commented for Paul to go ahead and answer that question, and that he had one when Paul finished.</p> <p>Paul responded that if the council looks at the black and white aspect of it, they do not meet the criteria for members of ALMR; however, they do respond with emergency crews. He noted that they do respond with police and fire with downed lines, especially, the big wind storms the community had out in the valley this past year. Paul stated that it would be good if they were members; however, they do not meet criteria one and two, but when they go , and respond with police and fire, go out to the Seward Highway, or down in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, they are working hand in hand with police and fire as emergency crews. He commented that in the lower 48, utilities are considered emergency personnel, emergency responders, so for the OMO, he stated that he did not have an issue with them joining ALMR. Paul noted that it would be quite a while before they came on board because they have older radios, so that is his recommendation. He stated that he does not have any issues with them joining ALMR.</p> <p>John thanked Paul, and asked Keith to continue.</p> <p>Keith asked if anyone had an idea of the sheer number of additional subscribers that will be put on the system. He noted that the council has had a lot of concern lately with the overall numbers, and this could potentially mean a huge addition to the number of radios.</p> <p>Paul stated that he did not have a number on that, but they were trying to get that information for him. He commented that it would not be for quite a while before they had that on there, but with the number of radios on there, or depending on how many they would put out with their crews, and that number would go up.</p> <p>Paul asked Mr. Mark Newman if he knows approximately how many radios the utilities have under MOA.</p>	
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	<p>Mark noted that it is hard to say because they have got hundreds of mobile vehicles, but most of them are mobile radios for doing work out in the field. He stated that between the Anchorage Regional Landfill (ARL) refuse, the dump, the waste collection folks, and the city, but it is not public safety.</p> <p>Paul asked if Mark had a ballpark number.</p> <p>Mark responded in the negative but stated he could try to dig that out.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he would not be worried about them adding radios because if they are going to add radios, ALMR would require them to buy more licenses for those subscribers. He commented that he does not see that as being a problem. Scott S. noted that they are the only group coming in, and they can buy the 500-pack of subscriber IDs to prevent that from being an issue. He stated that the other thing he wanted to mention is the frequencies sharing agreement authorization from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is very explicit, but there is probably some, he did not want to call it a gray area, but a way to sponsor other people onto ALMR. Scott S. inquired if the Alaska Energy Authority is considered a government agency.</p> <p>Paul stated that the Alaska Power Association is not a government agency.</p> <p>Scott S. asked what about the Alaska Energy Authority, because that is who the state generally dealt with when they work with utilities. He noted that the Alaska Energy Authority gives grant funding to the utilities, helps pay for site construction, and if they are deemed a government agency, they perhaps could sponsor them onto ALMR. Scott S. stated that he thinks it would be good for the utilities to be on, and they are on a lot of other statewide systems. He commented that he had talked to other people about this in the past, but they don't have the same kind of mixed frequency NTIA and FCC frequencies that were kind of explicitly given with some instructions. Scott S. noted that systems do not have the same challenges that ALMR necessarily does, and the 700 side of AWARN is more of what the rest of the country is doing.</p> <p>Mark noted that he was not there when this all got set up, but the MOA saw the utilities as the final part of public safety, based on whatever type of catastrophe happened. He stated that the transit buses are used for casualty evacuation, and they need to have access to South Central in case of emergencies, road construction crews, the city folks who work on the roads, same thing. Mark commented from the Anchorage municipality standpoint, the utilities play just as much a vital role as a police officer directing traffic in a mass casualty, trying to fix a broken</p>	
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	<p>pipe down to the road, or get the traffic signals to come back online, is as vital a part as the police officer that was directing traffic there in in many cases. Mark noted that is how the MOA looks at it from their standpoint as a municipality.</p> <p>John stated that he just wanted to echo what Mark said, and he thinks back to the 2018 earthquake, where he really wanted DOT to go inspect the bridges before he went over them, which at that point he was considering them part of the public safety family. He noted that he understands that there is a fine definition, but he does want to echo what Mark says that people do look at certain entities as part of the public safety ecosystem due to the role and to respond when the community has disasters happen.</p> <p>Paul stated that what Scott S. is recommending is that if the user council approves the Alaska Power Association coming on, ALMR would require them to purchase their additional licenses, so ALMR could go past the 33,000. Is that what he is understanding?</p> <p>Scott S. stated that ALMR needs to see if it is legal before they can approve it, and he thinks there are probably indirect ways to make it okay. He noted that it may be somebody has to be their sponsor, so there are ways to do it, and ALMR does not get themselves in some kind of FCC or NTIA trouble for having the wrong people using the frequencies.</p> <p>Paul asked if anybody else had any questions, comments, or concerns.</p> <p>John noted that there are no additional questions, comments, or concerns at this time. He asked Paul if it is his desire that the council make a motion or should the group, as Scott S. suggested, do a little bit more research before making a motion, and then that should be presented to the next ALMR User Council meeting.</p> <p>Paul noted that the council does not have to make a motion right now and that he can do some fact-finding. He stated that the council could make a motion for tentatively allowing the Alaska Power Association if they do not violate any FCC licensing, because the team still has to figure that one out. Paul commented that they have been trying to do some fact-finding, and he just does not have that answer. He stated that if the Chair would like, the council could make a motion to allow them, then the team could get the vote that way. Paul noted that if the council wants the Alaska Power Association to become a member, then the team can start doing all the groundwork. He commented that way the team is not doing all the groundwork, calling FCC, and getting more fact-finding if it is not the board's wish to have them as members</p>	
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	<p>John stated that at this time he would entertain a motion similar to what Paul mentioned that the council would allow the Alaska Power Association on the system pending any fact finding, and Paul/ Mary, he would like their help to formulate that motion so someone then can make it and then possibly second it.</p> <p>Paul stated that he will just say the motion; obviously, he cannot make the motion, but the motion to tentatively allow the Alaska Power Association as members of Alaska Land Mobile Radio, pending any fact-finding through the FCC.</p> <p>John thanked Paul and stated he entertained a motion as Paul mentioned.</p> <p>Motion: To tentatively allow the Alaska Power Association as members of Alaska Land Mobile Radio to be pending any fact-finding through the FCC.</p> <p>Scott S. inquired if the council wants to be more generic, make it utilities, because what if Enstar is on that, are they part of power, so the Alaska Energy Authority may cover more people, but it may not be the Alaska Power Association. He commented that it may be the team wants to look at who the umbrella is.</p> <p>Paul responded to Scott S. that he is hesitant to say utilities, so he would suggest that since ALMR is a new, uncharted area, and he would like to do Enstar for gas companies. He stated that right now, let the team try with just electric, and not just make a blanket statement with utilities.</p> <p>John asked if he had anybody that wanted to make a motion, then he stated that he would like to make that motion as mentioned. He asked if he had a second.</p> <p>Mr. Scott Nelson seconded the motion.</p> <p>John stated that the discussion is open and asked if there are any discussion points at this time before he asked Mary to do a roll call vote.</p> <p>Ben asked if he could hear the motion again, exactly what it says.</p> <p>John asked Paul if he would please repeat the motion.</p> <p>Paul stated that this is a motion to tentatively allow the Alaska Power Association as members of Alaska Land Mobile Radio pending any fact-finding through the FCC.</p> <p>John noted that the floor is still open for discussion; hearing none, he stated he would like to call the vote, and he asked Mary if she could proceed with the roll call vote.</p>	
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	<p>Mary asked the members of the User Council by roll call for a “yay” or “nay” vote. She stated that she covered all of the groups in attendance and the motion passed with a unanimous “yay” vote of 8 – 0.</p> <p>John thanked Mary and stated the motion carried. He noted that the council is still in new business and asked if there was any new business that anybody would like to bring up at this time.</p> <p>Mr. Rikk Rambo stated that he was just recently speaking with the US Adult Federal Probation and their supervision, and they do not have radios or ALMR access. Rikk commented that he was just wondering who the best resource was for them to reach out to begin initiating getting on the system. He stated that he could talk to Paul about this later on, after this meeting, if that would be fine and if that would be the best way to do this.</p> <p>John stated that he is sure that Paul is going to point Rikk to the website as he pointed out earlier, but to please contact Paul and the OMO office.</p> <p>Mr. Bruce Richter stated that he just wanted to call out to everybody's attention a kind of unique opportunity to get the communications unit leader certification. He noted that the state has not had one of these classes in Alaska in a long time. Bruce commented that this is different than the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Wildfire Communication class; it is the All Hazards Communications Unit Leader class. He noted that he put a link in the meeting chat to the ALMR website (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/upcoming-events-calendar-2/), where Mary was kind enough to very quickly get this information up on the website under the upcoming events calendar. Bruce stated that the link at the top of that information on the upcoming events calendar actually triggers people back to the Alaska Division of Emergency Management website, where students would have to register through that process, but it is a free class. He commented that the class will be held in Valdez, they are bringing up outside instructors, and it is just a very rare opportunity for those that might have an interest.</p> <p>John thanked Bruce and stated that the council always appreciates Bruce's insight, knowledge, and information. He asked if there was anything else for new business and/or comments, questions, or concerns</p>	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	<p>John briefed that the next meetings are currently scheduled for March 4 and April 1.</p>	



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Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>John stated that he would entertain a motion and a second from any one of the council members to adjourn the February 4th User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the February 4, 2026, User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Lt. Ben Endres</p> <p>Second: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian</p> <p>John stated that the meeting was now adjourned.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.</p>	