



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: March 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				
N/A	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
E	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
T	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
P	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
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	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
T	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Guetaloreto	Christian	SSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Roberts	Nathan	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Barry-Garland	Eli	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
N/A	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast
T	Martucci		SSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB (temporary)
T	Williams	Corbin	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB (temporary)

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Becker	Max	Chief	University of Alaska – Fairbanks Police Dept
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
T	Clyde	Zoey	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
T	Day	Stacey	Ms.	City of Kenai
P	Fahnestock	Nikalus	Mr.	Systems Manager - SMO
T	Lane	Donald	Mr.	SOA 911 Coordinator
T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	Department of Transportation (DOT)



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T	Merkouris	Paul	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Ragadio	Robert	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	WISN
T	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
T	Rose	Teresa	Mr.	SOA
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - APSCS
T	Summers	Peter	Mr.	University of Alaska Anchorage – Police Dept.

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell commented that he had a quick little note that Mr. Paul Fussey will not be attending the meeting, he is out on some personal leave, but Ms. Mary Burnham will be doing the Operations Management Overview. He noted that he would like to start the meeting at 1:35 PM and have Mary call the roll.	
Roll Call	Roll call was presented by Mary, and she stated that at this time there was not a quorum. Mr. Jon Kroona and Ms. Stacey Day 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 he heard nothing and skipped the approval of the February meeting minutes, but he asked that, before going on, if there were any questions or comments regarding the meeting minutes that anybody would like to bring up. He noted that hearing none, he would move to the second agenda item, which is the review of the Issues and Risk log, and asked Mary if she could give the council a brief update on the Issues and risk log.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	Mary briefed that she assisted Ms. Erann Kalwara with her search for the new Southeast User Council Alternate representative by sending emails out to all the Southeast member agencies on 18 February. She stated that was the only new information she had for the issues and risks log, and asked if there were any questions.	



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	John asked if there were any questions regarding the Issues and Risk Log. He stated that he would move on to the Action Items list and asked Mary to provide an update.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Mary briefed that Paul had stated that ALMR met with the Alaska Power Association, and the association has to talk with their boards, but he has not heard anything back from them as of yet.</p> <p>John inquired if there were any questions regarding the Action Items status, and hearing none, he asked Mary if she would please provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) updates.</p>	
Operations Management Office (OMO)	Ms. Mary Burnham, OMO Document Specialist	Action Items Assigned
Training	1. Mary briefed that just a reminder that the YouTube channel is available at youtube.com/@AlaskaLMR , and the OMO encourages users to subscribe for the video update. She also stated that the ALMR website, alaskalandmobileradio.org has the same content.	
Outreach	<p>2. Mary briefed that the OMO is working with the Alaska Native Medical Center for them to become a member. She stated that they are currently a member of the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN), but they are getting new radios and want to be a part of ALMR.</p> <p>Mary noted that the OMO, Systems Management Office (SMO), and Alaska Public Safety Communications Services (APSCS) have been meeting with the Juneau Police Department regarding their update. She stated that Mr. David Reed was able to find a solution for the two remote dispatch laptops, and she asked David if he had anything he wanted to add.</p> <p>David responded that he did not have anything at this time, and the approval for that is still going through the line.</p> <p>Mary stated that she is still working on sending out emails to all the member agencies to confirm their point of contact information is still correct. This is the initial phase of creating new membership agreements.</p>	



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<p>System Upgrade</p>	<p>She commented that the emails have been sent to all DoD, all Federal Non-DoD, and all State of Alaska agencies, and she is working on the rest. She noted she has sent about half of those. Mary noted that member agencies should look for an email from her and email her back, even if the member does not have any corrections to make.</p>	
<p>February Document Reviews</p>	<p>3. Mary briefed that the quarterly security patching was conducted on February 24th to the 26th.</p> <p>Mary noted that ALMR activated Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in the Mat-Su Borough and Kenai Peninsula. She stated there were major code plug programming issues for DPS, the United States Forest Service (USFS), and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR). Mary commented that APSCS sent a team down to the Kenai peninsula to update the radios and are working in the Mat-Su Borough with the dispatch centers and all the commanders during this testing.</p>	
<p>February System Metrics</p>	<p>4. Mary briefed that the OMO reviewed the Strategic and Operational Plan and the Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>Mary asked if there were any questions before she moved to the metrics.</p> <p>5. Mary briefed that for February there were calls 1,781,044, Push-to-Talks were 2,710,973, and the Monthly Busies were 1,137. She noted that the sites below three nines were 8 and the reasons for those were three preventative maintenance inspection (PMIs) were conducted at Atwood, Cottonwood Creek, and Fire Station 12. Mary stated that there was unstable power at Quarry Hill, which affected Hill 3265, Pole Hill, and Quarry Hill. She commented that the site coverage impacted by unstable power that were not below three nines, which were some Eielson consoles D5 through D10.</p>	
<p>Other Items</p>	<p>Mary noted that the subscriber counts, for the State of Alaska (SOA) was 9,453, the DoD was 8,596, which actually went down 592 units. She stated that the Alaska Municipal League was 11,938 and the Federal Non-DoD is 1,894, and the total for the month was 31,881, which is down 542 from last month.</p> <p>Mary asked if there were any questions before she moved onto the Other section.</p>	



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	<p>6. Mary briefed that she has completed the first draft of the cost share/airtime calculations and that she has to do a second draft before she sends out any information about that to the members.</p> <p>Mary noted that the February off-site security audit was completed on February 9th.</p> <p>Mary stated that Mr. Scott Stormo and some of his engineers will be at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) March 15th to the 20th, along with one of the SMO's technicians, but Paul will not be attending.</p> <p>Mary commented that the 2026 Emergency Management Conference goes from March 31st to April 2nd in Anchorage. She noted that information is on the ALMR website.</p> <p>Mary briefed that the last thing is that her last day with ALMR/Wostmann and Associates will be May 29th, 2026, and that she will be moving to the lower 48. She stated that if members know of anyone in the Anchorage commuter area who would be a good fit for the ALMR Document Specialist position have prospects go to either the Wostmann website, careers, ALMR Document Specialist (https://wostmann.com/almr/), or search Indeed for the ALMR Document Specialist, Anchorage, Alaska (http://indeed.com/job/almr-document-specialist-3cb193b4c62947d6).</p> <p>Mary commented that that was all she had pending any questions.</p> <p>John thanked Mary for the updates and asked if there were any questions for the OMO. He stated that the council could move on to the next agenda item, which is the Systems Management Office overview, so he turned the floor over to Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock.</p>	
<p>System Management Office (SMO)</p>	<p>Mr. Nikalus (Nik) Fahnestock, System Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>Nik briefed that he wanted to start off with kind of what Mary talked about with the TDMA issues and DPS. He noted that he wanted to let the council know, which they have talked about all the time that those programmers that are out there, if they happen to know programmers, and that all of us are humans that make mistakes, it is understandable. Nik stated that when trying to select the terms, pay attention to details in</p>	



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	<p>that part; a simple check-the-box or a mistyped number can make or break that radio easily. He commented that if members happen to know programmers, just let them be aware to take extra precaution and double- triple check the work.</p> <p>Nik noted that PMIs are going pretty well, it is coming into spring, and the team will start picking up slowly. He stated that the weather's not being very cooperative in some areas right now, but it is going to start picking up more and more here as the team gets into spring and then into summer. Nik commented that he appreciates everyone's patience with the team and getting these done, as everyone knows this is an annual thing that has to be done to ensure that the equipment stays in tip-top shape and knows that there are not any antennas that are hanging off the towers.</p> <p>Nik stated that was all he had to add. He had thought there was one more thing, but he did not have anything written down, so that was all he had.</p> <p>John thanked Nik and asked if there were any questions for Nik with the SMO Office. He stated the council could move on then to some of the other User Council updates, and the council can start with the SOA and the Department of Defense (DoD) overviews. John asked if Scott S. could start it off.</p>	
<p>State of Alaska (SOA)</p>	<p>Mr. Scott Stormo</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>Scott S. briefed that he just wanted to add a little bit to what Nik said. He noted that part of the challenge with migrating to TDMA is that the teams are doing a live TDMA test by turning on talkgroups, and if members did not have a talkgroup to try out before that point, they would probably have had no way to know if their radio was programmed correctly. Scott S. stated that the team will do some internal chats and then see if they can find a way to create a couple of TDMA test talkgroups. He commented that if people are programming radios, they can maybe put that in and switch to it to check them, or they can check it before actually go live with their operational talkgroup. Scott S. noted that the team will have more conversations about it and see if they can help catch those issues before they go live with TDMA.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that he did not know if anybody had talked about this or not, but on the Quarry Hill site, his understanding is that the battery plant has failed up there, so every time the power drops, the site drops</p>	



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	<p>faster than a generator can start, if there is a generator there. He stated that when that happens, it shuts down all the equipment that was getting served by the battery plant, but it was also knocking down most of the console sites that are running back through Quarry Hill and the two other RF sites that are out now. Scott S. commented that the console sites and the RF sites are not losing power like is happening at Quarry, but a battery plant is not that expensive to swap out. He noted that he thinks he counted like 160 times that thing was dropping when those windstorms were so a couple weeks ago, that is a lot of time. Scott S. stated that it is a lot of time, that is, a lifetime of power cycles on some of that equipment happening in a couple of days, so there is a risk of damaging some expensive equipment there that he thinks would make it worth arguing for a new battery plant before that happens</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he does not have anything else for the group.</p> <p>John thanked Scott S. and stated he appreciated the update.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall was not in attendance.</p> <p>John stated that Mr. Tim Woodall is not in attendance, so the council can move on to the User Council representative updates. John commented that the SOA component starts with DPS.</p>	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DPS	<p>1. John stated that he had nothing to add at this point regarding the ALMR system and radios. He commented that the only thing he would like to add is that they are faced now with the FY26 and 27 budgets, and if anybody has any influence regarding budgets, legislative actions, and/or endorsements, please help the team out. John stated the council could move on to other DPS components and asked if Lt. Ben Endres was in attendance.</p> <p>Mary stated that Ben had stepped out into the hallway.</p> <p>John commented that the council could move on to DOT.</p>	
SOA DOT		



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<p>SOA All Others</p>	<p>2. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p> <p>3. Mr. Scott Nelsen stated that he had nothing to add.</p> <p>Mr. Karl Edwards stated that he had nothing to add either.</p>	
<p>DoD US Army Installations</p> <p>DoD JBER</p> <p>DoD Eielson</p>	<p>1. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p> <p>2. Ms. Kaitlyn De Hart stated she had nothing new at this time.</p> <p>3. SSgt. Martucci stated that she just had an update for the battery plant, and noted that they sent the details to the PK contract, and they are just waiting to hear back from them to get that purchased.</p> <p>John thanked SSgt. Martucci and asked if there is any anticipated ETA for that, and she answered in the negative. He stated that he would move to the Federal Non-DoD components.</p>	
<p>Federal Non-DoD DOJ</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD DOI</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD All Others</p>	<p>1. Mr. Jon Kroona stated he had nothing to add.</p> <p>2. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p> <p>3. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p>	
<p>Munis-Central</p> <p>Munis-North</p>	<p>1. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she had nothing for the group.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Goodman stated that he had nothing.</p> <p>2. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated that he believed Fire Marshal Kyle Greem had an update.</p> <p>Fire Marshal Kyle Green stated that it was good to hear from everybody and that he has been off handling his normal duties as assigned, but one of the tertiary duties he just wanted to share. He noted that he has been working with a couple of components at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to begin the ability to leverage SmartConnect. Kyle stated that he is learning quite a bit, one of which has been the different language and terminology used between the</p>	



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<p>Munis-Southeast</p>	<p>different modes of connectivity. He commented that the internet engineers focus on building typical stuff versus how things work on the radio side, and they have been hammering away at learning more about that across all these different disciplines. Kyle noted that they are working toward potentially having some in-building connectivity utilizing the SmartConnect connection through ALMR. He stated he has not learned enough yet to begin to propose any policies around the utilization of SmartConnect by user agencies, but he hopes to and looks forward to future possible discussion about that. Kyle stated he is open to any questions anyone might have about what he has learned so far.</p> <p>John thanked Kyle and stated that he knows that the council really appreciates all the work that Kyle is doing. He noted that the exciting prospect of supplementing ALMR with some of the other newer technology is definitely worth the squeeze, so again, the group appreciates your efforts.</p> <p>John stated that before continuing on to the Southeast, he noted that Mr. Robert Ragadio had their hand up.</p> <p>Rob responded that he thinks he got it answered.</p> <p>John proceeded to Southeast.</p> <p>3. No representatives were available to provide an update.</p>	
<p>Previous Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>John stated that before going on to the new business, he would like to go back up to the agenda for the February minutes. He stated he would like to have everybody review and approve the February meeting minutes, which hopefully everybody has had a chance to review them at their leisure. John thanked Mary for always sending them out and waiting for information before they are published. He stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the February 4, 2026, monthly User Council meeting minutes.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Scott Nelsen</p> <p>Second: Mr. Jon Kroona</p>	



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	<p>John stated that the floor is open for any discussions or questions regarding the meeting minutes for February. He commented that, hearing none, the council will approve the February meeting minutes.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>John noted that the next agenda item is New Business and asked if there was any new business that anybody would like to bring up.</p> <p>Kyle stated that it might be a little bit too early to begin this conversation, but maybe it is worth planting in people's minds. He commented that he wanted to point out that December 31st, 2026, was the date set by, he believes, the User Council for the target TDMA changeover. Kyle noted that a conversation seems to be warranted eventually about whether or not that date should be amended, taking into consideration the funding challenges that all of our vastly different agencies have experienced in this transition. He stated that he was just throwing that out there for discussion if the council is interested in that.</p> <p>John thanked Kyle for bringing up that very important issue. He noted that, yes, the council does have a target date for the end of the year for the TDMA transition, but as Kyle mentioned, budgets are tight. John stated that there are issues regarding technology, there are issues that are unforeseen, and, so, even though the council does have the goal, which he would like to continue to be the goal, the council will not be kicking anybody off the system. He commented that he wants to make sure that the council stresses that it is imperative that the council continues pushing forward aggressively with the TDMA transition. John noted that he thinks he could speak for most of the technical folks on the call, that the benefits of TDMA are vast, and the system is upgraded to accept it. He stated that the team has been having extreme luck in all the testing that has been done, basically it gives ALMR the ability to double the number of channels in the system, minus one control channel per site. John commented that there are great benefits, but even with that said, everyone still has to be cognizant of budget issues, timing, and such. He noted that just looking at the three major owners of the system, the budget years are different, which the federal ends the end of September; the municipality ends December 31st; and the state ends June 30th. John stated that even putting those together, it is difficult to make sure that</p>	



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	<p>everybody is on the same system. He commented that he appreciated Kyle bringing it up, but he also wants to stress the fact that the council is pushing as aggressively as they can to meet that date. John noted that the council also understands that there are going to be different components within the environment that will not be able to meet that date, and again, he wants to assure everyone that the council is not going to be turning off anybody's radios. He stated that the floor is open for other discussions or questions.</p> <p>Mary mentioned that someone had their hand up.</p> <p>John stated that Kyle still has his hand up, but now it is down.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that this is not exactly related to that topic, but he wants to add this because it is probably not obvious to everyone. He commented that there are several models of TDMA capable radios, in particular the earlier APX models when they first came out, but that they are also end of life and out of support, so some of the earliest 6500s, he thinks, and some of the APX7000's may no longer be supported. Scott S. noted that there are a lot of people who have radios that may be TDMA capable and think they are in good shape for TDMA, but they are using a radio that is beyond the manufacturer's support. He stated that with all the new technology that has come about, these are not "our father's radios," and they do not last 20 years anymore; there is too much software involved in them, too much global manufacturing supply chains that do not stick around for 20 years. Scott S. commented that he just wanted to bring that up because there is the life cycle of a radio, and if groups get 10 years out of it they have stretched it.</p> <p>John thanked Scott S. and noted that it is very true and accurate, and he does know that everyone has gone beyond the support of life on utilizing the radios. He stated that there are balances for that, but as Scott S pointed out, the more everyone advances in technology, the more the technology is prone to other issues that people did not think about just in the analog world. John commented that it is like when he talks with 911 folks and they talk about cutting copper and going with IP, and all this kind of stuff that is great, which means they can expand the environment. He noted that it is easier to tunnel all this kind of stuff, but people cannot get better than two copper wires going to a phone. John stated that it is the same thing with</p>	
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	<p>advancing the technology of the land mobile radio systems, and that is everything from the controllers, to the radios, to the antennas, to everything involved, which is so complex that the teams have to be more on the leading edge than in the past. He commented that he thanked Scott S. for bringing that up and that he appreciates the delicacy of that. John asked if there were any other questions, comments, and if the council is still in new business, but he thinks the topic is extremely warranted.</p> <p>Mary noted that she thought Kyle had more to add, and that she saw that Ms. Zoey Clyde had her hand up.</p> <p>John thanked Mary and stated he would go to Kyle first and then Zoey second.</p> <p>Kyle stated that he wanted to add that he appreciates the message there, and that he appreciated getting on the record. He commented that he wholeheartedly agrees there is no need to be kicking folks off the system, that is not the intent. Kyle noted that some communication outside of this body, be it from this body, or even in coordination with the Executive Council, to the member agencies, to continue to encourage them to prioritize their radio upgrades would be welcomed, especially as they are navigating uncertain budget features. He stated that the communication aspect of all of our missions is very important and the ALMR side of it is a cornerstone. Kyle commented that he hopes to, by bringing this up, provide that space necessary to have these conversations about what that communication could look like, and have a good conversation about whether that date should be adjusted in light of these realities. He said thanks again for bringing it up, and he looks forward to the continued conversation</p> <p>Zoey noted that for those of the council that do not know her, she is the federal Motorola Representative for Alaska. She stated that she knows the council was talking about some of the lifecycle radios, and commented that if it is helpful, she could shoot over a list of the model radios and where they are as far as the lifecycle plan, and ones that are out of support and no longer sold. Zoey commented that if that is helpful, she can get that out to somebody.</p> <p>John asked Scott S. if that would be helpful for him or does he already has it.</p>	
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	<p>Scott S. stated that he knows how to get to it, but he thinks if Zoey can provide some kind of document that could be posted on the ALMR website under the radios, that would be helpful, or they could even mark these as end of life or out of support that Zoey has got on the list.</p> <p>Zoey stated that she absolutely would work on that list, and then she can send this over to Scott S. and Tim, or if there is a specific contact she should send this over to, just pop that in the chat, and she will get that out this week.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that if Zoey gets it to him, he will get it to them.</p> <p>Zoey stated she would do that.</p> <p>John asked if there was anything else on this topic or any other new business.</p>	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	<p>John briefed that the next meetings are currently scheduled for April 1 and May 6.</p>	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>John asked if there was anything else before he asked for a motion to adjourn. Hearing none, he commented that he wanted to thank everybody for joining. He stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn at this time.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the March 4, 2026, User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Scott Nelsen</p> <p>Second: Mr. John Rockwell</p> <p>John stated that the meeting was now adjourned.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.</p>	