



**ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)**



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

January 17, 2013

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: November 29, 2012, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel Scott Moser	Department of Defense (DOD) - Alaskan Command
Commissioner Joe Masters	Department of Public Safety (SOA)
Assistant Special Agent in Charge Darrin Jones	Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) - Federal Bureau of Investigations
Chief Jeff Tucker	Alaska Municipal League (AML) - North Star Volunteer Fire
Lt Ken Spadafora	Department (via teleconference) Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Office of Emergency Management

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Director Pat Shier	Enterprise Technology Services
Major Matt Leveque	User Council Chairman - Alaska State Troopers
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	Department of Defense QA/QC
Mr. Pete Murphy	User Council Vice Chairman - Federal Bureau of Investigations
Mr. Adam Paulick	Enterprise Technology Services
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office (via teleconference)
Ms. Sharon White	Enterprise Technology Services

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Scott Moser, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** There were no opening statements.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Moser asked the Executive Council if they had reviewed the September meeting minutes and if they had any requested changes. There was no discussion or comments.

Motion: Approve September 17, 2012, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion was made by Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Darrin Jones seconded by Commissioner Joe Masters. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. Cost Share Approach and Method. Colonel Moser asked Mr. Tim Woodall to lead the discussions on the Old Business items. Mr. Woodall reminded the council, at the September meeting, this item was tabled until the November meeting to ensure the State had time to prepare their budget. He asked State of Alaska (SOA) Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Director Pat Shier if there had been any final decision by the State.

Director Shier advised the council that the budget was currently being prepared. He stated OMB was working on a method to ensure it works for the municipalities, as well as the State.

Mr. Woodall asked the council if they would like to make a motion to accept the method developed by the Cost Share Working Group or if they wanted to hold off until the State budget was published.

Commissioner Joe Masters stated he saw nothing that would hinder the council from making the motion at this time and that the council should move forward in good faith until such time that the budget changes. Colonel Moser agreed.

Motion: Executive Council approve the Cost Share approach and method prepared and presented by the Cost Share Working Group to be implemented for State FY14 and Federal FY13, effective beginning July 1, 2013.

The motion was made by Commissioner Masters and seconded by ASAC Darrin Jones. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. SOA Tower at Donnelly Dome. Mr. Woodall stated his office (ALCOM/J64) found out where the holdup occurred regarding this issue. Eielson AFB had requested information from SOA, who provided it. However, Eielson did not forward that information to the proper authorities to approve. The DOD was able to obtain a copy of the SOA package. Mr. Dean Strid was correcting some coordination issues and they were currently reconciling the differences.

Mr. Woodall advised of the need for a tower structural analysis to show the tower would support the State microwave dish. Once the DOD gets the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license and the structural analysis, they should be able to provide approval.

Colonel Moser asked who was providing the analysis and Mr. Woodall advised that the SOA would be providing it and that the DOD would accept it.

c. Clear Site Funding. Mr. Woodall reminded the council that at the October meeting Colonel Moser had briefed that the site was funded for the current year. However, the site belonged to US Space Command and they did not see the need to talk to other agencies.

Mr. Woodall briefed there were currently three alternate options being considered as to what to do with the site. The first option was a status quo approach, where the equipment remains on the AT&T structure and the Air Force continues to pay the lease. The second option would be to move the equipment on to Clear AFS proper, which would save the Air Force money by eliminated the \$6K/month lease. The final option, and the one under consideration, would be that Clear AFS foregoes the use of ALMR and uses their conventional LMR technology.

Mr. Woodall emphasized the decision would need to be made by the end of December and any remaining operations and maintenance funds would cover the 90-day notice required by AT&T and the removal of the ALMR equipment, which is slated to cost \$36K.

Mr. Del Smith stated on three different occasions the Operations Management Office (OMO) had conducted testing with the Alaska State Troopers (AST) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) while having the Clear site turned off. The coverage remained pretty good with only DOT noting some dead spots, although they had traveled further north and passed Nenana than originally planned. Mr. Smith advised the council, that despite the claims Clear AFS does not utilize ALMR, the Nenana, which is a three-channel site, showed a spike in busies during the Clear-off testing. Previous reviews of system usage reflected that Clear AFS was utilizing ALMR for traffic with Eielson AFB and Fort Wainwright regularly.

Colonel Moser stated it was his intent to take a strong approach with the Clear AFS leaders to commit to continued funding.

Major Leveque asked if moving the site to Clear would save them money and Colonel Moser stated in the long term it would.

Mr. Woodall advised the council that the Clear site equipment is already funded for the 7.13 update. If Clear makes the decision to not fund the site, the equipment will be moved elsewhere; it can be used to increase capacity at three-channel sites such as Nenana or possibly transferred to the SOA and moved into the Kobe shelter, which is currently not an ALMR site.

Mr. Pete Murphy asked if Clear would still have usage of ALMR if they elected to not fund the site and it was moved elsewhere.

Colonel Moser stated they would not, but he was still working to clear up the misconception that Clear AFS does not utilize the Clear site or the ALMR System.

d. Capacity Increases for Kenai, Kasilof, and Peger Road sites. Mr. Woodall stated the original hold up on the frequency approval was the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). They had stated the Department of the Interior Spectrum Sub-committee had some concerns over a chance of interference. When Mr. Woodall investigated this further, it wasn't concerns over current interference but possible future interference.

Mr. Woodall stated they had received assignment authority on the DOD side; NTIA had coordinated with the FCC and the NTIA had given the DOD the licenses.

Mr. Adam Paulick, ETS, advised the council that based on the NTIA approval, the State felt comfortable with ordering the equipment although they had not received the FCC licenses yet. He stated he had requested the ALMR System Manager's assistance with obtaining the information to order the combiners.

Mr. Woodall advised the council he felt this issue could be closed out at this point. There were no objections from the council members.

5. User Council Update.

a. Major Matt Leveque advised the council that the annual elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions were currently in progress and voting ended on November 30. He stated those elected would be announced at the December User Council meeting and take office in January 2013.

b. Major Leveque briefed the council members that the SOA-All Others position had been vacant for some time. Mr. Jordan Halden, who was the alternate, had been appointed to move to the primary position. He also advised the council that Ms. Tammy Goggia, who runs the Soldotna AST Dispatch Center, had been appointed as an alternate for the Municipalities-Central. Major Leveque presented a proposed motion

and requested the Executive Council approve the two appointments, per the Cooperative Agreement.

Motion: Accept the appointment of Mr. Jordan Halden as the primary State of Alaska - All Others representative and Ms. Tammy Goggia as the alternate Municipalities - Central representative to the ALMR User Council.

The motion was made by ASAC Jones and seconded by Commissioner Masters. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. October System Metrics. Mr. Smith presented the October System metrics to the council, pointing out that there were once again over a million voice calls and subsequently the busies were up, as well.

Colonel Moser asked if those could be attributed to the Kenai sites or local traffic or a mix.

Mr. Smith advised that the busies were a mix of both the Kenai Peninsula sites and exercises that had been conducted at both Eielson AFB and Elmendorf AFB during the month, which added significantly to the calls and the call busies.

b. 168th Air Guard Wing, Eielson AFB. Mr. Smith updated the council on the status of the membership agreement for the 168th Air Guard Wing. He advised that the commander had stated the agreement had to go to the Guard Bureau to get approval. Mr. Smith stated he was unsure why this was because the 176th Wing (formerly at Kulis) had been on the System for years and they approved their membership agreement locally.

7. New Business.

a. State of Alaska Legislative Audit. Mr. Smith advised the council that the Operations Management Office was currently assisting Ms. Carrie Strickland, Deputy Director ETS, by providing requested information for a Legislative audit.

Mr. Woodall asked what the scope of the audit was and what they were looking at; was it in terms of cost, feasibility or sustainability.

Director Pat Shier stated any answer he could provide would be speculative. He stated there might have been some remaining skepticism among some legislators after the extensive educational campaign by Mr. Leon Morgan, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Commission Masters regarding ALMR. Director Shier advised this is always a recurring theme with the Legislature and his best guess it

the scope is deep and wide because they may not know what they are looking for or at in terms of the System.

Commissioner Masters stated that despite the residual affect this continued skepticism has, ALMR is the backbone for both the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mr. Smith stated from what he'd seen the focus at this point was primarily on how the System gets booked as an asset. Because it's a System, if any part is missing it's no longer viable.

Director Shier stated he had offered the auditors a helicopter ride to any of the sites to give them a better understanding but at this time there were no takers. He also advised the council that in a conversation he had with Verizon regarding future systems, Verizon had stated LMR would still be around until at least 2025.

b. Mr. Woodall gave a brief synopsis of the current status of the 7.13 migration. He advised the council that a Critical Design Review had been held and that the project managers from the DOD, SOA, and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) all had some actions items from Motorola® to address. Each entity was addressing their individual concerns.

Mr. Woodall stated that SOA had requested Ethernet capability between the Zones and there were funding issues each entity had to address to complete this action. The State had their funding in hand. For the DOD, Eielson had approved the funding but both Elmendorf and US Army-Alaska (USARAK) were waiting on funds.

Mr. Woodall briefed the council that a communications plan would be issued and a task analysis of both the System and operations would be done; high risk tasks would be documented and mitigation actions would be identified to the greatest extent possible. Mr. Woodall stated that Motorola® is assuring that they can do this migration, but that there is the possibility of catastrophic failures along the way. Therefore, there will be back up plans ready to implement should a failure occur. Mr. Woodall stated there will be GO/NO GO decision points and that the project managers will work with the operational users during the process.

Colonel Moser asked if the User Council would make the decision whether or not to proceed at the decision points.

Mr. Woodall advised that the project team, made up of communications and technical leads, would help with the decision, as well.

Colonel Moser asked if there were other issues involved such as increased costs due to timeline slips.

Mr. Woodall assured the council that Motorola® had given their assurance that any actions to be taken will occur at no additional cost since this is the first time they have done this direct migration, rather than doing it in stepped increases.

Major Leveque assured the council that they would be consulted and provided periodic updates. He stated the User Council would bring anything to the Executive Council that could have a potential huge operational impact before going forward with the migration.

c. MOA Migration Funding Status. Mr. Smith advised the council that the funding was in the MOA Budget introduced at the December 4 Assembly meeting. He stated the public hearing was on December 18 and he was assured the issue would be on the agenda for that night. Mr. Smith stated he had no indication of any concerns on the part of the Assembly that the funding would not be approved.

d. New Member Agency. ASAC Jones asked if this was an appropriate opportunity to mention the newest member of ALMR.

Mr. Smith stated that the Department of Homeland Security Immigrations and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) had just completed their membership agreement and were now approved to operate on ALMR.

8. Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2012, 1:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Safety Training/Conference Room, 5700 E Tudor Road. Commissioner Masters advised the group that he would be out of state.

The Operations Management Office stated they would poll the council in a couple weeks to see what their availability was over the holidays.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Moser asked if there were any other items for discussion. Hearing none, he made a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the November monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by ASAC Jones and seconded by Commissioner Masters. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



DARRIN JONES, ASAC, FBI
Federal Non-DOD Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

ALCOM/J60, Colonel Scott Moser
SOA DPS, Commissioner Joseph Masters
AFEA, ASAC Darrin Jones
AML, Chief Jeff Tucker
MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora
User Council, Major Matt Leveque
SOA ETS, Director Pat Shier
OMO, Mr. Del Smith
SOA ETS, Mr. Adam Paulick
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Kohler
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson