



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**November 17, 2016**

**FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: October 20, 2016, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members Present:**

Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer  
Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Kurt Ormberg  
Captain Dave Koch

State of Alaska – Department of  
Public Safety  
Alaska Federal Executive Association/  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage  
Police Department

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:**

Mr. Ocie Adams  
Mr. Del Smith  
Deputy Commissioner John Boucher  
Mr. Jim Steele  
Mr. Tim Woodall  
Mr. Trygve Erickson  
Mr. John Rockwell  
Ms. Sherry Shafer

User Council Chair (via  
teleconference)  
Operations Manager (via  
teleconference)  
Enterprise Technology Services  
(via teleconference)  
Enterprise Technology Services  
(via teleconference)  
DOD ALMR Program Manager  
Municipality of Anchorage  
Department of Public Safety  
Operations Management Office (via  
teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. and the roll call was read.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.**

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked the group if there were any opening statements or special announcements and there were no responses.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Comer asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the September meeting minutes and if they had any changes. Hearing no requests for changes, he requested a motion for their approval.

**Motion: Approve the September 29 Executive Council meeting minutes as written.**

The motion was made by Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge (A/ASAC) Kurt Ormberg and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. ALMR Twitter Account. Mr. Del Smith advised the council members that the User Council had approved the Twitter Account Use Policy and Procedure and that the documents were in the meeting materials. He stated there was no action required on behalf of the Executive Council.

Mr. Jim Steele noted the account was up and available and awaiting the first Tweet<sup>®</sup>. He stated he was looking for opportunities to highlight ALMR.

Mr. Smith advised there was a fire north of Anchorage and that they may want to say something about it next Monday. He pointed out that the Division of Forestry was using conventional frequencies for the most part, but he had spoken to Mr. Nate Skinner and they had also been on ALMR and were hitting Bailey Hill, which is a seven-channel site.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if the council needed to make a motion regarding the documents and Mr. Smith stated it was normally not required.

Deputy Commissioner Comer directed this item be **CLOSED**.

b. Cost Share Working Group. Mr. Smith briefed there had been substantial discussion of this at the last meeting and he and Mr. Scott Stormo had convened a meeting with the Federal Non-DOD agencies via teleconference on October 12 to discuss the cost share.

Mr. Smith advised the original purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY17 membership agreements but they also talked about the increased cost share burden on

the State of Alaska over the course of the discussion. He noted the agencies agreed to pay the same amount for FY17 as they had in FY16 and that further discussions would take place prior to FY18.

Mr. Tim Woodall briefed that the Cost Share Cooperative Agreement was being revised regarding the original method which was based on the percentage of sites owned.

Deputy Commissioner Comer directed this item be **CLOSED**.

## **5. User Council Update.**

User Council Vacancies. Mr. Ocie Adams advised the council that vacancies remained for the alternate Southeast-Municipalities position, both the primary and alternate US Army-Alaska (USARAK) positions, the primary Federal Non-DOD US Forest Service position and the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) alternate position.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. FY18 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Smith stated the User Council had approved the draft budget and it would be provided to the council members after the meeting for their review and approval. He noted, for the council's benefit, that the document contained several out years of capital costs and end-of-life equipment costs.

b. September System Metrics. Mr. Smith briefed the push to talks were down and the busies were up slightly.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked how that correlated and Mr. Smith explained that when sites are taken down for their annual periodic maintenance it can cause some busies that are not necessarily related to voice traffic.

Mr. Adams concurred with Mr. Smith stating he followed site maintenance issues closely and instances, such as power interruptions from devices and lines, impacted areas of ALMR. He also noted battery failures, and in one case a bad relay switch, had caused site power to go off.

## **7. New Business.**

a. House Bill 256, Request for Information (RFI). Mr. Steele advised the council members that they had received a series of follow-up questions yesterday from consulting firms. He noted the period of response was open until November 4.

Mr. Steele briefed at this point they have furnished the results of their efforts to the Administrative Services Director, Ms. Cheri Lowenstein. If the RFI closes and they don't have any interested parties, a decision will be made at that time regarding what they would do next. Unless there is a request to postpone, it is up to them where they will move next because they've done what the Legislature asked.

Mr. Steele noted he was blown away by the number of studies conducted on this System going back 10 years, a total of six, which he outlined by the year conducted and the name of each study. He stated he had provided this information to Ms. Lowenstein and pointed out that all of them reached the same conclusion that there was no viable alternative, which provided the same level of service at a comparable or lesser cost. Mr. Steele stated they would be wrapping this all together to go back to the Legislature at the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Smith stated, as a follow-up to Mr. Steele's comments, the Legislature has had the opportunity to look at all these reports, but he was not sure they had actually read them. He noted in his dealings with other organizations all over the country that run similar systems, our System is state-of-the-art land mobile radio.

Deputy Commissioner Comer requested this item be left open until the November meeting, after the close out date for the RFI.

b. Insider Newsletter. Deputy Commissioner Comer noted he really appreciated the newsletter the Operations Management Office put out. He stated really feels the newsletter reiterates what he's been saying about the System all along and he had also provided a copy to Commissioner Monegan.

c. November Alaska Municipal League (AML) Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Comer reminded the council the AML was holding their annual meeting in November at the Captain Cook Hotel and he had been interested in getting a booth to provide information on ALMR. However, he explained the cost of a booth was \$750 and there was no option to obtain any space at the venue without the monetary contribution.

d. Upcoming Retirement. Deputy Commissioner John Boucher advised the council that he was retiring effective November 1 after 36 years of service to the State of Alaska. He stated he did not know who his successor would be, but it was a privilege to work with everyone. The council members and attending support staff thanked him for his dedication and service, and wished him well in his retirement.

**8. Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Comer briefed the next meeting is scheduled for November 17, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room.

Mr. Woodall stated he did not see any issues for the Department of Defense with the date.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if there were any other items for the council's discussion.

Hearing no comments, Deputy Commissioner Comer requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Adjourn the October monthly Executive Council meeting.**

The motion was made by A/ASAC Ormberg and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Comer. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



Bill Comer, Deputy Commissioner  
State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety  
ALMR Executive Council

**Distribution:**

SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer  
ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang  
FBI, ASAC Dave Condo  
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy  
MOA, Captain Dave Koch  
SOA ETS, Director Jim Steele  
SOA ETS, Mr. Scott Stormo  
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall  
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson  
OMO, Mr. Del Smith