



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 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.	DoW USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoW DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
E	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Muni-North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
T	De Hart	Kaitlyn	Ms.	DoW 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-DoW DOJ, FBI
T	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
U	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoW All Others, US Forest Service
P	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
T	Shumpert	Amber	Ms.	SOA DOT
U	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoW US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoW DOJ, FBI
T	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoW All Others, TSA
U	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
U	Dante	Ray	SSgt	DoW USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
U	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoW USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
T	Bishop	Erika	Ms.	SOA DPS Fairbanks Dispatch Supervisor
E	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
U	Guetaloreto	Christian	SSgt	DoW USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Stribny	Joseph	Maj	DoW US Army - Alaska
T	Roberts	Nathan	TSgt	DoW USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Barry-Garland	Eli	Mr.	Federal Non-DoW DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
U	Overmyer	Zachary	Chief	Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Becker	Max	Chief	UAF PD
T	Doherty	Steve	Mr.	Tait Radios
P	Fahnestock	Nikalus	Mr.	Systems Manager - SMO
T	Fernandez	Preston	MSgt	176 th Wing
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
T	Kelly	Daniel	Capt.	USMC
T	McRae	Zack	Mr.	Mat-Su Borough



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P	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage
T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	WISN
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS - EC Chair
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Sullivan	Rachel	Ms.	CLES
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	SOA - APSCS Manager
T	Thometz	Tim	Mr.	ICom America
P	Woodall	Timothy	Mr.	ALCOM
T	Wiley	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell	
Roll Call	Tammy asked Cindy Black to read the roll call. Cindy took the roll and advised Tammy that at this time, there was a quorum.	
Introduction of Guests and Special Announcements	Tammy asked if there were any special guests; after hearing none, Tammy reminded everyone that only the User Council representatives or their alternates may make a motion. Tammy stated that the council could move on to the approval of the May meeting minutes,	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Tammy stated that hopefully everyone had a chance to review the July minutes and asked if anyone had any requested changes. She commented that, hearing none, she asked for a motion and a second to approve the July meeting minutes.	



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	Motion: Approve the July 1, 2026, monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Lt. Ben Endres Second: Ms. Amber Shumpert Tammy asked if there were any objections or further discussion. Hearing none, the motion was passed.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	Tammy stated that she was moving on to the Issues and Risks Log and asked Mr. Paul Fussey if he could please review the Issues and Risks Log. Paul reported the Auke Lake tower is still waiting on updates and asked Mr. Stormo if he had any updates to share. Mr. Stormo said the State is awaiting determination from the insurance processor and there are currently no updates on the future of Auke Lake. Paul thanked Mr. Stormo and Tammy thanked Paul, then asked if there were any questions regarding the Issues and Risk Log. She stated that she was moving on to the Action Items.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	Paul briefed that he is working with two power companies that have reached out, but before they join ALMR, the power companies will need to buy all brand-new radios and are working with their boards to secure the funding. Tammy thanked Paul, and she asked if there were any questions concerning the Issues and Risks log	



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System Upgrade	response and Paul is working with Mr. Butcher to arrange an opportunity for him to present on what Raleigh dispatch did during the storm. Paul is planning the presentation for the September or October meeting and will make sure all the board members and dispatch centers in the state know when Mr. Butcher will be giving his presentation. Paul then said he met with several vendors about upcoming radio releases and will be testing them once they are sent to OMO. He expects to receive and test a portable from one manufacturer and mobile from another. Paul briefed that he has sent out some console reboot emails to a few agencies that are overdue and thanked Mr. Reed for doing another scan of the system on that. Paul then stated that he is traveling to Fairbanks on Sunday, August 16, where he will be for the week. He said he plans to do the Zone 2 inspection and meet with some dispatch centers and agencies while in Fairbanks. Paul ended his Outreach briefing by stating that Ms. Black has been sending emails out to agencies that still need to sign their membership agreements and as of August 12, ALMR had 143 agencies. He stated OMO really appreciates everyone doing their work on that. 3. Paul briefed that generator testing took place the morning of August 12 at the Birch Hill Master Site. Mr. Andry Straight from Nik Fahnestock's team was there to monitor everything. Paul confirmed with the Help Desk that they did not receive any complaints and stated that there were no issues seen with	
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	the system from OMO's side. Paul also stated that he liked that the generators and battery backups are being tested more. Paul then briefed that Nik's team did 20 PMIs for the month of July and that Nik's team is still out in the field. He stated that the team has been pretty busy and had a really good weather window. Paul said that, even with all the rain we had in July, they were able to get 20 PMIs done. Paul also stated that OMO is setting up a meeting with the City of Ketchikan for possible ALMR work in Ketchikan. There will be another meeting in September and Paul hopes to have more to brief when that happens.	
July Document Reviews	4. Paul briefed that OMO reviewed the KMF policy and procedure, the OMO customer support plan, the interoperability policy and procedure, and a high-level communication strategy plan in July.	
July System Metrics	5. Paul briefed that the system had 2,107,072 individual calls; 3,198,510 push-to-talks, which was down a little from last month but well above the last couple of years; 847 monthly busies; and six sites below three 9s. Paul stated that Peger Road had a login failure, there was a corrections router swap out at Willow Mountain, equipment was relocated at Henley Range, and the system had PMI at Canyon Creek, Ester Dome, Glenallen, and Peger Road. Paul said subscriber counts were 32,003 for the system, which is up a little bit from June. He stated that the State of Alaska had 9,492, Department of War had 8,539, Municipality and AWARD had 12,050, and Federal non-DOW had 1,889 subscribers.	



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Other Items	Mr. Stormo asked if Paul knew who the big additions were for the State of Alaska. Paul said he did not and would get back to Mr. Stormo with the answer. 6. Paul briefed that August is Emergency Management Awareness Month. He stated that OMO is watching the Juneau Lake outbreak and that SEOC has set up a YouTube page where you can watch all the cameras on there. Paul also said that OMO plans to look to see if there has been an uptick in radio traffic, but that no ALMR towers are in the flood zone in that area. Paul also briefed that at 8:21am on August 12, Anchorage observed a partial eclipse with the sun being covered almost 40%. Paul and Nik looked at possibilities on August 11. Paul stated there was no ALMR issues observed during the eclipse. Paul briefed that the next Alaska chapter of APCO NENA meeting is August 27 at 2pm; anyone wanting to sit in on that meeting or listen should contact Stacey Day at the Kenai Police Department Paul reported that completed his report, pending any questions. Tammy thanked Paul and asked if there were any questions for the OMO office. She stated the council could move on to the System Management Office.	
System Management Office (SMO)	Mr. Nikalus (Nik) Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned



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	Nik briefed that the team has been hitting PMIs pretty hard. He thanked everyone for their patience as they go through these preventative maintenance activities. Nik stated that PMIs allow the team to get the values, take measurements, make adjustments, and fix things on the spot as opposed to critical failures down the road that will cause much longer or interruptions and issues. Nik briefed that former Help Desk technician Christopher Frey has moved to Germany and the new Help Desk technician, Paolo Felizardo, has been working hard to ramp up and has been catching on well. Nik also said he wanted to touch base with everyone about battery care and maintenance. He stated that a battery was brought to him to determine if it was still good; the lithium-ion battery in it had started to swell. Nik explained that when lithium-ion batteries swell, the swelling is not the harmful part – the gas causing the swelling can be, if it ruptures, since that can cause the internal chemicals to release, which in turn can cause a runaway effect that causes fire or harm to living things. Nik stated that, to prevent that from happening, it's a good idea not to leave batteries or radios with them installed on the charger 24/7. He also said that, for the longest life for lithium-ion batteries, they should be kept at 30 to 80%, since they degrade much quicker below 30% or above 100%, which can lead to that swollen battery. Nik then said to pay attention to the batteries and if they look swollen or it's hard to put the battery on a radio, think about getting the battery swapped out, since it's cheaper to	
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	replace a battery than to go to the hospital. Mr. Stormo added that he suspects the battery maintenance notification came out for Motorola because there was a fire not too long ago where the battery from a radio caught fire and started a fire somewhere. Mr. Stormo also stated that lithium-ion batteries for radios are not entirely different from cell phone batteries and batteries in other devices and that there's always a risk, but Motorola would want to say something about the issue. Mr. Stormo stated that most people are unlikely to be able to follow guidelines for battery storage and maintenance perfectly, but that it's worth reading the notification because even those who should be familiar with the guidelines don't necessarily remember everything that the manufacturers are saying when they send these memos out. Mr. Stormo reiterated that it's worth the review to remember things you might not normally think about, including that you should be not storing batteries on the charger all the time and should not be keeping it off the charger for more than 30 days. Mr. Stormo stated that Paul is going to get the memo posted on the ALMR webpage and that, while it's from Motorola, the information is likely to apply to pretty much every radio that has the same type of batteries in them. Paul confirmed that the memo was posted to the ALMR website under notices on approved equipment on the bottom right. Tammy thanked Nik, Mr. Stormo, and Paul. She stated the council could move on to the State of	
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	Alaska (SOA) and Department of War (DoW) overviews. Tammy then turned it over to the SOA.	
State of Alaska (SOA)	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Scott Stormo briefed that the State needs to re-engage with Motorola to finalize the follow-on contract that will start next July. Scott stated he hopes to have that done in the next month or two so everyone has several months to find the funds to fund the follow-on contract. Scott briefed that, with summer's end rapidly approaching, the team is out, trying to fix and maintain as much as possible. Scott said that, in prior years, money to fix things has run out in December and he expects it will run out earlier this year, but that there will still be money for regular routine maintenance, to refuel generators, and things like that. Scott stated that ALMR has lost more redundancies and there are a few towers that need to be replaced beyond Auke Lake. He stated a dish at Cooper Mountain was torn up in the last windstorm, so that path is offline until that dish can be replaced. Scott said the State has hired contractors to go back out and put up a spare dish the State owns and contractors have been hired to change waveguides on a site along the North Richardson Highway because the microwave path there has degraded more and more over the years and the engineers have suggested swapping out the waveguide due to dents, dings, and damage.	



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	Scott also stated that the path up the Parks Highway is degraded because the Denali tower has moved over time and the trees around the tower have grown to the point where there is no longer a good, clean shot for the path. The State added twenty feet to the tower, which caused the leaning to accelerate significantly, so the twenty-foot extension was removed and the dishes brought back down so they're in the trees. The State is waiting on potential funding to see if they can build a new tower with an adequate foundation to remedy that. Scott said they hope to get the rings on one side fixed before winter, since there are problems with the rings on both sides. Scott said that was all he had at the moment. Tammy thanked Scott and asked if there were any questions. There were none.	
Department of War	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall briefed that towers on DOD installations are not properly registered and need to be so, so DOW will be putting out instructions on how to go about getting each tower registered with the proper information. Mr. Woodall stated that DOW members should have received a proposal from Motorola for Ethernet conversion, which is part of the existing system upgrade DOD installations are going through. If Air Force members are wondering how to fund that conversion, they should reach back to the 38 EIS who funded the upgrade to see if they can help with funding for the Ethernet	



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	conversion. Mr. Woodall said he was not sure how the Army side was to address that, so that was another conversation for another day. Mr. Woodall also said it's time for DOW to get together with the State of Alaska regarding the new contract to validate and agree on a scope of work. He said he had nothing else unless there were questions. Tammy stated that the council could move on to the User Council representative updates and that she would start with the SOA component.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DPS	1. Lt. Ben Endres stated DPS is working on updated their code plug to make it more user-friendly and in line with the way people are operating now. Lt. Endres also stated that DPS delivered to ALMR a copy of the CC Aware location-sharing agreement signed by the Commissioner, so MATCOM has that agreement in place. Then Lt. Endres shared an anecdotal incident with Smart Connect: the Colonel had encouraged everybody that could to go and work some traffic overtime; Lt. Endres did. During a vehicle stop in a known terrain dead area for ALMR near Mat Su Regional Hospital, Lt. Endres was unable to get out on the vehicle radio despite repeated attempts. Then he noticed he was receiving the traffic on his portable, and when I took a look at it, it was connecting to Smart Connect over Wi-Fi. He was able to communicate with dispatch, even in his car on the portable, just because of that Wi-Fi connection.	



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Muni-Southeast	3. Ms. Erann Kalwara reported no updates for Municipalities Southeast.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
CISA Briefing	Tammy thanked the area representatives and stated she was moving on to New Business. Tammy asked if anyone had any new business to offer up. Mr. David Reed briefed that as of September 21, 2026, FIPS or the Federal Information Processing Standard 140-2 will no longer be approved for Federal and Department of War networks. Any radio with Federal or Department of War channels is going to require FIPS 140-3 certification to maintain those encryption keys. And new purchases following September 21, 2026 will require that certification to comply with the mandate dated March 22, 2019 from the government. David stated he is currently going through the approved radio list so that we can update that list with what radios are compliant with the 140-3 standard, and members won't be making any decisions in the dark. Mr. Paul Fussey asked Mr. Reed whether small volunteer fire departments and other similar members would need FIPS 140-3 certification.	



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	David stated this is specifically for radios that have Federal or Department of War channels on them and those encryption keys. Mr. Woodall asked Mr. Reed if he knew the timeline needed to identify the radios that need to be updated. David stated that he will have the ALMR approved radio list to Paul by the end of the week. Mr. Woodall asked Mr. Reed if the current APXs comply. David said the current APX series of radios comply with FIPS 140-3 Motorola to achieve that certification based on the MACE hardware within the radio. Tammy thanked David and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked Paul to present the item he had for new business. Paul presented the draft FY28 budget, apologizing that it came out in August instead of July. He stated that the team is waiting for some numbers from some entities, so he was presenting an overbrief of the proposed FY28 budget. Paul stated that the budget will be sent to all board members for review, then an email will go out to all board members for a vote on the budget. He said that if it is approved, the budget will then be sent to the Executive Council and Paul will brief the Executive Council on the proposed budget. If the Executive Council approves it, it will be sent forward. Paul stressed that this is the FY28 budget and, per the User Council charter, if the Board votes on the budget, it does not mandate someone to spend the money on it.	
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	However, the funds are what are needed to keep the Alaska Land Mobile Radio system running for all 143 agencies. Paul showed the FY27 extension budgets for OMO (\$347,220), which is for the operations manager, document specialist, training specialist, and for training; and the Infrastructure Operations Management Office (\$3,250,599.60), which has the Systems Management Office, which provides the field technicians, systems manager, and help desk. Paul stated that the numbers had been the same for the past ten years and said the monetary amount was guaranteed to change for FY28. Mr. Stormo asked Paul to show Addendum A at the end of the budget document and explained that the budget was for State FY28, but the one-year extension numbers were for FY27. Mr. Stormo suggested Paul should use the numbers from the FY28 projections table on the earlier page he had shown. Paul agreed that the FY28 numbers were different from the FY27 and stated that he does not yet know what the FY28 numbers will be, but that he said they would be higher than FY27. Mr. Stormo suggested using the numbers from the table. Mr. Woodall suggested Paul add an asterisk and note that the value does not reflect an awarded contract value, then agreed that it was probably best to use the numbers from the table as Mr. Stormo suggested. Paul added the notation and agreed with both Scott and Tim. He then asked for other questions.	
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	Hearing none, he moved on to projected costs for FY28. He showed projected numbers for capital cost, system upgrade, issuance of SUA, and grand total of stakeholders. Paul thanked Mr. Neuman and Mr. Beach for the number from the Municipality of Anchorage for AWARN for Zone 4. Paul asked if there were questions; when there were none, he moved on to the next page. He then stated that the state of Alaska is one of the few places that does not have a SUA (system upgrade assistance). Mr. Stormo commented that not having a SUA in place makes things extremely difficult, especially with three different bill payers on three different fiscal calendars: the Municipality of Anchorage is on a calendar fiscal year, the State of Alaska is on a July to June fiscal year, and the federal government is on an October to September fiscal year. It makes it difficult to award contracts and align funding for all three of those bill payers, but if ALMR had a SUA, annual payments could probably be paid on each bill payer's fiscal year and upgrades would happen every two years. Mr. Stormo said that a SUA makes it easy for vendors to plan for equipment purchases and lead time, which can be a year or more and to schedule their people to do the work. A funded SUA would allow the system to operate in much less of a crisis mode when trying to keep the system current and running and ALMR is one of the few systems that is not on a SUA. Mr. Woodall stated that a SUA is proven to be less costly.	
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	Mr. Stormo said that even if it isn't, it reduces problems like the difficulties members are currently experiencing getting the Ethernet upgrades done. Mr. Stormo then pointed out that currently, ALMR is making jumps every six or eight years instead of every two years where these things would be better know and better planned and executed. Paul thanked Scott and Tim, then showed the long-term funding requirements in Addendum A. He stated that, if you look at the SUA, ALMR is currently at 2021.1 and the system is due for an upgrade. Paul asked Mr. Fahnestock what the latest upgrade software number was. Nik stated that the last released provision was 2025.2 and 2026 is still in the works. He stated that he thinks annual releases typically come out mid-to-late year. Paul thanked Nik, then stated that he received good information on GTRs to D-Series repeaters from MTUG and would send the slides to anyone who wanted them. He stated that there are a lot of upgrades and different things for the equipment coming out, so ALMR will be looking at having to upgrade a lot of equipment. Mr. Stormo stated he would take advantage of the opportunity to make a point on that, too: the State too a long time to get funding for GTRs and bought them very late in their lifecycle. Had the State bough them ten or 15 years ago, we would have gotten 15 plus years out of them. Because we bought them late in the lifecycle, we need to start getting money to start replacing them; they may be new to us, but it's not a new technology. It has been out since at least whenever	
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	AWAR started, because they started with GTRs. Mr. Stormo then added that 2021.1 is on extended support right now, which is limited support. He stated that in January of 28, it is out of support, which means the vendor will make a best effort but there is no guarantee of cyberpatching or that they'll be able to get replacements. Mr. Stormo stated this is why it is important to have this in the State's FY28 budget, which starts in July and leaves six months to get the system upgraded, which is not technically possible as nothing will happen that fast. Paul then showed the Federal page of the budget with SUA, a 2021 upgrade, access consoles, GTRs-to-D-Series, and a maintenance option. He asked Mr. Woodall if he add anything to add. When Mr. Woodall did not, Paul asked Mr. Mark Neuman if he had anything to discuss about the Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN projected budget page. Mark said he did not. Paul asked if anyone had questions, then reiterated that he would clean up the document, apologized for the one mistake in the budget, and committed to getting the budget out to the board members to look at, ask further questions, and vote on it. Tammy thanked Paul and asked if there was any more new business. She did not hear any and moved to the next meeting calendar.	
Next Meeting	Discussion	



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	Tammy noted that the next meetings are currently scheduled for September 2 and October 7.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	Tammy asked if anyone else had anything and stated that at this time she would entertain a motion to adjourn the July 1st meeting. Motion: Adjourn the Augst 12, 2026, User Council meeting. Motion: Scott Nelsen Second: Lt. Ben Endres Tammy stated that the meeting was now adjourned and thanked everybody. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.	