

Region 49
700 MHz Regional Planning Committee
Minutes of the August 17, 2006, meeting

City of Austin Learning and Research Center
2800 Spirit of Texas Drive, Austin, Texas

Chairman Ron Mayworm called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Chuck Brotherton, Travis Co. Emer. Ser.	Larry W. Keith, Leon Co. SO
Ted Young, Marble Falls PD	Aaron Slaughter, City of Lockhart
Maureen Ganner, Round Rock PD	Robert Pletcher, Texas DPS
Ken Graalum, Cedar Park/CWICS	Michael Sevier, Brazos Valley COG
Larry Blare, City of Waco	Kyle Connor, M/A-Com
Pat Worsham, Alexander Util. Eng.	James Benton, APCO/DPS
Bill Blowers, Bell County	Gilbert Paez, City of Austin
Archie Hollingsworth, Burnet Co. SO	Elizabeth Lindemann, City of Austin
Charlie Boyce, Burnet Co. SO	Arletha Guerrero, City of Austin
Kenneth Yoder, Texas APCO	Ron Mayworm, Chair, City of Bryan

- Item 1: Introductions, quorum determination, review and approve agenda.**
- Item 2: Review and approve minutes of the June 28, 2006 meeting:** Secretary noted that the vote on Item 10 was inaudible on the tape. (Secretary was not present on 6/28.) The Chairman stated that the motion had passed and that the minutes should be updated to reflect this result. Vote to approve 6/28 minutes was deferred pending this revision.
- Item 3: Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer reported a balance of \$256.82, pending reimbursing Chairman Ron Mayworm for \$98.86 in out-of-pocket expenses related to preparing materials for this meeting. Ron noted that future reimbursement money will have to be applied for based on a report of estimated needs. Bob Pletcher made motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Maureen Ganner, approved unanimously. Bob Pletcher made motion to reimburse Ron's expenses, seconded by Larry Blare, approved unanimously.
- Item 4: Outreach Activities:** Discussion on requirement to broaden participation in reviewing and gathering support for the 700 MHz regional plan. Bob Pletcher volunteers DPS video conferencing services to allow remote participation at future meetings. Will require advance scheduling. The December meeting in Bell County is identified as a possible target for making this available.
- Item 5: Update on Region 49 web site and list server:** Discussion of plan to move hosting service for the R49 web page from the present commercial host to City of Austin, as offered by Mike Simpson of City of Austin Wireless Communication Services Division. Further research is needed.

Item 6: **Short reply comments filed with the FCC regarding use of broadband technologies in the 700 MHz band:** Ron filed comments on 7/06/06, as follows:

"On June 28, 2006, the Region 49 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee met and discussed the issue of broadband and wide band needs in the 700 MHz public safety band.

We determined that the need for differing amounts of wide band and broadband spectrum varies just between the different counties in our 30-county region.

We strongly believe that a "one size fits all" distribution of wide band and broadband spectrum will result in the inefficient use of the spectrum in many regions.

Therefore, we agree with the comments of NPSTC and many others that selection of the appropriate mix of wide band and broadband spectrum should be made by the individual regional planning committees.

We also believe that rearranging the placement of the narrow band voice channels, after years of RPC planning has occurred, would be seriously counterproductive and costly."

Item 7: **Review and discussion of the draft Region 49 700 MHz plan (dated 08-14-06):** (Full text with addenda may be found on the CAPRAD web site and on the R49 web site at www.region49.org).

- Ron describes Regional Plan Template (available at <http://www.npstc.org/documents/IM00017K-20010322-IM005-K.pdf>), which details 14 areas that a successful plan must address.
- **Section 2.1:** First inclusion of "Description of Region." Update "area" to say "square miles." Some county descriptions need changing – Freestone, Lee, Washington.
- **Page 5, paragraph 5:** Too particular to Austin. Change "Austin" to "metro areas."
- **Page 6:** Verify that RPC meetings have been advertised on APCO web site.
- **Section 2.5:** Leave State of Texas out of intra-regional dispute resolution, change to read "5 members from jurisdictions within Region 49," which could include State if needed.
- **Section 3.6,** Procedure for Requesting Channel Assignments:" Discussion of filing window. All jurisdictions need same opportunity but should "first come, first served" be the guiding policy? Section stands as-

is. If scoring is needed, the 5-member committee defined in 2.5 will do the scoring.

Section 4.0, Priority Matrix: Third category of scoring added – 25 points for spectrum efficiency with channel loading. "Procedures outlined in Section 2.4" not a valid reference. Needs to be fixed. Matrix seems weighted to larger systems so rules need to be clarified. Add 10 points for first application submitted, marked with CAPRAD date stamp or certified mail postmark.

- **Channel loading** not addressed by FCC in its rules for 700 MHz; should we include loading criterion in R-49 rules? Minimum 75 per channel? Also need to support applications for system expansion (voice, not data). Decision is 50 units per 12.5 KHz channel (half the 800 MHz requirement of 100 units per 25 KHz channel). Will require 50-75 units to qualify for first channel, then 50 more for each subsequent. Conventional channel assignments will be dealt with case by case.

- **Trunked criteria:** If entity requests more than five 700 MHz channels, system must be trunked.

- **Section 8**, Interoperability: Bob Pletcher recommends adding words "Project 25 Common Air Interface" to define interoperability standard. Ron notes that FCC rules require P-25 CAI "compliance." Also, is mutual aid "required" or "a necessity?"

Item 8: **Old business:** None.

Item 9: **New business:** None.

Item 10: **Receive public comment:** None.

Item 11: **Adjourn:** Motion made by Pat Worsham, seconded by Larry Blare. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.