

SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2016

The South Central Minnesota Emergency Communications Board was called to order by Chair Kip Bruender.

ROLL CALL

Members present included Kip Bruender, James Berg, Bill Pinske, Jack Kolars, Elliot Belgard, Scott Rehmann, Eric Anderson, John Lofdahl and Dave Holmgren.

MINUTES

James Berg moved and Jack Kolars seconded a motion to approve the November 19, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2014 SHSP grant has been closed out successfully.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2015 SHSP grant project proposal period is open. McLeod County has submitted a proposal for installation of a BDA at the Lester Prairie School and is seeking ECB approval to submit the funding request to the State. Elliot Belgard moved and Bill Pinske seconded the motion authorizing the submission of the McLeod County proposal to the State. The motion carried.

The Statewide Emergency Communications Board has a Legislative Committee tasked with advising the SECB on all legislative and governmental affairs that might impact public safety user communication. Currently, our region does not have a representative on the committee. Meetings are conducted via monthly conference call. Jack Kolars moved and Bill Pinske seconded the motion to appoint Kip Bruender as primary committee member. The motion carried. Jim Berg moved and Elliot Belgard seconded the motion to appoint Jack Kolars as alternate committee member. The motion carried.

STANDING REPORTS

Railroads are requesting authorization to use South Central regional talk groups in the event of a disaster in the region. Bill Pinske moved and Jim Berg seconded the motion to authorize the railroads to use South Central regional talk groups in the event of a disaster in the region. The motion carried.

Pat Wallace advised that the Owners and Operators Committee has provided members with an excellent networking source with good feedback being given by members. Election of officers was held, with Pat Wallace remaining as Chair, Gina Winter as Vice Chair and Jen Otto as Recorder. Minor changes to the By-Laws were made, updating reference to the ECB rather than to "RRB" and updating meeting notice language to reference that such notices shall be posted to the South Central Emergency Communications Board website prior to the meeting date. NextGen 911 meeting was held yesterday. A "Life Cycle Assessment" survey from Federal Engineering will be going out to each county shortly. It's important to complete and return the survey in order for them to assess how 911 funds are being used and what future needs are for each county, as well as overall PSAP staffing levels, salary information, etc. The State also advised counties to not be too quick to start spending 911 funds as there will be opportunities to use those funds in the not too distant future. Some security issues are being encountered with Text to 911. The WERM project is on week five of eighteen weeks. The State is hoping to get out to do some training within the next couple of months.

Keith Ruffing advised that the Users Committee is reviewing their By-Laws, in particular the membership and voting quorum language. The group encourages new membership and has switched to quarterly meetings with a speaker at each meeting, in hopes of increasing attendance. Election of officers was held, with the same officers re-elected for the upcoming year. Keith Ruffing and Adam Kruger have been appointed to the Change Management Workgroup.

Randy Donahue advised that Melinda Miller is the new FirstNet program manager. Dave Denton will be moving to the NextGen 911 analyst position. The FirstNet RFP is being reviewed. ECN met with four potential respondents, of which one indicated an interest in responding. MNDOT reported that 326 towers have been built out of a projected 335 total. ECN is working with Alex Tech to develop a better condensed training module for ER nurses on ARMER. ECN is also reviewing the ARMER standards and identifying potential updates. Long-range planning is important with respect to equipment replacement needs. XTS and XTL models are supported until 2019 by Motorola. A seven to ten year equipment lifespan is reasonable.

Current grant/financial summary for January 2016 was provided to the Board. Invoices will be mailed for 2016 dues.

Annual interoperability conference will be held April 25-27 in St. Cloud. Registration opens March 1, 2016.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be March 24, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the EOC at the Blue Earth County Justice Center.

Elliot Belgard moved and James Berg seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.