

MARRS Technical/Users Committee
May 15, 2024
Meeting Summary

▪ **Welcome & Call to order**

- Approval of February 7, 2024, meeting summary

Chris Skinroad moved that the February 7, 2024, meeting summary be approved. Jeff Brame seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.

▪ **Users Committee**

- Sni Valley Access Request – Doug Christianson
 - They have requested access to the regional talk groups and Independence and Sni Valley are in the process of signing the agreement but are needing this group and the Management Council's approval. Haynes asked if they were public safety, and Brame shared that they are a fire agency. Skinroad asked what exactly they wanted access to? Per Christianson, since they do not have encryption, the only thing he can see they would need is the reg comms. Follis explained that they had their radios programmed in 2018 and had been using reg comm since then. Now, they want to do some upgrading and realized they did not have an agreement and want to correct this oversight. He also shared how this connection would work with them being unencrypted. Skinroad shared with Follis (Sni Valley Fire Protection) that moving forward any other agency(ies) that Sni Vally would want access to, they would have to have a letter from that agency specifically granting them access to their talk group.

Jeff Brame made a motion that Sni Valley Fire Protection access request be recommended for approval to the Public Safety Management Council. Doug Christianson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

- Subscriber Access Agreement Update – Eric Winebrenner/Jeff Brame
 - Winebrenner shared that at the last meeting there was a discussion about designating definitions for law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies and this verbiage added to the subscriber agreement. So, when an agency/person is approached by an agency wanting to join the system, the approached agency/person can review the agreement definitions and if the agency does not meet the definitions, they can inform the requester they did not meet the qualifications to be on the system.

Winebrenner went through all the Missouri statues and pulled out definitions for law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies and incorporated them into a draft. This draft was shared on the screen. He noted that if this draft were approved, it could be included as an addendum to the definitions which were already included in the subscriber access agreement. Everyone read the draft, it was discussed, and changes made by Nikki Thomas. Christianson said the prime agencies also needed a generic interop form in addition to the subscriber agreement, which should include this language. Christianson will work on a generic interop draft to share at this group's next meeting.

Sharing this verbiage with each agency's legal was discussed. Skinroad suggested going ahead and voting on the draft document with the caveat of it needing approval from each agency's legal group.

Thomas put the draft document in the chat and will email it to everyone.

Jeff Brame made a motion to recommend approval of the subscriber access agreement updates with the caveat of approval from each agency's legal group to the Public Safety Management Council. Chris Skinroad seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

▪ **Technical Committee**

- RFP Rebid – BK and Motorola- Eric Winebrenner
 - It is time for radio rebids which are being done through MARC's purchasing cooperative. There have been on-going conversations with Rita Parker who is putting the bid together. The most recent discussion was about an OTAP requirement for this bid.

Skinrood said one of the points he raised with Parker was about this rebidding needing to make sure that whatever an agency is purchasing that the vendor **understands our radio requirements!** This is to try and get the documents set so that when an agency goes to purchase a radio, they see the requirements and the vendor has no doubts about what is required. This was piece number one he shared with Parker.

▪ **OTAP Requirement**

- The second piece Skinrood shared was about OTAP and if it should be included as a requirement for the future. There was a discussion about this. Skinrood asked if it was a future thing or going by the wayside? Per Brame, it is still in use but is being replaced by Smart Connect. Another question raised was about when the agency goes to purchase a new radio, do these items need to be purchased in the radio or can the radios be brought with the capabilities and items purchased later? The present document says, “The radios do not need to be ordered with these features installed but must be capable of them for programming at a later date.” This was a discussion. Skinrood shared that their agency had purchased 4500 and would not be making any changes until their time was up (which is in four years). Avery asked if the 4500s were upgradable and per Skinrood, he has received different answers about their upgrade capabilities. Zidar will investigate this and report back with a definitive answer. Banner said he believed with OTAR performance you had to have KDM, and he did not believe there was any in our region. Skinrood noted that Kansas City Missouri has KDM on zone four side. Brame shared that Kansas is supposed to be getting one. Banner asked if the KDM Missouri has was available to everyone in the region and how you subscribe to use it. Per Brame, it is available to everyone in the region, but it does have a subscriber limit. Talkington shared that Johnson County Missouri will also have KDM as well.

Zidar shared that from a vendor’s perspective on the website if you search MARRS requirements, the hyperlink that pulls up this document shows feature recommendations, and he feels the word “feature” could be a little misleading. Skinrood noted that he had asked Parker to change the wording on this document and the big document to say, “shall include.” Haynes asked if the wording “any radio purchased for public safety use on the MARRS system must be capable of the following features” should be changed to say “any radio purchased for public safety use on the MARRS system must be capable of the following features for the life of the radio.” Adding this verbiage was discussed. It was shared that there was a need for a commitment from the vendor(s) that the agency(ies) will be able to purchase the upgrade(s) for a certain number of years. So later, the vendor is not able to tell the agency(ies) that the feature has been sunsetted and can no longer be purchased. The document on the website with the shared updates is good enough to cover agency(ies) purchasing contract(s). Skinrood believes the requirements come down to the vendor knowing our region’s requirements and the purchasing agency(ies) needing to reiterate these requirements.

Brame said that he wanted to discuss another feature, radio authentication. Everyone on MARRS would need to have it for it to work correctly. He feels this would be an excellent feature, but he did not know the cost. He explained that this feature never allows someone to type an incorrect RID into someone else’s radio preventing you from having two RIDS on the same radio. Skinrood asked if he wanted to put this feature in the requirements list and it will not be added at this time. Brame suggested getting the owners together to discuss radio authentications and decide about recommending the usage of it.

Talkington made the comment that for those that have worked with TUSA and other consultants there can be standard language added in the contracts for software support. Meaning if you are going to have an RFP, putting in language such as “this radio sold on this contract must be supported with software and hardware for X number of years. Talkington will forward this language to Winebrenner.

▪ **MARRS System Reports/Upgrades**

- Cass County – Marie Beauchamp – No updates
- Excelsior Springs/Clay County – Larry Tarrant – No updates.
- Independence – Doug Christianson – Nothing new.
- Johnson County, KS – Paul Haynes – Have nothing. Thomas noted that Jacob Rodriguez is from Johnson County, KS and was added to these group’s distribution lists per Worth Hunsinger.
- Johnson County, MO – Steve Ewing – In the middle of standing up towers, and their comm room has been fitted with consoles and positions. Moving through their projects and still on target to be on the air later this year. They are hoping to test before the fall foliage.
- Kansas City, MO – Jeff Brame – Motorola got their portables installed around three weeks ago and all of them have been swapped out. Everything went well until a week ago Saturday when the KC network went down, and they lost Smart Connect and LTE. Once KC got their network back up, they thought they would go back to the way they used radios prior, but they were unable. He said for those going to Smart Connect to be

aware that your portables programmed for Smart Connect are watching the system to make sure they are in range, and they will jump off. The level for Smart Connect is set lower so you are not getting any static, and it will jump to LTE. It is seamless and you do not hear or know this happened. If you lose LTE, you lose your radio system sooner. If you lose connectivity, you need to shut off Smart Connect and adjust.

- o Lee's Summit – Jamie Taylor – Nothing new.
- o Platte County – Tony Avery – Nothing.
- o Wyandotte County - Darrell Banner – Nothing new.

The meeting was adjourned.

2024 MARRS User/Technical Committee Meeting Dates

- August 14grwo
- November 6

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