

MARRS Management Council Committee
November 16, 2022, TEAMS (only)
Meeting Summary

Eric Winebrenner performed a roll call and shared that the Chairs were unable to attend today. So, Chris Skinrod would be moderating this meeting.

The meeting was opened by Chris Skinrod.

- Approval of August 24, 2022, Meeting Summary

Marie Beauchamp made a motion to approve the August 24, 2022, meeting summary. It was seconded by Larry Tarrant. The motion was approved.

- System Users Updates

- Cass County – Marie Beauchamp – Their microwave MPLS project hopefully, will be completed by the end of the year. They have executed and sent an agreement to MARC for the transitioning of three PTP links to them.
- Excelsior Springs – Kirk Lair – No report.
- Independence – Doug Christianson – Nothing new.
- Johnson County – No report.
- Kansas City Missouri – Jeff Brame – The Plaza site is online and operational.
- Lee’s Summit – Jamie Taylor – Nothing new.
- Platte County – Tony Avery – Nothing new.
- Wyandotte County – Darrell Banner – Nothing new.

- System Requests

- Ray County Access Update

- Tony Avery shared that for informational purposes, this body had made a motion and voted to allow Ray County approximately 60 radio IDs for access to the MARRs system’s regional comms channels. Through conversations with the radio shop that did Ray County’s programming, he learned that our vote was subsequential to the programming and that all 161 -162 had been programmed with lower and upper channels. He reminded everyone that the second half of the motion was to run a report annually or bi-annually to check the status, and use of these radios across our system; to make sure, they were not being used inappropriately. There was a discussion.

Skinrod asked Brame if this would be an issue as far as licenses? Brame shared that nothing needed to be done as far as licenses. Brame noted that he had a calendar block to run a report on Ray County’s radio use in July 2023. Skinrod asked if MARC had received documentation from Ray County regarding this and Nikki Thomas shared that Ray County’s agreement was with Kansas City Missouri and MARC had received a copy of the paperwork for filing.

- Lafayette County Request

- Brandon Flathers, Odessa Fire reported that they were upgrading/updating their radio system to a digital format. He was attending this meeting on behalf of Lafayette County Fire to request from this body, access to the reg comm channels to allow them connection with their surrounding agencies that already have this access. The paperwork for this request had been forwarded to the Kansas City Police Department. Doug Christianson said that Lafayette would primarily use Independence’s system. There was dialogue around how they would connect to the system. It was thought that their request should go through Independence and not KCPD. Brame will forward Lafayette’s request to Christianson.
- Tony Avery asked if there had been any discussion about forming talkgroups for this area such as a Fire Tech channel, and noted that he was asking this, since Platte has this same connection issues with their surrounding agencies. Brame said they already have this on the police side. Jamie Taylor noted that currently the fire departments on the eastern side of Jackson County standard operations procedure is to patch into reg comms 7, 8 or 9. It was shared that there should be a discussion with multiple fire departments on how to do this. Christianson asked if encryption had been assigned to Fire yet, and it has not. The discussion continued and it was shared that this request should go through the regular request channels and be presented to the Users/Tech committee before it was brought before this Council.

Tony Avery made a motion to table this conversation and to move the request through the normal channels before the Users/Tech committee for their input and if agreed upon recommendation to this Council. This was seconded by Doug Christianson. This motion was approved without opposition.

- AES Implementation Updates
 - February 7, 2023 “Go Live”
 - Avery shared that this had been discussed at the recent Users/Tech committee meeting, and they were recommending to the MARRS Management Council that February 7, 2023, be the official “go live” date. This was discussed.

A motion was made by Tony Avery that the official “Go Live” date for the AES implementation to be February 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Doug Christianson. It was approved without opposition.

Eric Winebrenner asked if MARC should send out a letter with this information, and it was agreed that they should. Jim Brame shared that KCMO could setup another test and it was agreed that he should do so. Brame will set up a testing date for after the first of the year; this date will be included in the letter that MARC will send out.

- Johnson County, MO/ Motorola RFP (Letter of support for investigation)
 - Per Skinrod, this letter went out to everyone and was approved by the MARRS Users/Tech committee. The MARRS Users/Tech committee is recommending that the MARRS Management Council approval of this letter allowing Johnson County, MO to begin an investigation on whether it is feasible for them to access the system. A draft letter was shared on the screen. Winebrenner provided background on why this letter was created and being shared. He noted that this letter was being requested by Motorola and would be included in the RFP. This was discussed.

Tony Avery made a motion to approve the letter to begin the investigation process for Johnson County Missouri. This was seconded by Marie Beauchamp. The motion was approved without opposition.

Winebrenner shared that MARC would let the MARRS Management Council chairs know that this was passed, get their signatures on it and then, forward the letter to Motorola.

- Other Discussion
 - Chris Maiers (Region 7 Representative) – He reported there is a lot going on in the region VII which covers the Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa area. He shared his screen.
 - One important thing CISA is pushing is November becoming National Infrastructure Security month. CISA wants to remind everyone that infrastructure security is incredibly important to national security overall and our infrastructures face significant risks from threat actors both foreign and domestic. Working together we can drive down this risk and build resilience. In CISA’s view infrastructure expands everything from healthcare, water, education, chemical facilities, transportation, energy and most relevant to this group, emergency communications. He suggested taking time this month to look at the KC MARRS system and ways to improve it. He said CISA did offer several services that can support this endeavor such cybersecurity and physical assessments and overall training for best practices that may have been found in other states.
 - He shared that since Jim Lundstead’s departure, Emergency Communication Coordinating (ECC) which Maiers is, has been transferred over to the Intergraded Operation Division. With this change, Maiers office is technically in Kansas City. The ECCs will continue to be our storefronts through CISA and its associated services such as TA requests for special training on the communications unit such as COML, COMC or INT. They can also connect us to other services that are brought forth by the Protection Security Advisory and Chemical Security Inspectors.
 - In 2018, the SAFECOM survey was distributed and available for submission by agencies. This survey is obligated to be done every five years. So, work has been done to assemble the next SAFECOM Nationwide survey. This survey is expected to be released in Q1 2023. He encouraged everyone to take this survey to make sure their agency’s voice was heard since this survey’s results will be used for shaping policies, funding decisions, tailoring programs, and services.
 - Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) – Today, CISA had a release which included the new definition TLP:Clear which replaces TLP:WHITE, and is the new protocol for sharing non-classified, but still sensitive information. They also added these new protocols: TLP:AMBER+STRICT which follows TLP:AMBER except it says do not share this any further than inside your agency’s walls.

Work Products

- A Bulletin was recently released by the MS-ISAC entitled “Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-of-Service Attacks (DDoS) which are becoming more common. This document provides information on ways to mitigate this threat. He said that if someone had not received a copy

of this to let him know, and he would get a copy to them.

- Maiers asked if anyone had looked at using the CISA Cyber Hygiene Services which had new forms were out. These services are available to agencies at no cost. He said some of their services might be of interest to the MARRS groups such as vulnerability scanning which includes protective cyber visits that are done with a cybersecurity advisory (CSA). It also includes a cybersecurity evaluation tool that is available at no cost. More information about these services can be found on CISA's website at <http://www.cisa.gov/cyber-hygiene-services>. He said anyone wanting a form sent directly to them could let him know.

Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS)

- Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) has been out for a while and has a lot of merits in that it gets you priority repair installation of critical data lines backwalls.

Wireless Priority Service (WPS)

- This is widely used and currently only covers voice but there has been work done on adding some basic data to this as well. Carriers are experimenting on this. If you get your lines set up now for WPS, those new features will be added when they are released. WPS gets you priority calling end-to-end even across networks. He shared WPS data about hurricane Ian saying WPS success rates for the affected areas were still more than 91% when the infrastructure was still working. He said for those that do not have WPS on your mobile lines yet, but want it, to let him know and he would put you in contact with the people to get those added to your lines. He said to keep in mind that PTS Dialer was the easiest way to utilized WPS and is available at Goggle Play and Apple apps stores.

Chris Maiers' contact information is 202-701-3235 / CHRISTOPHER.MAIERS@cisa.dhs.gov.

- Dean Hart said that TUSA was retained by the city of Kansas City to help them negotiate their SUA2. He noted that when looking at the off-model price that Motorola is offering right now; the price per port now is around \$14,000 - \$15,000 but will be going up closer to \$25,000 per port based on the numbers proposed by Motorola. From a subscriber's standpoint, the subscriber fees will go up from around \$14.05 to \$19.00 per radio. This is not the final cost but he just wanted the MARRS groups to be aware of these significant budget increases as far as the shared cost items. Avery asked Brame if the numbers received for four to five years on port fees being used in the current budgets would change, and Brame said they would since 2022 is our fifth year. **This will affect this group's 2023 budget.** Brame noted that work is being done now with Motorola to get these costs down. He will share the numbers as soon as he gets them.

Hart asked if the MARRS owners would allow him to look at their SUAs so that he could make a better opinion of Kansas City SUA. Hart shared that right now the cost was approximately \$800,000 a year in Kansas City, and around \$330,000 on the master site and remaining figured in the subscriber models. These costs have been brought up to \$1.2 million which is a 50% increase. Hart is trying to understand the big MARRS picture. Skinrood noted that he would like to know what was driving such an increase.

Hart commented that he felt the MARRS area should have gone with one SUA instead of individual ones and then, each county pays their individual cost amounts. There was discussion around this. Hart said he was asking to see the SUAs to also make sure nothing was being missed and he added that he was willing to do this for free. There was discussion around this. Brame will talk to Worth Hunsinger about setting up an owner's meeting discuss the SUAs. They will discuss the possibility of allowing Hart to review each counties' SUA and the potential of going with one SUA for all the counties. Skinrood asked Brame to include the Users/Tech co-chairs in this meeting invite. Brame said he would include them in the invite.

The meeting was adjourned.

2023 MARRS Management Council Meeting Dates

- February 22, 2023
- May 24, 2023
- August 23, 2023
- November 29, 2023