

**MARRS Technical/Users Committee**  
**November 8, 2023**  
**Meeting Summary**

Paul Haynes opened the meeting. Eric Winebrenner did a roll call of those online.

Welcome & Call to order.

- Approval of August 9, 2023, meeting summary

*Tony Avery moved that the August 9, 2023, meeting summary be approved. Chris Skinrood seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.*

**Users Committee**

- COMC Report (Nikki Thomas)
  - There were ten requests for coordination since the August 9 meeting for anything from training events to community events.
  - The team lost one COMC, Don Ward due to a position change. Haynes asked if they were going to add any more and Thomas said they were always open for additional COMCs. Anyone interested should send Thomas an email at [nthomas@marc.org](mailto:nthomas@marc.org) and she will provide them with the paperwork outlining the roles, responsibilities, and requirements. Approval or authorization is required from their home agency.
- School Districts Access Request (Independence) – Eric Winebrenner/Doug Christianson
  - At the last meeting, Winebrenner brought this request before the committee, and it was decided that the system owners would meet and bring their decision back to this committee and the Council.

Christianson shared that the system owners had met, and this policy has been in place since the day the system went into effect. The policy was shared on the screen. He noted that the only change was how AES encryption would be managed, and this change was put in writing. The policy states “that system owners have the right to add anyone to their system but access to any of the MARRS regional shared channels must come before this committee and the Council for final approval.” Once approved by the Management Council, it will be added to the existing policies. Avery added that 1426 is and always has been from development a regional asset that was created specifically for interoperable capabilities for the MARRS system for only Public Safety entities use.

*Tony Avery moved that the policy language as written be recommended for approval to the MARRS Management Council to be added to the original policies. Scott Boden seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.*

- Lone Jack Fire Protection District (Doug Christianson)
  - They are ready to join MARRS, but approvals from this committee and the Council are needed. They will go on Independence’s prime site with an additional piece on the Jackson County two sites in Lone Jack and Oak Grove that are dispatched through Lee’s Summit Fire. MOUs are in place for all the agencies they want to share with.

*Tony Avery moved that Lone Jack Fire Protection District being provided MARRS access via Independence, Missouri’s radio system be recommended for approval to the MARRS Management Council, Scott Boden seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.*

- Leavenworth County Sheriff’s Office Access Request (Tony Avery)
  - Release of 1426 key to Non-MARRS Primary Users
    - Avery received a call from Undersheriff James Sherley, Leavenworth County. Then, days later I spoke with Wendy Dedeke, their Comm Center PSAP director. Avery shared that in 2013 he had provided them with access to the Platte County radio system primary talk groups and a couple of TAC channels in the days of unencrypted communications. The caveat is that Leavenworth lives on the KDot radio system. So, they do not use MARRS as their primary radio communications. Leavenworth is purchasing new radios and is requesting MARRS access. Avery has explained to Leavenworth that providing them with access is not as simple as it used to be because of regional sharing of 1426 and the need for him to bring their request before this committee and the Council. Avery also did some checking to see if there was even a user agreement for Leavenworth to even have the lower channels and he was unable to locate one. Worth Hunsinger is working now with Dedeke to update a users’ agreement that Johnson County has with their end users which is going through legal. This brought Avery to how we move forward with the primary encryption key and access to agencies that are not primaries on our system. Can 1426 be signed for and provided to an outside agency? There was a discussion and Avery shared examples and information about

border agencies and Highway Patrol that he felt could bring quite a few questions. He feels this needs to be flushed out and put in writing. Lencioni reminded everyone that locking down who had access to the key was done because of a vendor previously getting key access.

The discussion about the different radios and their capabilities. Winebrenner read the radio capabilities requirement portion of the MARRS policy. Then, loading capabilities on several types of radios was talked about.

Christianson said there is a need to ensure that the agency using the key is signing the security agreement. More discussion was had and whether something new needed to be put in writing to let the key out or continue with the existing agreement. Beauchamp said that when they went through the process with Bates County, they required Bates County to sign the two forms that had been updated. Stephenson said he had the updated Users form and Beauchamp asked him to share it in the chat. Thomas shared it on the screen. This was written for those on the MARRS system and not for outside agencies trying to join the system. Christianson noted this was the form that every agency using the key in their radio must sign. Avery shared that it was his thought process that if Leavenworth abided by the key agreement, they would not need to go to the Management Council? There was more discussion. Avery said how about making a recommendation to the Council for clarification on the allowability of interop agencies having access to 1426 on agency owned KVLs. This would allow the region to know exactly who was on and using the system. Beauchamp shared that there was another form for the KVL which Christianson said recorded the actual number of the key loaders. Per Beauchamp, it also records what agency got the key and where they got it from. Beauchamp asked if it could be limited so that the KVL and key could not be released to any agency that was not a MARRS agency? Meiers said he knew that other states he supports had gone through an exercise like what is being discussed here. He offered to talk to those system owners and see if they would be comfortable with him, sharing their policies and standards. Him doing this was agree upon.

*Doug Christianson moved to put access to the system before the Management Council for their guidance or decision on how this should be managed. Scott Boden seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.*

### **Technical Committee**

- MARRS System Reports/Upgrades
  - Cass County – Beauchamp - No new update
  - Excelsior Springs – No report
  - Independence - Christianson – They are done with ActiveEye and some of the new security items and are waiting to be trained.
  - Johnson County, KS – No report
  - Johnson County, MO – Stephenson - Working with Motorola and Sean Gilmore tomorrow to set up a red box so they can start their staging process.
  - Kansas City, MO – Stephenson – Some on the call may know that they have had a couple of weeks with UNC and UCFs issues and had to rebuild all of that. Anyone that runs into any issues on this, please let him know. He has not removed the two old ones from the UCFs yet because he wants to make sure everything stabilizes. They are doing their mobile upgrades.
  - Lee's Summit – Taylor – Nothing new
  - Platte County – Avery – He was able to convince the Sheriff and Undersheriff of the necessity to move forward with cybersecurity. They have entered into an agreement with Motorola for the ActiveEye and will be implementing this feature on their prime site.
  - Wyandotte County – No report

### **Open Discussion**

- Winebrenner shared that he had another meeting to go to, but he had put information about a Missouri Homeland Security grant radios and radio purchases opportunity for any Missouri agencies interested in this. He believes American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is 50/50 but it is communications specific.
- Stephenson said this dovetailed into the KMF discussion as well as the transcoder. The way they are going to move forward is we must get everyone's keys loaded into the system and try to keep it at the 10,000-foot level. He has been looking at a recommendation for getting all the keys loaded into one KMF so we can move forward. He asked what others thought about this and how it could be done. Stephenson believes there are 9 keys on zone 4 side. He does not have a list of 1426 or zone 3. He asked if anyone had input on this or thoughts? The keys Stephenson has on the list are 1420 – 1426. Then, 38, 39 and 1266. Christianson said he has at least one he does not have and Blue Springs and Lee's Summit each have one that may fall within the lower end numbers on Stephenson's list. They were on Stephenson's list. Avery asked if Stephenson already had 1420 – 1426 in his KMF and he does not, and it is not in the KVLs. He has access to 1426 plus their KCPD private key and this is why he is saying there is a need for a master KVL with everybody's private keys for Paul to load into the system and erase them afterward if that is how this committee and/or the Management

Council wanted it done. If they are all put into one KVL file. Then, it will be only one file. They will send out emails to work out how these will be collected.

- Avery asked if Brame had sent out the MARRS talk groups assignments and he did and if that was supposed to be part of this meeting today? Stephenson said the unencrypted reach comm talk groups dictated which one is for which usage to the encrypted ones. There are only five of those and the whole point is to try and get that transferred over to the encrypted side. This discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
- Thomas shared that the 2024 meeting dates were listed on the agenda (listed below). She asked everyone to please add them to their calendars. Reminders will be sent.

The meeting adjourned.

**2024 MARRS User/Technical Committee Meeting Dates**

- February 7 • May 15 • August 7 • November 6