

MARRS Technical/Users Committee

May 14, 2025

Meeting Summary

▪ **Welcome & Call to order** – Eric Winebrenner

- Approval of November 6, 2024, meeting summary

Tony Avery moved to approve the November 6, 2024, meeting summary. Scott Stephenson seconded the move. This passed without opposition.

▪ **Users Committee**

- System Request – There was no request.

▪ **Technical Committee**

▪ MARRS System Reports/Upgrades

- Cass County – Marie Beauchamp – Have to replace a generator. So, they are beginning to go through equipment replacement for generators and probably the HVAC systems. Unfortunately, the delay with orders is an issue. They are not scheduled to receive their order until October.
- Excelsior Springs/Clay County – Nothing new to report.
- Independence – Doug Christianson – Nothing new.
- Johnson County, KS – No report.
- Johnson County, MO – Dean Hart – Final work is being done for their cutover. Steve Ewing added that they are using the new system and are getting ready to shut down the old system. Just finishing up all the things that go along with getting a new system.
- Kansas City, MO – Scott Stephenson – They are pushing forward with the installation of ASME Interference. Work was done yesterday on getting the configurations programmed into it and they are getting closer to its usability.
- Lee's Summit – Dean Hart - Have signed the contract with Motorola. They are installing a new tower outside their joint operations center. Working with the city on the variances of this tower. Continuing to work with Motorola on the microwave replacement design which includes part of MARC 911 as well as the radio transition. It is anticipated that they will move to their new location in June 2026.
- Platte County – Tony Avery – In the process of replacing three microwave L tags powering stations, as well as three USBs, at three tower locations.
- Wyandotte County - Darrell Banner – Everything is quiet.

▪ Encryption of REGCOM talk groups – Scott Stephenson

- Winebrenner shared that he received an email from Jeff Brame saying he would like to talk about making some of the non-encrypted talk groups encrypted looking ahead to the World Cup. There was a small discussion, and it was decided that this would be added to the next meeting agenda.

▪ Clarification on Access to MARRS Encrypted Talk Groups – Eric Winebrenner

- MARC received an email from Chief Skinrod asking about public works entities within cities being able to have access to MARRS encrypted talk groups with FIFA coming. Platte County, Independence, Miami County and Cass County all shared that none of their public works' entities have access to their encrypted talk groups. It was shared that a policy had been set up which stated, "only law enforcement, fire and EMS could have access to the talk groups, and it would not be something that general non-background cleared individuals could have access to".

Per Avery, this rolls into the previous encryption topic and being able to maintain unencrypted talk groups across the dispatch centers with footprints of the cities for the different public works to be able to be utilized to develop good comm II plans. It was noted that it was hard to believe that cities would have purchased encrypted radios for their Public Works departments due to the cost.

Beauchamp added that if this was about FIFA, maybe it needed to be its own discussion and not utilize regular operations. Winebrenner asked Mark Whelan, who is on the FIFA communications committee to speak to whether this had come up in their FIFA meetings. Whelan said not so far. He did note that their focus so far has been on the public safety aspect, but they had a discussion regarding how they would manage the large number of buses coming into town and the need to have some kind of radio communication. He believes this is on their radar, but they have not gotten down to it yet.

This will be added to the Management Council's agenda.

▪ Open Discussion

- Stephenson said that he wanted a check of this group's distribution list to see if Brandon Williams, Kansas City Fire Department was on it. Nikki Thomas shared that he was on this listing, but MARC staff would double check this since when a system update is performed, it appears to cause issues.

Stephenson and Williams went to a meeting with the Fire Marshall of South Platte. This Fire Marshall is the committee chair of a fire committee that is writing national fire code. One item is the fire code that has a mandate that all new buildings must have some level of coverage inside or they are required to have EDX. He said he was asking this group for their input. Because what the fire committee writes could possibly be written to cover everyone globally.

Stephenson has done some research but believes it would be good for this group to provide some technical recommendations to the Fire Marshall committee.

Typically, if a DBA is being put inside a building, they have to get permission from the license holder to install it. So, KCPD has put together a retransmission agreement form (he will share a copy of this with Winebrenner) that they will be using before they say a building is good. The most important thing besides this is that the more DBAs that are added have a potential for raising the noise which impacts everyone. There is a safer building coalition which is all over the noise floor because of all the complaints. They are calling this drone noise.

He is asking this group if they would be willing to provide some recommendations. Dean Hart said that they had several ordinances with which they had assisted. He will forward copies of these to Stephenson along with contact information for the person that was over the Miami radio shop and is now in the DBA business for the Miami and South Florida area.

Per Stephenson, the important thing is to have a way to manage these, which includes possibly having required annual inspections that also includes updating their paperwork to make sure businesses' contact information is up to date. Hart said that Florida's radio shops have full-time staff positions that are funded by the permit fees which approve building drawings and designs before they can be permitted/implemented, and they also go out and do testing before the building can receive occupancy permits. The downside of this is it is not a full-time position. So, these employees also support the radio shop in other duties. There continued to be discussion.

This will be added to the Management Council's agenda.

- Chris Maiers shared that CISA had put out a cybersecurity advisory last month on "fast flux." He outlined fast flux and put the advisory in the chat. He said this is a good read and something to share with your providers. He noted that Domain Name System (DNS) is one of the main items that needs to be protected against as far as systems go. The big thing with fast flux is that it is a technique used to hide the locations of malicious servers by rapidly changing Domain Name System (DNS) records. These threats could get access between your systems and hide there. This is something that you should involve your internet service provider or anyone that would work on this to make sure these systems are working the way you need them to. Your ISP or service provider can do certain things to try to mitigate this threat.
- Roger Strobe proposed that ISSI rework or additions for the World Cup be added to the Management Council's next meeting agenda. Winebrenner shared that this should go through the technical side first and then, go through the committees. He asked Strobe to contact Jeff Brame.

Next meeting

- August 13, 2025

The meeting was adjourned.