



MARRS Technical & Users Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

May 13, 2026

CO-CHAIRS

Jeff Brame and Darrell Banner (Technical)

Chief Chris Skinrood and Lt. David Ross (Users)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- Eric Houston opened the meeting. Eric Winebrenner performed a roll call.

2. Approval of February 11, 2026 Meeting Summary

- [Eric Houston moved to approve the January 28th, 2026, meeting summary. Zachary Cobb seconded this. Motion was approved with no opposition.](#)

3. Users Committee

- **MARRS Project Update – TUSA Consulting**
 - Tusa Consulting has visited almost every site, with only a few PSAPs remaining. The team is cataloging all equipment in the region and preparing the bidding process for equipment replacement.
 - Eric Winebrenner stated that agencies have requested cost information to assist with budgeting, so we have requested TUSA Consulting return this information in June.
 - Negotiation meetings with TUSA Consulting and Motorola are scheduled for the week of June 8th, involving special projects and sales teams, and based on priorities set in recent meetings with regional stakeholders.

4. Technical Committee

- **FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City Update**
 - The communications plan for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City is being finalized, with recent meetings involving regional COMCs and the accommodation of late requests, including those from the FBI.

- Steve reported there are four perspective COMCs that could be trainees during the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City event and talked through his current understanding of the approvals process for new COMCs, which included packets being vetted by the interop committee, then sent to the users committee, and finally to the MARRS Management Council for approval.
- The four perspectives COMCs discussed were Scott Stephenson (KCPD), Brandon Williams (KCFD), Jon Harris (Johnson County Consolidated FPD 1), and Ted Fedor (Shawnee Fire Department). Nikki will look for their packets. Steve noted there will also be outreach to David Tucker from Lee's Summit Fire to gauge interest.
- Steve Hoskins motioned for tentative approval from this committee for the four applicants so they can serve during the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City, with final approval to follow. Zach Cobb second. The motion passed without opposition.
 - Steve reported the possibility of including Eric Cook from Highway Patrol Troop A as a COMC, noting that while not a MARRS agency, his technical expertise is valuable. Skinrood stated they are not a COMC. The committee named other COMC's that are not a MARRS agency. The committee agreed to allow him to apply, with final approval pending application review.
 - Doug Christianson and others inquired about programming KC event talkgroups, their encryption status, and whether all agencies need to request MOSWIN IDs. Roger Strobe and Matt Nutt clarified that talkgroups are selectable for encryption based on assignment, and programming requirements depend on agency needs.
 - Matt reported that agencies can use InterWACN and roaming features without needing a MOSWIN radio ID unless scanning is required, but paperwork and programming must be coordinated with MOSWIN administrators. See email from Nikki for the email address for MOSWIN.
 - Doug inquired about the ability to test talkgroups, and Roger confirmed that most are live but currently set to encrypted due to recent exercises.
- **Request for Hospital Common Talk Group**
 - Worth was not present.
 - Rick Gisof shared a brief overview of his knowledge of this which was that MARCER requested to add a hospital common talk group, and they want to use it like a PSDSP channel. The committee discussed a hospital's eligibility by reviewing historical context, policy implications, and technical feasibility and noted previous denials to hospitals and others were made due to their status as private, non-public safety entities and concerns about system capacity and policy consistency.

- Skinrood noted the hospitals talking back and forth is different than ambulances in terms of public safety-first response as that is the ambulance's core function.
- Darrell Banner shared that he located an existing talk group named 'Hospital All' created in September 2025.
- Winebrenner advised the Management Council would need to verify if they are currently paying.
- Skinrood stated there are enough questions and variables that he will make a recommendation to the Management Council to form a committee to review this, so if it is done, that it is done carefully and correctly.
- The remaining questions are for Worth.
- [Zach Cobb made a motion to table the discussion and to address the issue after hearing from Worth and after the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City. Larry Tarrant second. The motion passed without opposition.](#)
- **MARRS Radio Specifications and Smart Connect Requirements**
 - The committee discussed whether to update MARRS radio specifications to include features like Smart Connect, LTE, OTAR, and OTAP.
 - Winebrenner provided the current radio requirements, which include P25 Phase 2, multi-key, AES, and OTAR, noting that these were established in 2016 and may be outdated given technological advancements.
 - Doug and others noted issues about mandating features like Smart Connect, which is Motorola-specific, and may force agencies to purchase higher-tier radios, potentially increasing costs. The committee discussed their knowledge of Smart Connect and did not view it as a requirement. Eric Winebrenner asked what are the current common core features compared to the existing list last updated in 2016.
- [Chris Skinrood motioned to present the issue to the Management Council and consider forming a committee to re-evaluate and update public safety radio requirements and their capabilities, focusing on interoperability and future purchasing. Zach Cobb second. The motion passed without opposition.](#)
- **Long-Term Use of Regional Common Channels**
 - Skinrood reported there is an agency that has been reserving a regional common channel for extended periods by requesting short-term extensions, noting the committee should discuss.
 - Mike Daniels clarified it is his agency reserving the channel and that it is for surveillance throughout the region on individual targets. Initially, a regional channel was requested because they have Federal partners. They are following the target and keeping it open. Jim Lencioni informed the committee that there are other Federal partners using our talkgroups currently. Steve shared that COMC's have extended the regional channel

for Mike's reservation since March 9th and informed the committee it was not a problem, they were simply making certain the MARRS Management Council was aware of this pattern of usage. There was a question from the group if it would be better for OPPD to have a talkgroup assigned? Mike will directly discuss with Rick and Worth to get a talk group assigned. Skinrood advised Mike to let the committee know if it does not work out/Johnson County does not have an option.

- **Vendor Programming Without MOU and Enforcement**

- Doug reported there are vendors programming agency talkgroups into radios without proper MOUs and described a recent incident where a fire agency appeared on talkgroups not authorized in their MOU. Skinrood noted it would be good to put language together to send out to vendors emphasizing the need to have proper documentation in place to program radios. Winebrenner advised that he would draft a letter for committee leadership review.

5. System Owners Update

- Cass County – Marie Beauchamp – No Updates
- Excelsior Springs – Larry Tarrant – No Updates
- Independence – Doug Christianson – Room full of equipment and awaiting installation. Our fiber connection from our prime site is working phenomenally well.
- Johnson County, KS – Worth Hunsinger – Worth was not present. Rick Gisof updated that a group of EMS dispatchers in the region recently met with MARCER and discussed the PSDSP channel from the PSAPs being used for messaging across the metro for mutual aid resources and they would follow the regional MCI level plan. Rick reported after FIFA World Cup 2026™ Kansas City, they would want to look at creating an additional PSDSP channel so there would be Law Enforcement specific and a Fire and EMS specific.
- Johnson County, MO – Steve Ewing – No Updates
- Kansas City Missouri – Scott Stephenson – All of those on zone four please see email that several servers need updates provided by Motorola. We will be assisting The FCC with putting in their sensors around Arrowhead. Currently we plan to deploy our trailer on game days to assist.
- Lee's Summit – Michael Tranbarger – Not present
- Platte County – Tony Avery – No updates
- Wyandotte County – Darrell Banner – No updates
- Riverside – Chris Skinrood – No updates

6. Closed Session Procedures

Eric Winebrenner advised the addition of a Closed Session agenda item for future meetings. Should there be a need to discuss records that identify the configuration of components, operation of the computer, computer system, computer network, or telecommunications network of a public governmental body having to do with the operation and configuration of a radio system, we will move it into a closed session agenda item ensuring compliance with legal and security requirements. The committee will vote to enter closed session as required, with only assigned members participating.

7. Adjournment

- *Zach Cobb motioned to adjourn. Steve Ewing second. The motion passed without opposition.*
- The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT/UPCOMING MEETING(S)

August 12, 2026 – Virtual Only

December 9, 2026