



## **MABAS Communications Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 15, 2005**

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. at the DuComm Communications Center. Present were committee members Paul Maplethorpe, Round Lake; Steve Rauter, Lisle-Woodridge; Gregg Riddle, IFCA; Dennis Higgins, Livingston County; John Lozar, DuComm; Bob Mierop, Bolingbrook; Andy Sneed & Mitch Viren, Winnebago County.

#### **II. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Lozar questioned EMnet's two-way capability. D/C Rauter discussed the two-way satellite operation. Most stations will use the satellite for the downlink and the internet for the return link. Chief Maplethorpe proposed that MABAS dispatch centers have satellite uplink capabilities.

Mr. Riddle pointed out a typographical error in the last bullet point on page 1. The word toe should be to.

**Mr. Riddle moved to approve the July 18, 2005 meeting minutes as corrected. Second by D/C Rauter. All AYES; motion carried.**

#### **III. IAFC Top Priority**

D/C Rauter distributed a draft of his comments concerning the IAFC's Top Priority report. Discussions were held and various points identified:

- Commercial partnerships should not be a component of this type of document.
- Discussed intra-disciplinary versus inter-disciplinary interoperability.
- The report should clearly define and identify strategic versus tactical communications.
- The report needs to strike a balance that can be used by all fire departments.

D/C Rauter was thanked for his efforts. Chief Maplethorpe will draft a cover letter for signatures by the Presidents of MABAS and IFCA. Drafts of the cover letter and final report will be distributed to the committee for review.

#### **IV. Recommended Practice - Training**

No Report

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **A. MERCI Base Station Project**

Chief Maplethorpe reported on behalf of Chief Dato that purchase orders have been issued for the radios and consoles. D/C Rauter is coordinating the CTCSS tones for IDPH.

##### **B. VHF Interoperability Radios**

Chief Maplethorpe reported for Chief Dato that purchase orders have been issued. Staff from the Wauconda Fire Department have been calling many Illinois fire departments to confirm shipping information. The first radios should be shipping soon.

##### **C. Rock Island County**

No report.

##### **D. Gibson Area Ambulance**

Mr. Higgins reported that no activity has been heard on the input frequency proposed by IMSA (155.985 MHz). Chief Maplethorpe will contact IMSA.

##### **E. Southwest Central Dispatch**

No report, although a brief discussion was held concerning the need for an official FCC rule interpretation.

##### **F. EMnet/LEADS**

The EMnet project seems to be moving forward, slowly. Many gray areas of the project need to be identified and resolved.

#### **VI. New Business**

D/C Rauter reported that representatives of Thales will be at the September meeting to demonstrate multi-band portable radio. Please forward frequencies for the demonstration to D/C Rauter for advanced programming.

## VII. Information for the Good of the Committee

D/C Rauter reported on a stuck transmitter on IFERN caused interference for many hours recently. The problem transmitter was ultimately tracked by the FCC to a transmitter at the Itasca Public Works building.

D/C Rauter reported on updates to the [www.MABASRADIO.org](http://www.MABASRADIO.org) website.

Mr. Riddle requested a listing of actual Communications Committee members.

B/C Mierop questioned the appropriateness of using IFERN for non-MABAS mutual aid and auto-aid. The consensus of the committee members present was that this is an appropriate use of IFERN if the mutual aid departments do not share a common dispatch frequency.

## VIII. Adjournment

**D/C Rauter moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by B/C Mierop. All AYES; the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.**

The next meeting for the MABAS Communications Committee is scheduled for **Monday, September 19, 2005** at 1000 hours. **The location of the meeting will be at the DuComm Communications Center in Glendale Heights.** Please mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Maplethorpe  
Co-Chair