



Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2007

Members Present: Paul Maplethorpe, Round Lake; Steve Rauter, WESCOM; Bob Mierop, Bolingbrook; Dennis Higgins, Livingston County; Larry Matkaitis, OSFM
Guests Present:

Agenda Item:	Discussion/Decision:	Follow-up/Responsibility:
Call to Order	Co-Chair Paul Maplethorpe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1000 hours at Lisle-Woodridge Station 1.	
Approve Minutes	Minutes from the February meeting were distributed at the meeting. No one present at the March meeting was in attendance at the February meeting. Approval of the minutes was tabled until April.	
2007 MABAS Conference	<p>A discussion ensued concerning the 2007 MABAS conferences. Mr. Rauter related that he felt the conferences provided mixed results. He continued that the conference should have been a positive for new attendees; however it was less beneficial for repeat attendees.</p> <p>Mr. Rauter felt the lack of participation by the Communications Committee was a negative. He feels that Comms needs to reach out to Terry Lipinski and Jeff Clausen early next year to be included in the conference.</p> <p>During the Dispatchers Conference, Jay indicated that a separate Telecommunicators Committee could be established. The Communications Committee feels that this notion should be explored further, since telecommunicators and dispatch centers have been represented on the Communications Committee since the beginning.</p> <p>A proposal to establish an anonymous web based forum for discussing MABAS issues was presented during the MABAS Dispatch Conference. The Communications Committee feels that this would be a destructive forum and not appropriate.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that the MABAS Executive Board approved the revised MABAS Alert Test Schedule and Advocacy Statement #12 – Interdivisional Box Alarms at the meeting on February 28th.</p> <p>Mr. Matkaitis related that MABAS President Reardon praised the MABAS Communications Committee during the Conference.</p>	

<p>Public Safety Broadband Trust</p>	<p>Information from the International Association of Fire Chiefs concerning a proposed trust to manage 30 MHz of the 700 MHz band that could be used for a nationwide broadband network.</p> <p>Mr. Rauter expressed concern over sales of service on the public safety network to commercial users, pricing issues and skepticism that a true nationwide network is even possible. He also likened the IAFC's PSBT position to the prior Nextel debacle.</p> <p>Mr. Matkaitis related that he feels Congress will support the concept by putting the spectrum into a nationwide trust.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that he and Chief Dato discussed the proposal and both agree that securing 30 MHz of the 700 MHz band for public safety use is necessary; but both are not in favor of a nationwide monopoly.</p> <p>Mr. Matkaitis moved to support the acquisition of 30 MHz of the 700 MHz spectrum for public safety use without developing a nationwide monopoly. Second by Mr. Rauter. All AYES; motion carried.</p>	
<p>Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grants</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that Chief Dato, Tom Mefferd, Don Kerroff, ISP Col. Allen and a professional grant writer are in Los Angeles attending meetings about a proposed \$1.6 Billion grant program through the US Department of Commerce and Department of Homeland Security.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe also reported on a prototype mesh based interoperability solution that will be beta tested for ITTF and OSFM at Round Lake and Naperville. More information to follow.</p>	
<p>Cook County UASI</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that Terry Lipinski, Jeff Clausen and me would be representing MABAS on the Cook County UASI communications interoperability subcommittee. Gregg Riddle is also on the committee. The committee is currently evaluating a consultants plan for developing a county-wide all discipline 700/800 trunking system tied to the Cook County Sheriff's current system.</p>	<p>Chief Dato – Prepare Resolution</p>
<p>OLD BUSINESS: MERCY Base Stations</p>	<p>Mr. Rauter reported that he is working with IDPH to begin enforcing EMS interoperability rules on the MERCY and telemetry frequencies.</p>	
<p>VHF Interoperability</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported for Chief Dato that retired sheriff Dave Owens will be working with both ILEAS and ITTF to develop the communications interoperability plan for ITTF.</p>	
<p>Rock Island County</p>	<p>No report.</p>	
<p>Southwest Central</p>	<p>No report.</p>	

EMnet	Chief Maplethorpe reported that EMnet equipment installations for fire departments identified as Priority 1 should begin on or about March 19 th . A discussion over the use of the EMnet system for the IL fire service ensued. It was agreed that the Committee should invite Alan Choutka from DuPage OEM to the April meeting to facilitate a brainstorming session concerning potential uses for the EMnet system.	Chief Maplethorpe to invite Alan Choutka to the April meeting.
MABAS Dispatch Yahoo Group	Mr. Rauter reported that recent MABAS Dispatchers Conference sparked additional interest in the MABAS Dispatch Yahoo Group. Moderators have been filtering some content as well as potential members.	
Statewide Radio License	No report.	
Carbondale Area	No report.	
Statewide Interop Executive Committee	No report.	
Starcom21	Chief Maplethorpe reported that Motorola is attempting to complete acceptance testing by May 2007.	
BLUE Fireground	No report.	
New Business: Meeting Dates	Chief Maplethorpe reported that Chief Bouma would no longer be able to participate in the MABAS Communications Committee meetings due to a conflict on the third Monday. An alternate day was discussed.	
Information for the Good of the Committee IR Camera Bid	Chief Mierop moved to change the monthly MABAS Communications Committee meetings to the fourth Monday of each month at 1000 hours. Second by Mr. Rauter. All AYES; motion carried.	
Aurora/Naperville Trunking System	Mr. Matkaitis reported that OSFM and CMS continue to evaluate Thermal Imaging Cameras for both fire and law enforcement use. He is predicting that a state bid contract should be approved by the end of April.	
Ma-com Portable	Mr. Rauter reported that he will be testing a Ma-com portable that is programmed to work on EDACS, Starcom21 and P25 protocols.	
Galesburg Training	Chief Maplethorpe reported that he will be presenting the MABAS New Division operations course at Galesburg's fire school on August 25 th .	

Wisconsin MABAS	The planned meeting between the MABAS Communications Committee and WI MABAS has experienced scheduling difficulties.	
Adjournment	Mr. Matkaitis moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Rauter. All AYES; the meeting adjourned at 1145 hours.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at Lisle-Woodridge Station 1 beginning at 1000 hours. Minutes taken by Paul Maplethorpe.	