

# **Vermont Communications (VCOMM)**

Cyprian Learning Center, Waterbury, VT

July 11, 2006

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Paul Duquette, Heather Gibbs, Jim Cronan, Roger Marcoux, Doug Johnson, Jake Elovirta, Ron Kumetz, Terry LaValley, Peter Coffey, Jim Leene, Charlie Kremer, Lucie Garand, Paco Aumand, Tom Cheney, Phil Colby, Barb Farr, Peter Otten, Tom Murray, Steve Locke, Amy Estey, Doug Lawrence, Trevor Lashua, Gene Perkins, Rob Schell

**Not present:** Doug Brent, Jim Colgan, Jim Finger, Walt Goodell, Dan Manz, Bill McManis

**Start:** 1009 hrs

### **Introductions and opening comments – Chief Duquette**

- Around the room introductions
- Meeting called to discuss HSU funding and what has been happening with the project

### **HSU grant process review – Chief Duquette**

- In the past cart before the horse, this year had to submit Investment Justifications (budget) detailing how much money needed and for what
- Communications plan in the top 25% of all requests nationwide
  - Did not score higher due to geographic-based analysis (e.g. population, location, etc.) – this was out of our control
- DHS requirement to create Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)
  - Had to remove all references to “future” plans and Vermont’s TICP was resubmitted June 9, 2006
- No longer four local Grant Advisory committees and one statewide Grants Advisory Committee – there is now one Statewide Local Grants Review Committee to review requests for HS funds

### **VCOMM updates – Chief Duquette**

#### **Executive Order:**

- This document has been signed by the Governor and members have received appointments
- Original goal was for VCOMM to be an independent board like the E-911 board, however, the time and politics to reach this goal are too great, have grant guidelines to meet
  - In interim, HSU will act as the fiscal agent to VCOMM
- Goal still to become an independent board, this will be tasked to the Institutional Committee

#### **Macro:**

- Never could have achieved 97% coverage with Macro's plan, only could have reached 92% and this would require over 100 towers
- Went to plan B, 50 million dollar plan to use existing towers and build some new
- Should be receiving RFP from Macro soon on new design
  - RFP was 80% - 90% completed at time of dispute, should be completed and released soon

### **PowerPoint Presentation**

**Break:** 1100 – 1112 hrs

### **Frequency Coordinator:**

- Received three proposals
- Need to identify funding before creating contract

### **Project Manager:**

- Will create RFP for this position once Frequency Coordinator is in place, will be a contract position
- Manager could become overwhelmed, so will also be looking for Administrative Support position

### **Future of VCOMM:**

- Need local/stakeholder buy-in
- If no buy-in, may have to return money for the project

**Lunch:** 1150 - 1217 hrs

### **VCOMM Board duties:**

- In future, Board will keep VCOMM abreast of new developments
- Members need to spread the word to their agencies
- Will host a series of outreach meetings in the near future, members will be asked to attend if the meeting is in their area

### **Sub-Committees:**

- Need people to work with the legislature
- Tom Cheney and Jim Cronan need to work on policy with Doug Johnson as Chair of the Operational Committee
- VLCT will be a key player, can help either the Operational or Institutional Committees
- Anyone can volunteer to be on a sub-committee

### **Closing Comments – Chief Duquette**

**End:** 1238 hrs