



**911 Coordinating Council  
Walter Way, Chair**

Teleconference Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2013

Chair Way scheduled a teleconference meeting of the 911 Coordinating Council for 3:00PM on March 13, 2013 for the purpose of discussing a modification to the Council's 911 State Grant Fund award priorities for the Spring of 2013.

Participating in the teleconference meeting were: Chris Kelly, Phill Ryan, Mike Napolitano, Jimmy Reed, Michele Abbott, Kim Pennington, Jimmy Todd, Rebecca Rosenthal, Dick Heitschmidt, Jay Coverdale, Col. Chris Stratmann, Melissa Wangemann and Walt Way.

Chair Way had sent the following information to all Council members in advance of the teleconference:

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*At our February 8<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Council meeting, one of our discussion topics was the 911 State Grant Award application process which Mike Napolitano has been gracious enough to work upon with Melissa Wangemann. Mike and Melissa have developed a grant application package that includes the various comments provided by Council members. Before they finalize the grant application, we thought it advisable to have a policy discussion with the Council members.*

*The policy question concerns what we should fund with grant monies during the initial grant cycle of May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We had previously discussed using grant funds in 2013 to fund the five areas set out in our 911 State Grant Fund Award Philosophy and Criteria policy (attached) that was adopted by the Council last September. As you know, the Council's policy is to encourage regionalization and cost-sharing projects for grant funding, and to limit grant fund awards to individual PSAPs. At the February 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, I mentioned that a group of counties in Southwest Kansas were interested in forming a regional 911 partnership and they invited Council members to attend an organizational meeting in Ulysses, Kansas on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Jay Coverdale, Richard Vogt, Ivan Weichert and myself attended that meeting. There were representatives of eighteen (18) counties present and they were interested in working together for a regional 911 system and they agreed to continue working toward that goal and a common grant application.*

*What became obvious to us as we listened to the representatives of those eighteen counties was that they will need to conduct more study of their equipment, local network resources, and GIS database enhancement needs before they can make grant requests for specific equipment, network services and GIS database services. What they agreed was needed at the end of their meeting was consultant services that can assist them in building a technical assessment of their current 911 resources and help them to plan for what is needed to transition in a collaborative manner to a NG911 capability. We also*

*heard from this group is that they want assistance from the “state”, meaning the Council, to provide them with guidance and expertise in this endeavor. They were also positive about our decision to employ a 911 Coordinator to assist PSAPs with 911 related questions and planning.*

*I believe the same situation will exist for other regions of the state that wish to pursue a regional NG911 system. Considering what we learned at this meeting, I believe we may better serve Kansas PSAPs by limiting the scope of grants this year to consulting and planning grants to regional groups so that they may collaboratively identify their specific needs and requirements for transitioning their 911 systems to NG911 capable systems in the future. Considering that NG911 standards are not yet final for GIS databases and other essential components of a NG911 system, it may be beneficial to wait a little longer before acting on grant requests for equipment and network services.*

***The question I want to present to the Council at the March 13<sup>th</sup> conference call is whether the Council is open to the concept of limiting 911 State Grant Fund awards during the May 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 7<sup>th</sup> time period to consulting and planning activities by regional groups of PSAPs, and to urgent 911 equipment requests necessary to preserve E911 operations in PSAPs. We could establish a second grant award cycle later this year to the receive grant requests for specific 911 premise equipment, network services and other allowable uses that may be recommended in the planning efforts conducted with consultants.***

*If the Council is agreeable with that limited scope for the grant awards this Spring, we will ask Mike and - Melissa to modify the grant application package accordingly.*

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Chair Way reviewed the above information with the teleconference participants and then asked for discussion on the question presented. He also advised that eighteen counties had been invited to the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Ulysses and that thirteen had actually attended that meeting.

Phill Ryan expressed a concern that unless a statewide vision and perspective is taken on implementing ESInets and NG911 services, we may well experience a number of 911 systems that do not interface well plus will cause increased complexity and cost when implementing border control and interface functions and with having multiple GIS databases and core NG911 services across multiple ESInets. Phill recommended tying the state NG911 plan to regional NG911 plans and that advance planning by PSAPs and regions is essential. Mike Napolitano agreed with the need for a statewide vision and recommended usage of vendor neutral consultants to assist in developing NG911 plans by regions and the Council. Jay Coverdale concurred that consulting and planning assistance to PSAPs is essential before attempting to specify equipment and network designs. Jay also advised that we learn from the pilot project findings and collaborative efforts and that we apply those lessons learned statewide as NG911 systems are implemented. Michele Abbott advised that the draft of the pending grant application package had been given to some vendors by unknown persons and that vendors were asking questions about what would be funded by the Council. Michele and other members had concerns that the premature release of the grant application may create expectations of funding that may not be approved by the Council. Other Council members expressed support for limiting 911 State Grant funds

to planning and consulting activities during the upcoming grant cycle as well as to usage for urgent 911 equipment requests.

Kim Pennington made the following motion: "I move to limit 911 State Grant Fund awards during the May 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 7<sup>th</sup> time period to NG911 consulting and planning activities by regional groups and PSAPs, and to urgent 911 equipment requests necessary to preserve E911 operations in PSAPs". The motion was seconded by Michele Abbott, and following some discussion, a roll call vote was held on the motion. The following members voted in favor of the motion: Chris Kelly, Phill Ryan, Mike Napolitano, Jimmy Reed, Michele Abbott, Kim Pennington, Jimmy Todd, Dick Heitschmidt, Jay Coverdale, Col. Stratmann, and Walt Way. Rebecca Rosenthal's connection to the conference call had been disconnected prior to the voting and she was informed later of the results. The Motion carried and Mike Napolitano and Melissa Wangemann were asked to modify the grant application package to reflect the modified grant award policy.

No other topics of discussion were raised and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30PM.

Minutes prepared by Walt Way