

NWA EmComm Group Zoom Meeting

October. 26, 2020

2000 Hours

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Paul Blomgren

Bill Dean

Gregg Doty

John Henley Jr.

Mark Maddox

John Henley called the meeting to order at 2000 hours.

Gregg Doty announced that, after careful consideration, Harold Sobotka had requested to rejoin the NWA EmComm Group Board as secretary. Sobotka's request was met with unanimous approval.

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting was unanimous. It was noted by some there was a glitch on the Web site preventing some from accessing the minutes of previous meetings. Doty said he was aware of the glitch and would be employing a fix.

**Announcements/Old Business**

Doty reported Daryl Wagoner approached him on behalf of Sue Wagoner with a request to be considered for a (voluntary) position within NWA EmComm Group to raise funds for the group. Sue Wagoner has her tech license, but is not interested in being a member of a radio club, hence her absence from Benton County Radio Operator's (BCRO) club events. However, Doty noted, Daryl Wagoner said she has done fundraising work in the past. She does not do this for BCRO. Doty proposed the Board interview her to determine whether she would be a good fit for NWA EmComm Group. The board agreed it couldn't hurt to, at least, interview her. In fact, it may prove beneficial. Doty said he would arrange an interview via Jitsi.

Paul Blomgren reported someone from BCRO approached him and asked him to run for president. Blomgren said he was only interested in the endeavor to make sure BCRO remains viable, namely because of their repeaters. Doty concurred this was in NWA EmComm Group's best interest because of the

repeater situation. Mark Maddox noted that whatever assistance Blomgren needs, should he be elected president of BCRO, Maddox was ready to give. The rest of the board concurred. John Henley, who is currently not a member of BCRO requested Doty send him an application for membership so he too could provide whatever support Blomgren may need.

Maddox noted it would not only be good to get BCRO members involved in NWA EmComm Group events - notably the Ham In The Park events - but it would also behoove us to get members of other clubs involved, as well.

Henley and Bill Dean both noted how the Covid-19 epidemic had complicated these efforts because NWA EmComm Group could not send a representative/ambassador to the other groups to announce our events and field any questions others may have because all of the area amateur radio club meetings are virtual, for the time being.

Henley noted the inter-club luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 31. Henley, Dean and Blomgren would be at the event and Blomgren would make an announcement about NWA EmComm Group.

Doty reported business cards have been ordered. Some members still need to get money to Doty for their business cards. Doty expected the business cards to be ready soon.

Henley sent out a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis form to everyone and asked if fellow members had reviewed it. Blomgren noted it was better than nothing. Henley said the SWOT was only meant to start a conversation about how we can analyze our performance in HITP (Ham In The Park) events. It does not make sense to continue with these events if we do not measure our performance and work to improve on our deficiencies, Henley noted.

Doty stated we need an agenda for the HITP events, worksheets that denote start times, call assignments, etc. Why would anyone go all the way to Metfield Pavilion in Bella Vista to get an assignment that instructed them to then go to the Benton County Sheriff's Office? We need a way of communicating with participants prior to the event.

Henley asked Blomgren if he could put informational sheets together for the November HITP. Blomgren said he already had this information and had sent it to Doty to be posted on the NWA EmComm Web site. Doty said he did not receive such correspondence from Blomgren. No one was sure where the communication breakdown occurred but resolved to make sure all information was posted going forward. Doty did point out that Maddox did an outstanding job running the Net Control Station from Metfield Pavilion in Bella Vista. All board members concurred. Henley did admit to having the wrong 70cm

frequency dialed in on the main radio (Kenwood D710a) at the Benton County Emergency Operations Center.

Also discussed and agreed upon was the fact that we need more participants at these events, although, Henley noted, perhaps it was a good thing we had limited involvement while we work to hone our skills. Not that any of us want to discourage participation, but we also want to appear professional and proficient when we coordinate these events. Doty agreed and reminded everyone we had all recently discussed an organization with bad structure and how bad things could get if it was allowed to fester. Per Henley's mishap with the radio at BC EOC, Blomgren noted that is why we want the same people working the same stations from month-to-month, so they can become proficient and knowledgeable on the available equipment.

## **New Business**

It was confirmed the November HITP was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28. Maddox was trying to book a pavilion at Prairie Creek for the event. Blomgren said we should cancel the December HITP because it was the day after Christmas. Talk then turned to the January HITP and whether it should be scheduled to coincide with the Winter Field Day. Currently, the NWA EmComm Group HITP events are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month. Winter Field Day is scheduled for January 30 and 31, the fifth Saturday and Sunday.

Blomgren motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dean seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.