

**MINUTES  
NWA EM COMM VIDEO CONFERENCE ON JITSI  
January 11, 2021**

**Board members taking part were:**

**Bill Dean  
Paul Blomgren  
Gregg Doty  
John Henley  
Mark Maddox  
Harold Sobotka**

**Bill opened the meeting at 7 PM.**

**Group discussion was held concerning ARES and Arkansas Section of ARES in relation to NWA EM COMM group and the need for an emergency operations plan.**

**The minutes from the previous meeting of December 28, 2020 were approved by vote of the group.**

**The group decided to continue with the same frequency as used previously for the Ham In The Park activities.**

**Gregg advised that in the future he will be doing the treasures job and with leave operation activity to Paul.**

**There was group discussion concerning limiting the length of EM COMM board meetings to one hour. There were no changes made.**

**Paul advised that he and Mark would work on the EOC Action Plan.**

**Bill discussed opening the board meeting to others in addition to board members.**

**John stated that the board meetings are not public, and that the member meetings are open to the public.**

**The Group discussed what the coming year will look like for NWA EM COMM group. Split email was discussed with no changes made. Weather nets was discussed, and Paul advised that he will continue to do those nets when conditions warrant. John advised he is continuing to work on the 501c3 application. The group discussed possible ARRL affiliation. Gregg said that EM COMM group is not eligible for ARRL affiliation. Also mentioned was possible ARES affiliation. The group discussed the idea of purchase and operation of portable repeater equipment, and the possible purchase of hand held radios.**

**The group discussed possibly expanding the Ham In The Park locations, i.e. going to neighboring towns. John suggested that Gravette be first when neighboring towns are selected as sights for Ham In The Park events.**

**Gregg gave the treasurers report indicating a bank balance of \$155.12. There was no activity in the bank account for the past month of December 2020.**

**Paul discussed having emergency sight locations in the four area counties. John discussed traveling the outlying areas and experimenting with radio reception back to the BCRO repeater system. John will continue with that activity and will advise select other members of the date/time so they may assist with the reception experiments.**

**The next meeting will be January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted by  
Harold Sobotka, secretary**