



Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

Vice President Field Services
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

January 15, 2011

RECORD OF DECISIONS – VPFS COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE 13 JANUARY, 2011

Chair	VO1DTM	Doug Mercer	Vice-President Field Services
Participants:	VE6CIA VE4JS VE3AJB VE5TRF	Garry Jacobs Jan Schippers Allan Boyd Barry Mackenzie	SM Alberta SM Manitoba SM Ontario SM Saskatchewan
Regrets:	VA3TSA VO1VZ	Merv Halvorsen Charles Marsh	Manager, NARED SM Newfoundland Labrador
Advisors Present:	VA7HU VE9FK VE6AFO VA3QT VA3DM	Hew Lines Dave Drinnan Ken Oelke Ian Snow Doug Mein	NTS Coordinator National Training Coordinator National Emergency Coordinator Special Advisor Special Advisor
In Attendance:	VA3PRW VE6AER VA3NDJ VE3ETZ	Peter Wetton Tony Radcliffe Nelson Jenking James King	Secretariat Working group member Working group member Secretariat

1. Introductions. The chair called the meeting to order at 1933 hrs EST, and introduced Doug Mein, VA3DM who has been appointed as a Special Advisor to VPFS. It is anticipated that Doug's management experience with Transport Canada will be particularly valuable when discussions turn to Field Service relations with Industry Canada and Public Safety Canada.

2. Confirmation of Agenda. Ian VA3QT, acting Secretary, added a new Item 3: Confirmation of the Record of Decisions from the December Teleconference. Under "Any Other Business" the chair added "Canadian Field Service Organization, Inc."

3. Approval of Previous Minutes. It was moved by Garry VE6CIA, seconded by Hew VA7HU, that the Record of Decisions of the VPFS/Section Manager Teleconference held 9 December, 2010 (inaugural VPFS Council meeting) be approved as published.

Decision: Carried

4. Standing Reports:

a) Alberta. Garry, VE6CIA reported that there was a very active group in Red Deer that has participated in CANSETs, GLOBALSETs, and ad hoc local SETs. It also participates in an annual MS Bike Tour. Garry reported that the Edmonton group is also very active.

- b) Manitoba. Jan VE4JS reported that Winnipeg has a very active group with close relations with the City of Winnipeg and the provincial government. Planning is underway for the annual Red River flood, Manitoba having received an above average rainfall this year. Amongst other activities are the Manitoba Marathon (upwards of 75 operators) and dog sled races. A monthly provincial HF net is held. Both the city and the provincial governments routinely offer two seats on emergency management courses.
- c) Ontario. Al VE3AJB reported that ARES has been very active. There are 14 ARES Districts which share the same geographic boundaries as Emergency Management Ontario's 14 Sectors, facilitating communications between the DECs and the EMO Community Officers. The use of the same geographic names also reduces confusion during discussions with PEOC staff. There are 78 appointed ARES officials, a daily Ontario HF phone net, and IRLP net that takes place twice weekly (Node 9035), 35 Bulletin Stations coordinated by Brad Rodriguez, VE3RHJ, and four Official Observer stations. An ARES Ontario meeting was held 23 October, 2010 at the Toronto EOC attended by 30 DECs and ECs, along with one or two ARES members. A decision was taken to incorporate ARES Ontario to facilitate formal agreements with the two major clients: EMO and the Ontario Provincial Police. Al announced that he'd recently appointed Mike Hickey, VE3IPC, DEC Eastern Ontario (Capital and Seaway Districts) as his Special Advisor to progress the Section ARES renewal effort.
- d) Advisors. Each of the national advisors and two special advisors gave a short briefing on their area of responsibility and expectations.

OLD BUSINESS

5. SM Reflector. The chair reported that Neil King, VE3PUE, RAC reflector manager, had created a reflector for the council but was experiencing difficulties with some email servers rejecting addresses. It was recommended that if members did not have an alternative address they could create one at Gmail.com. As an added benefit Gmail offers free telephone calling service.

A discussion was held re the importance of distributing the "paperwork" as widely as possible. The chair has had preliminary discussions with the RAC webmaster and will pursue the development of an appropriate webpage. Every other means of information distribution will be pursued.

Decision: Open

6. Appointment of Secretariat. The chair introduced Peter Wetton VA3PRW and James King VE3EPZ, who have volunteered to serve in the Council's secretariat.

Decision: Item Closed

NEW BUSINESS

7. Approval in Principle, ARES Training System. Briefing Note 2, distributed as Annex B to the Agenda, described a proposed training philosophy and management system to serve as a 'strawman' and guidance for the upcoming working groups. Spirited support was given to publishing the six guiding principles as widely as possible. It was moved by Jan VE4JS, seconded by Al VE3AJB, that the proposal be adopted.

Decision: Carried

8. Appointment Training Specification Working Group Chair. A working group to develop an ARES Training Specification, the first step and document in the development of the training system, was approved at the Council's inaugural meeting. It was moved by Gerry VE6CIA, seconded by Jan VE4JS, that Al VE3AJB, Ontario Section Manager, be appointed chair.

Decision: Carried

9. Authorization of Mission/Vision Working Group. Briefing Note 3 attached to the agenda described the purpose of the proposed working group. It was moved by Al VE3AJB, seconded by Jan VE4JS, that Garry VE6CIA, Alberta Section Manager, be appointed chair of the working group.

Decision: Carried

10. Any Other Business

"Canadian Field Organization, Inc." The chair advised that, after discussions with Special Advisor Ian VA3QT and a teleconference call with RAC First Vice President Ian MacFarquhar, VE9IM (manager of the RAC insurance program), a shortfall was identified with respect to providing liability insurance for ARES members who were not RAC members nor had ready access to a RAC affiliated club. The issue for the insurance company, which is prepared to offer the desired coverage, is that there is some form of "club" supervision to perform due diligence. The issue from the ARES perspective is that there is no coverage (except a rider on an individual's personal home or renters insurance policy) to cover ARES members during participation in authorized activities such as training sessions, exercises, or while in transit in response to a callout but before registration with the municipality's volunteer registrar (following which the municipality's insurance and workman's compensation come into play). The chair advised that a proposal to create a Field Organization "club" was before the RAC Board for approval (that Board was meeting while the VPFSC was in session). Further information will follow shortly via a RAC Bulletin.

11. Adjournment. There being no further business the chair adjourned the meeting at 2050 hrs EST. The next teleconference is scheduled for February 20th, 2011 at 7:30 EST.

Submitted by:

Ian Snow, VA3QT CEC
Acting Secretary

Approved by:

Doug Mercer, VO1DTM CEC
Vice President Field Services

cc Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, President RAC