

Regional Wireless Cooperative
(RWC)
Adoption of New Governance Document
June 2018

Background

The RWC is a large public safety radio network serving the frontline needs of police, fire, first responders, and other governmental support personnel. The network operates in the 700 MHz frequency band and consists of over 80 strategically placed communication sites, providing seamless, wide area radio coverage across 11,000 square miles of the Phoenix metropolitan region.

Some of the benefits of this multi-agency radio system include wide area coverage beyond what individual agencies could achieve; seamless interoperability (the ability for diverse public safety agencies to communicate directly, in real-time, as the need requires); shared resources, such as staffing, equipment and tower sites. All funding and financial responsibilities are shared by all RWC Members based on the Member's relative size.

Formed in 2008, the RWC is a cooperative body formed under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with membership open to all local, county, state, and federal governmental and tribal entities. The RWC includes most of the cities, towns, and fire districts located within the Phoenix metropolitan region. The RWC Board of Directors consists of one executive representative from each Member. The nineteen Member Board directs the operation, maintenance, planning, design, implementation, and financing of the RWC. The City of Phoenix serves as the "Administrative Managing Member" responsible for the administration and financial management of the RWC.

Governance

The RWC's Governance Document (Governance) is identified as "Exhibit A" to the RWC IGA which was adopted and signed by all nineteen Member's governing bodies. The Governance provides written direction and guidance -- setting forth term definitions, management processes; and financial, accounting and network management of the RWC. The Governance is the administrative and managerial "rule book" used by the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and operational and technical support personnel for managing the RWC.

Updated Governance Document

In 2012, the RWC Board of Directors established a "Governance Working Group" (GWG) tasked with undertaking a full, detailed review of the Governance to ensure it was effectively meeting the needs for managing the RWC.

The GWG conducted over 80 meetings which included discussions and input with the RWC Board of Directors, fire and police chiefs, public safety committees, accounting staff, City of Phoenix Finance and Budget Departments, labor organizations, public safety and radio communications, technical and information technology subject matter experts. Also, as draft Governance documents were developed, legal staffs from every RWC Member were consulted and solicited for review and input.

Action and Next Steps

On Thursday, May 24, 2018, the RWC Board of Directors voted to approve the attached "Regional Wireless Cooperative Governance Document". The Board of Directors also directed each RWC Member to amend the RWC IGA via each Member's appropriate governing body. The amendment to the RWC IGA is required to replace the current Governance Document with the newly revised Governance Document.

Overview of Changes

As mentioned above, the GWG engaged in a very detailed and deliberate process of analysis, discussions, rewrites, and legal review. The result of the process is a much improved Governance Document. This process resulted in a significant structural reorganization of the Governance Document with modified language that clarified many sections. Since the review focused primarily on structure and clarity, few substantive changes were necessary.

A "redline" version, depicting every change to the Governance Document, would not be practical for review purposes. However, the following highlights are provided to focus on the most significant modifications:

New Recitals

- Emphasis and clarity of RWC purpose and vision

Definitions:

- Encryption Services Manager
- Encryption Services Operator
- General Government Services Entities
- Network Administrator
- Network Manager
- RWC Net Position
- Super Majority
- User Working Group
- Working Day

Member Categories:

- Associates
- Interoperability Participants
- Conditional Participants
- Network Partners

Board of Directors:

- Chair & Vice-chair clarification
- Representative vs Delegate clarification
- Voting Methodology
- Super-Majority Voting

Administrative Management:

- Administrative Manager

- Network Manager
- Encryption Services Manager
- Encryption Services Operator
- Executive Director

Advisory Committees:

- Executive Committee
- User Working Group
- Technical Working Group

Financial Management:

- Budget and Financial Planning and Reporting
- Simplify Fund Definitions
 - Operating
 - Capital
 - Reserves
- RWC Capital Equity
- Annual Audit Process

RWC Assets and Ownership:

- Clarification of Real vs Personal Property
- Clarification of Administrative Managing Member Responsibilities

Insurance:

- Clarification of Roles - Member versus Administrative Managing Member

Questions should be directed to:

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