

## Metro Skywarn Board Meeting – April 2, 2007

Called to order at 6:42pm by Dave Johnson

Attending: John Wetter, K0WDJ; Nick Elms, WX0SVR; Steve Levens, AB0YQ; Kevin Huyck, KB9WOB; Jim Richardson, WM0X; Dave Johnson, N0KBD; Jeff Goodnuff, W0KF; Doug Reed, N0NAS; Bill Hughes, N0QHP. Guests: Jordan Bugge, KC0UPL, Sherburne County Skywarn; Barry Berg, K0BSB; Paul Tommerdahl, KB0TYS; Aaron Diers, KC0WKP, Isanti County.

Secretaries report read and approved

Treasurers report read and approved with correction of -\$900 from the February meeting minutes. Current balance is \$2,021.53 with a check from NHCC for \$133.50 pending.

### Old Business:

1. Kevin – Kinkos accounts are set up
  - a. Limits cannot be set up on accounts, but they can be turned off when not needed in the off-season
  - b. Can a “Metro Skywarn Instructors set” be set up? Answer – That is handled on a per-store basis so would be difficult
2. Club Call – Doug hasn't sent it in yet. Will fill out paperwork and send to Dave for check to send in with it.
3. Dassel Class – 3 of 30 attendees were commuters, more than half of the attendees had attended previous metro classes; will need to re-evaluate whether to teach classes this far out next year
4. D-Star equipment has been received for TwinsLAN
5. Public Skywarn classes or ‘podcasts’- Tabled awaiting storyboarding
6. Dave still needs e-mail addresses for those who want to post to SW-Alert

### New Business:

1. APRS – Barry Berg – Presented on his plan to build an APRS network in the MSP area and especially to the West and Southwest for Skywarn use
  - a. His main goal is to build a dense enough system so that even lower power radios can get APRS position tracking data to an iGate for transport onto the internet.
    - i. This would allow net controls to either use Findu or GIS based weather applications such as SpotterNetwork.org to track spotter locations.
  - b. Proposed system would be a ‘smart’ system that could use Stateful Packet Inspection to allow net control stations to have affirmative control of trackers, that is, trackers could program their notes field to have a #SN# that the system would translate to a !SN! when Net Control activates.
  - c. **MOTION:** Motion by John Wetter, second by Bill Hughes to continue working with local people/organizations to further APRS in the Skywarn through use of MSW for a conduit for equipment and funding and also to solicit involvement from spotters to fill out the APRS system. Motion passed unanimously.
  - d. Further discussion indicated that Barry would like Metro Skywarn to take a more active roll in helping to roll out APRS across the western metro. No action taken.
2. Isanti County – Aaron Diers
  - a. Aaron Diers approached the board with information that Isanti county is trying to start their own Skywarn program.

- i. At this time they have two net control stations
  - ii. 17 people have shown interest in participating
  - iii. Training was recently held in Cambridge
  - iv. They plan on using operations similar to Metro Skywarn, but will run their nets locally and will report through the Becker hub
- 3. Sherburne County – Jordan Bugge
  - a. Updated group with Sherburne county organization. They are currently running on Elk River repeater and report through Becker hub
- 4. Severe Weather Awareness Week
  - a. Sirens tested on April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Metro Skywarn will hold Severe Weather Drill
    - i. Bloomington is EOC on call and will run net. Idea was brought forward to activate all three EOC's for event; no action taken
    - ii. Steve will coordinate notification of spotters
    - iii. NWS Skywarn Operations will be available for contact
- 5. NCS Groups Training
  - a. It was discussed that there hasn't been an NCS training in several years
    - i. After discussion, Steve Levens volunteered to meet with all three groups to go over new operations
- 6. Wisconsin Counties
  - a. Discussion came up about status of MSW coverage of Wisconsin counties
    - i. Following meeting last fall with members from Wisconsin, they would be starting up their own local nets to provide information to NWS over Roberts repeater
    - ii. MSW will still cover those counties for this year while they get nets established
    - iii. There was some question regarding metro activation for severe weather in Western Wisconsin covered counties. Kevin noted that there were at least a couple occasions that NWS called for activation and metro did not activate
      - 1. It was requested that Kevin check logs to see who was being contacting for these events to make corrective action while metro still covers those counties.
      - 2. Kevin also mentioned that there was considerable animosity with local spotters at the Hudson class that said metro shut down too early. After further discussion it was decided that it would again be emphasized to net control personnel to stay active until weather moves out of coverage area.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35pm.

**Action items:**

- Doug** will be filling out paperwork for club call per February/March meetings, forward to **Sandra** for check to send to FCC before next meeting
- Kevin** will find logs of who was contacted in 2006 and didn't respond to calls for Wisconsin counties

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Wetter