

MINUTES OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REPEATER COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council was called to order April 19, 2020 at 13:00 by Chairman, W3KKC Kevin via Webex online meeting.

Attendance (15): , W3KKC, AI3I, K3EMM, WN3A, N5NWC, K3WS, N3ST, AB3PJ, “tomna”, W3PRL, WA3UVV, W3BC, WA3UFN, AD3AD, one unidentified phone-in

Introductions by those in attendance.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Membership: No new members listed.

Secretary: The minutes of the previous meeting were published on the WPRC web-page. Call for any additions or corrections. None voiced, the minutes stand as published.

Treasurer: Treasurer report was presented by AB3PJ. Motion by W3KKC, to accept the treasurer’s report. Carried

Correspondence: Letter of appreciation was mailed to Frank, N3FB for his service as Repeater Frequency Coordinator.

Technical Committee – W3KKC reported the Frequency Coordinator transition has been smooth. It is evident AI3I, John has been steadily working hard to bring the coordination requests and other matters up to date. The Committee wishes to move forward in utilizing frequency coverage prediction software. This is to be discussed under New Business.

Frequency Coordinator Report: To follow under Good of the Council

OLD BUSINESS

W3BC reissued report on some of the band plan updates. Motion by W3BC to replace 446.550/145.550, used for cross-band portable repeater for emergency operations on an as needed basis, with 147.555/146.565. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

After discussion, a motion by N5NWC, second by K3EMM to move to electronic forms submission, as well as incoming/outgoing correspondence, and to amend the Constitution to read as such. Carried.

After discussion it was agreed to update the frequency coordination and membership forms as needed and move to a online fill-able format. The Constitution and/or By-laws will need to updated to accommodate the use of electronic/online style forms.

Discussion opened relative modeling software for the repeater frequency coordinations. W3KKC, Kevin found that the WPRC purchased such software years ago and from a conversation with the company, it only needed to be updated. Considering that information and the considerable savings as compared to purchasing new software, with no regard to reimbursement for the upgrade, Kevin decided it was in the best interest of the WPRC to update the software. It is felt that a major advantage to using the frequency modeling software and by recommending repeater frequency pairs will result in better use of available geographic spacing of frequencies, to the advantage of repeater owners. This should result in more frequencies available for assignment. Motion by AB3PJ, second by W3BC to add/replace Constitution wording that “WPRC will recommend a repeater frequency pair”. Carried.

WN3A, Jeff presented an informative over-view of the procedures and advantages of using the modeling software for repeater coordination assignments. Motion by W3BC second by N5NWC to move to using the modeling software for WPRC repeater coordination frequency assignments. Carried.

Off-the-air repeater reports can now be emailed, as covered in a previously approved motion for electronic submissions.

WPRC posthumously thanked N3BPB, Bill for his service as Publicity Chairman and support of the WPRC. With the Publicity Chair position open, WA3UVV Cory offered his availability for the position. Due to Constitutional constraints, as currently understood, eligibility for the position was available to those who are registered as regular members. Motion by AI3I second by WN3A to table this issue for further research. Carried.

The agenda item for discussion of the 100 mile reservation for 146.46 simplex for the Irwin area should involve representation from Irwin involved amateurs. Motion by AI2I second by N5NWC to table the Irwin agenda item. Carried.

The issue of deliberate repeater interference from amateur radio operators was brought to the floor. W3BC presented options of available equipment. Motion by W3BC second by WA3UVV that WPRC purchase DF2020 direction finding unit and associated dual-band antennas to aid in locating offending stations. Carried. It was noted that the EPA repeater council only is involved with repeater to repeater interference issues and not personal operator issues.

Motion by WA3UVV second by N5NWC to reimburse W3KKC, Kevin for the purchase of the frequency modeling software upgrade. Carried. (Noted that W3KKC, Kevin abstained from the vote.)

Question was raised about e-payments, such as PayPal, since WPRC is moving to electronic paperwork submissions. Motion By WN3A seconded by N5NWC to have the Treasurer check into options for e-payments and report findings at the next meeting. Carried.

GOOD OF THE COUNCIL

AI3I, John presented a summary of Frequency Coordinator activities since his appointment.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 12. Mode/location of the meeting, TBA.

With no further business for the meeting, motion by WN3A seconded by N5NWC to adjourn. Carried.
The meeting adjourned at 15:27

Secretary

Date approved