

W.W.A.R.A. – General Meeting Minutes Sept 25, 2021

Kenny Richards, KU7M	Scott Honaker, N7SS	Doug Kingston, KD7DK
Tim Dunnigan – KI7QNZ	Les Tomminger – W7UFI	Charlie Knutilla – N7KN
Ken Sousa – N7AXJ	Randy Neals – W3RWN	Scott Hayden– KB7RSV
Ken Koster – N7IPB	Peter Dahl, WA7FUS	Larry Watkinson– KC7CKO
Bob Sampson– K6MBY	Lloyd – N0NHJ	Terence Chan KE7SFF
Tim Dunnigan– KI7QNZ	Andy Sayler - KF7VOL	Jack Williams - W7HNNH
Walt Jamison – W7PRB	Jon Zollinger - W7RMZ	Frank Wolfe – NM7R

Absences:

- Rob Chatham, AF7PR, Loren Flindt, KB7APU, Rob Salsgiver, NR30

In accordance with Article IX, Section 3a of the bylaws, a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 19:05 PDT virtually on the Zoom teleconference by chairman Kenny Richards, KU7M. Introductions were made and by a motion the minutes of the May 8, 2021 general meeting was approved, as posted on the website.

Officer's Reports

Chairman Report:

- Still looking for a volunteer for the Secretary position that is vacant

Treasurer Report:

- Current balance is \$13,754.65, which includes new memberships.
- The WWARA debt card has several fraud charges on it for the last month totaling \$1,396.26. Doug has locked the card and submitted them to the bank.

Secretary Report:

- Currently all received TDS's have been processed as of Sept 25th
- 24 Certificates of Coordination were e-mailed on Sept 25th, which is all granted since May.
- The WWARA has received 39 total TDS's since May, for renewals and new applications

Committee Reports

IACC/BCARCC/ORRC

- No activity

6/10 Meters – Frank Wolfe, NM7R

- No update
- Currently one proposed 10m (29.64) and two pending 6m (52.87 and 53.23)

2 Meters – Rob, NR30

- No update provided
- Two proposed (146.800, 147.500) and three pending (146.425, 147.4625, 146.96)

220 – Peter Dahl, WA7FUS

- Six pending (224.52, 223.84, 223.94, 224.58, 224.18, 223.98)

440/430 Repeaters & Links – Rob, NR30

- No Update Provided
- 13 in pending applications and two proposed

900 / 1.2Ghz – Scott Honaker, N7SS

- 927.85 is out for public comment period
- 927.4875 pending and expect to go to board vote soon

Database Enhancement Committee, KU7M

- Nothing to report

Narrowband Committee, KU7M

- No update, but next proposed step is a proposal to accept the 70cm and 2m narrowband plans and draft will be submitted in December. (just band plans, not requirements or transition schedule)

Old Business

- Dept. Natural Resources (DNR) radio site leases for ham
 - DNR sites have been offered to hams at a reduced rate to support public service and emcomm missions. The difference between the ham lease and what a commercial operator pays is funded by the state. Through multiple mistakes on both sides, the funding approved for the next two years will not cover all the existing lease holders.
 - DNR has done a full review of the sites and has asked hams who hadn't keep their documentation current (lease requirement) to leave and those who no longer had a current lease to also leave. But there is still a financial gap between the approved budget and equipment of the remaining lease holders.
 - N7IPB stated that DNR is proposing two hams per site, each with two repeaters.
 - KC7CKO stated some hams are being asked to leave sites who's lease is current, but their documentation was out of date, while his new lease application was granted for a different site.
 - NM7R stated some hams who are near the end of their lease are being told they will not be renewed until funding issue is resolved.
 - KC7CKO stated DNR indicated hams who wanted to pay full commercial rate (\$3000 per repeater), is an option.
- DNR is hosting two open Zoom meetings in October, to discuss the situation with ham lease owners. The meetings are being held via Zoom (details below), so most people should be able to attend. Key sections of the DNR proposal are included with the meeting notes.
 - **Oct 5, 2021 at 4:00pm**
 - <https://dnr-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/3694738353?pwd=ODFpMlIWTUQwMG10cis4N0JGdGRSdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 369 473 8353
 - Passcode: 6ePr2k
 - Dial-in: +1 253 215 8782 (meetingID: 369 473 8353, passcode 656552)
 - **Oct 14, 2021 at 11:30am**
 - <https://dnr-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/3694738353?pwd=ODFpMlIWTUQwMG10cis4N0JGdGRSdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 369 473 8353
 - Passcode: 6ePr2k
 - Dial-in: +1 253 215 8782 (meetingID: 369 473 8353, passcode 656552)

New Business

None

Adjourn Meeting: 20:04 PM

Next Meeting: December 5, 2021 / Zoom Virtual Conference / Time: 7PM – 9PM

Submitted by Kenneth Richards, Chairman WWARA



October 2, 2021

DNR's leasing rules are governed by Section 79.13 RCW and Chapter 332-22 WAC, which require, in part, that DNR obtain fair market rent for these sites. Qualified amateur radio operators, per RCWs 79.13.500 and 79.13.510, may receive a reduced rental rate of \$100 per year per site. The Legislature then reimburses DNR the remaining fair market rent as funds allow.

In accordance with RCW 79.13.510, DNR has established the following guidelines to govern the leasing of space to amateur radio operators:

Applicants must meet these qualifications:

1. Be in good standing¹ with the Department.
2. Be in good standing with the state's radio amateur civil emergency services and amateur radio emergency services organizations, or if an amateur group, sign a statement of public service.
3. Do not exceed 2 amateur radio operators per site.
4. Do not exceed 2 radio systems² per applicant per site, unless approved by the Department³.

Applicants will not be considered for a site if any of the following apply:

1. Funds from legislative appropriation for amateur radio operators are not available. When funds are not available for all qualified applicants, applicants will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis.
2. Space is not available at a given site.
3. Two or more amateur radio operators already operate at a given site.
4. Another applicant who will pay fair market rent seeks the space.

A recent internal audit of the amateur operating fund has confirmed that the program is underfunded, and no additional funds are available to finance all of the current and proposed amateur radio operator leases. Furthermore, several sites exceed two amateur radio operators, and many leases exceed two radio systems. Therefore, DNR will be working with current lessees to modify their leases until compliance with the guidelines is achieved and the program is fully funded.

As a lessee of state trust lands, these new requirements – including the reduction of equipment, lease termination, and denial of new lease applications – may affect you. If there are more than two amateur lessees at a site that you currently lease, your lease may not be renewed. If you currently rent space at a site and have more than two radio systems, you will be asked to reduce your equipment.

Although DNR recognizes the value amateur radio operators provide to emergency services, and the community at large, Washington state law and DNR's trust management obligations do not allow DNR to rent state trust lands for free. We recognize that these new guidelines may present some challenges to you, therefore we encourage you to collaborate with other amateur lessees and use only the highest priority radios and systems in place to maintain the community service network.

The guidelines described above are effective immediately. Therefore, DNR encourages you to work with our amateur radio coordinator, Carrie Nelson, to ensure compliance with these guidelines and accomplish the intent of RCWs 79.13.500 and 79.13.510 – to maintain a civil public service and emergency radio network. Please contact her at carrie.nelson@dnr.wa.gov or (360) 819-0068. We are confident that, together, we can make the necessary changes as smoothly as possible.

Finally, DNR will be hosting informational Zoom meetings on October 5, 2021, at 4 p.m. and October 14, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., to discuss the guidelines and the current situation.

¹ Good standing means that a lessee is in complete compliance with all terms of all existing leases with the Department (including approval of all equipment), that the lessee has demonstrated the ability to fully perform its obligations under a lease based on recently expired or terminated leases with the Department, that the lessee has sought and obtained all necessary permissions to use State-owned land prior to such use, and other factors that may reasonably bear upon the suitability of the lessee to operate within the terms of a lease. If an applicant has no leasing history with the Department, the applicant shall be considered to be in good standing in the absence of any evidence to the contrary.

² One radio system consists of one transmit/receive unit.

³ The Department may consider unique circumstances, such as topography and proximity of other radio equipment that can affect the viability of an emergency network.