

**Washington County Public Safety Radio Communications System
National Park Service/Keep Tryst Site
Wednesday, October 24, 2006**

Attendees

<u>County</u>	<u>National Park Service</u>
Pete Loewenheim – Project Manager	Don Campbell - NPS Superintendent
Joe Kroboth, P.E., Dep. Dir. WCDPW	Lynne Wigfield - NPS-CHOH Compliance
Col. Doug Mullendore, Sheriff's Office	Scott Bell - NPS-CHOH Natural Resource Mgr.
Tina Rupert – Admin. Assistant, WCDPW	Sam Tamburro - NPS-CHOH Historian
Gary Rohrer – Director, WCDPW	Dennis Frye – NPS-HF Chief Cultural Resources
Dave McCobin – L. Robert Kimball	Bill Hebb – NPS-Res. Manager
Carl Rader – L. Robert Kimball	
James Perschy – Lead Engineer	
James Jenkins – Lead Engineer	
John Bezold – Account Manager	
Patty Holtschneider - VP	
Bob Kirk – MH Consulting	

The meeting began at 2:00 PM, with introduction of all attendees.

The National Park Service is concerned about the planned 190' tower at the Keep Tryst Water Tower site and it's possible affect on parkland.

The County's contractor did extensive research on coverage in South Washington County. We have had several discussions and many propagation tests were run. This site is the best site available for South County coverage. The County is responsible for the entire Potomac River to the other side (Harper's Ferry area). The proposed tower would be used for Public Safety only. If this tower cannot be built at this location, the County stands to lose \$1.4 million dollars since Motorola agreed during negotiations to "give" Washington County the Keep Tryst tower, including site work.

Don Campbell of the NPS stated that their concern is for the economic impact that this tower may cause to the Park Service. There is \$250 to \$300 million dollars invested in this area, including Harper's Ferry National Park, the C&O Canal, the Appalachian, Lewis & Clark and Potomac Trails. This area generates \$20 to \$30 million dollars of revenue into West Virginia every year.

Gary Rohrer stated that this project has tight time constraints. The County was considering a monopole, but the height did not work. This site and the height of the tower are being dictated by location and coverage. The County needs to get coverage for all public safety responders behind the ridge, including the river and the Route 340 Bridge. This tower would include a microwave link to Lambs Knoll and Mar-Lu.

There are also shadowing issues in the area. Motorola engineers did coverage studies and looked a several other sites, including two other County owned sites, but they were too low. There isn't any other land

along Sandy Hook. Keep Tryst is the most beneficial site for coverage and because it is already owned by the County. A site on the other side of the river was considered, but it is privately owned and buying or leasing the land was not within our budget.

The NPS questioned if Washington County considered any federal lands in the area for the tower site. The County did not consider federal land because it was assumed that it would not be an option. James Jenkins, Motorola Engineer, did propagation studies of some National property in Harper's Ferry. Nothing else gave good coverage. Maryland Heights gave decent coverage, but there was some shadowing and coverage was not as good as Keep Tryst.

The NPS asked if anyone at the County had considered speaking to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)? It would have been nice to know, as neighbors, what was being planned and to have a chance to review it. Is it possible to use a higher tower away from the parks and use BDA's for coverage? BDA's cannot be used due to the timing in the relay.

It has always been the County's intention to go through all the normal processes with this site, which would include all the normal agency reviews. Pete Loewenheim asked how a determination is made on impact? Is it when something is not natural to the area, or if someone thinks its ugly? Is there a written guideline or criteria for when something is or isn't impacted? In that particular area, where would there be a location that does not impact one of the parks? The NPS stated that there is no written criterion to determine "impact" on parks, etc. There is a Historic Preservation Law and asks if there is an impact. If there is, the law requires looking into mitigation or alternate sites.

We could consider masking or disguising the tower as a (190') tree, or powder coating it to blend into the area. Would that solve the problem? This has been done in other areas. The cost would be approximately \$60,000 to disguise the tower.

The radio project is reaching a point where the County, L.R. Kimball and Motorola will begin the federal licensing submissions, including compliance with all processes. The sites had to be identified first. The experts (L.R. Kimball and Motorola engineers) have already done propagation studies and this is our best site for the southern section of Washington County. The County's FCC licenses are use or lose. September 2007 is our deadline to have a percentage of this project up and running. The County did its due diligence to make this work. Using all our criteria, this is the best site.

Keep Tryst will also complete a loop with Lamb's Knoll and MarLu for the State/MIEMSS EMS Service in this area. The microwave dishes are at a height of 85' and will be between 6'-10' in diameter (probably 8'). The radio antennas will be higher at 190'. Nothing lower will work; we lose coverage below 190'.

Doug Mullendore stated that time is of the essence with this project. Washington County continues to grow and the current radio system is impeding the Sheriff's Office operations. There are many areas, the Southern point of Washington County being one of the worst, where it is impossible to communicate. This project is critical to life safety.

Dennis Frye stated that there are time constraints in dealing with all the agencies and officers for approvals. The issue here is compliance and the NPS can either assist the County with these processes or bog the process down.

The Keep Tryst site is being constructed by Motorola for the County, at not cost to the County, as a contract negotiation concession and if this site is not used, it is going to cost the taxpayers in Washington County \$1.4 million.

The NPS offered the assistance of their technical people in Denver to help find a viable alternative. Gary Rohrer reiterated the time and cost impact if this site cannot be used.

This project is a new simulcast system. If transmitters are too close there will be interference. The mountain will act as a shadow to protect the rest of the system. If we chose a higher elevation, it will interfere with the rest of the system. Also, the Keep Tryst site is critical to four-state interoperability.

A demonstration using Google Earth showed that the Keep Tryst site was not visible from Harper's Ferry. Motorola will perform a balloon test.

The NPS stated that they are not looking to impede the project and that a stealth design may be a good solution.

Gary Rohrer will write a letter to the NPS stating that there will not be any commercial entities on this tower.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.