

**Report of the Ad Hoc Band Planning Committee
ARRL Board of Directors
January, 2008**

The Ad Hoc Band Planning Committee was formed specifically for the purpose of supporting ARRL's Regulation by Bandwidth Petition (RM-11306), which called for the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode, and for developing a process for developing new band plans in anticipation of implementation of regulation by bandwidth in accordance with RM-11306. The ARRL subsequently withdrew its petition. The Committee has had minimal action since then while the Board of Directors determines a new course of action to take, if any.

At the last Board Meeting, the Committee provided two recommendations regarding the process of band planning once the FCC approved regulation by bandwidth. Those recommendations are worth mentioning again and are as follows:

1. Short term - Once the FCC authorizes regulation by bandwidth, it is recommended that this Committee perform the actual band planning. This Committee is already familiar with the current band plans and the concept of regulation by bandwidth. Therefore, it was felt that there is no need to "reinvent the wheel," so to speak, and have either a new committee do it or an existing Board Committee do it, such as the Program and Services Committee, which years ago had done some band planning as the Membership Services Committee. Upon completion of this work, the Ad Hoc Band Planning Committee would be dissolved.
2. Long term - Once the Ad Hoc Band Planning Committee completes the assignment as stated in the short term recommendation above, the Committee recommends that the Board authorize a new standing committee specifically for band planning. The Committee suggests that band planning "needs a home" where a group can continually address on-going change in this area and advise the Board. Therefore, a standing committee charged accordingly should be considered longer term.

Given the current status of the FCC and regulation by bandwidth, it is unknown when the FCC will take any action on this matter. Until then, the Committee stands ready to move forward with the process in accordance with these recommendations and to adjust its efforts when further guidance by the Board is determined on regulation by bandwidth.

Going forward, an additional area this Committee will evaluate for action is the experience gained at the IARU Region 2 Conference held in Brazil in September, 2007. It became apparent after the adoption of the Region 2 Band Plan that ARRL needs a process to assure that future recommendations for band planning are coordinated for such IARU Conferences. As part of its Charter, this Committee was charged with considering IARU band plans for anticipating implementation of regulation by bandwidth. Consequently, it is logical for this Committee to go one step further and be the input source to the Board for future proposals and coordination for Conferences. This will help assure that ARRL is proactive for future Conferences. We will proceed accordingly with this study prior to the next Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick – K5UR

Members of the Committee:

Vice President Rick Roderick - K5UR Chair

Director Tom Frenaye - K1KI

Director Dick Norton - N6AA

Director Coy Day - N5OK

Mr. Steve Ford - WB8IMY

Mr. Chuck Skolaut - K0BOG