***Minutes of the ARRL Program and Services Committee***

***12 December 2013***

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The Program and Services Committee was called to order by Mr. David A. Norris, K5UZ, via telephone bridge at 2130 hours Eastern Standard Time, December 12th, 2013.

The Roll was called; present were Delta Division Director, Mr. David A. Norris, K5UZ; Atlantic Division Vice Director, Mr. Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Hudson Division Director, Mr. Mike Lisenco, N2YBB; ARRL Membership & Volunteer Programs Manager, Mr. Dave Patton, NN1N; Mr. James E. Cross, WI3N, Chairman of the PSC’s ECAC/NTS Study Committee; ECAC Committee Member, Mr. Dave Colter WA1ZCN and Central Division Vice Director, Mr. Kermit Carlson, W9XA, scribe for the meeting.

The Agenda as prepared by the PSC Chairman, Mr. Norris, for the meeting had as its sole topic for discussion the ECAC/NTS Study.

After introduction by the Chair, Mr. Cross explained that the Study was the result of over three years of 2 hour meetings that were often held several times a week. He related that it was a long process that is the combined effort of 15 people, and although the members represented 15 different viewpoints, Mr. Cross stated that everyone worked well together.

Mr. Patton spoke first for the Committee, thanking Jim and Dave for the hard work represented by the Study. Mr. Patton thought that the Study was the most complete report that he had seen in his 15 years with the MVP.

Southwest Division Director, Mr. Norton, N6AA, joins the telebridge at 20:48 Eastern time.

The discussion covered several areas of the report. The question of “buy-in” by the existing NTS was raised by Mr. Norton. In response Mr. Cross indicated that the two concerns, that of the NTS and the ECAC group were from different cultures and that the report did try to take this into account.

Another area of note was raised by Mr. Lisenco as to “why not consider combining the two into one organization?” To this query Mr. Cross related that the organizations of the two function completely different in that ARES is locally organized while the NTS is a regionally organized. Also, Mr. Cross related that NTS is a top-down structure which is slightly different from the ARES structure. Mr. Cross believed that while they are “different animals” there would be 20% overlap at the “ground level”.

Discussion by Mr. Cross also related the details from the Study how the members of the Study Committee would like to see follow-up work are organized and how members of that follow-up group would be chosen using elected positions.

After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to table any further discussion or consideration of the recommendations of the report until the next meeting of the Program and Services Committee scheduled for 16th of January 2104.

A Motion to Adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Lisenco, the motion was seconded by Mr. Abernethy, The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM Eastern time