TTFCG Meeting Minutes  November 1, 2006

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on November 1, 2006. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS
Jennifer Bryant OMB (240) 777-2761
Jane Lawton OCCS (240) 777-3724
Helen Xu DTS (240) 777-2804
Mary Pat Wilson MCPS (240) 314-4707
Martin Rookard WSSC (301) 206-8979

STAFF
Bob Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700
Marjorie Williams OCA (240) 777-3762
Carol Watson CTC (410) 964-5700

OTHER ATTENDEES
Nathan Campbell NB&C/T-Mobile
Pete Maheridis NB&C/Clearwire
Hillorie Morrison NB&C/T-Mobile
Martin Rookard WSSC
Cheryl Wilson Bechtel-Model

Action Item – Meeting Minutes: Helen Xu asked that page 5 of the minutes be changed to clarify that the sixth paragraph refers to the WSSC Water Tank and not the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. Martin Rookard moved the minutes be approved as amended. Helen Xu seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Consent Applications:

1. Clearwire application to install antennas at the 178' level of an existing 326' Carver lattice tower located at 2647 University Boulevard in Wheaton (Application #200610-03).

2. Verizon Wireless application to replace nine existing 48” antennas with nine 72” antennas at the 185' level on the roof of the Chateau Apartments located at 9727 Mt. Pisgah Road in Silver Spring (Application #200610-08).

3. Sprint/Nextel application to add three new antennas at the 85' level of a 100' monopole on Damascus Grace Fellowship Church property located at 8425 Damascus Road in Damascus (Application #200610-09).

Motion: Martin Rookard moved that the Consent Agenda items be recommended. Jennifer Bryant seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Modeo application to install antennas on an existing monopole and equipment shelter at Bullis Prep School located at 10601 Falls Road in Potomac (Application #200609-10).

Bob Hunnicutt noted that this application had been deferred from last month’s meeting. At that time, Jane Lawton questioned whether the satellite dish antenna could be placed on the ground in a residential zone, and asked him to check with the County Attorney. He said Cliff Royalty had advised him that Ms. Lawton was correct that if the antenna was placed on the ground it would need a Special Exception. Mr. Hunnicutt noted
that Modeo has now redesigned the site so that the satellite dish antenna will be installed atop the ice bridge or cable tray that runs from the equipment cabinet to the base of the tower, rather than on the ground. He added that he understood from Mr. Royalty that design should be acceptable without the need for a special exception.

Jane Lawton asked Mr. Hunnicutt to explain how the antenna would be at the 141’ level when the tower was only 130’ tall. Mr. Hunnicutt said that the center of the whip antenna is attached to a pole that is mounted atop the 130’ tower. The 141’ reflects the center of the elevation of the directional antenna. Cheryle Wilson, representing Modeo, added that the antenna needed to be mounted on the pole to provide adequate separation from the antennas that are attached at the top of the monopole at the 130’ level.

Martin Rookard asked what other carriers were already attached to the tower. Mr. Hunnicutt identified the other carriers on the facility. Mary Pat Wilson asked how high off the ground the cable tray would be. Cheryle Wilson explained that typically the cable trays are approximately 7’ above the ground. She provided photos of other cable trays at the site as an example of its appearance and height above the ground. Mary Pat Wilson asked where on the school property the monopole was to be placed. Bob Hunnicutt explained that the monopole was to be located in the center of the large piece of property owned by Bullis School.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved that the application be recommended. Helen Xu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Modeo application to install antennas on an existing monopole and cable tray on the Hungerford property located at 14615 Clopper Road in Germantown (Application #200609-13).

Bob Hunnicutt explained that the applicant had requested that this application be placed on hold.

**Action Item:** Modeo application to attach antennas on an existing monopole and ice bridge on the Seneca Ayr Farm property located at 13100 West Old Baltimore Road in Boyds (Application #200609-18).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted that the recommendation was conditioned on completion of modifications recommended in the structural analysis that would permit the safe attachments of the antennas to the monopole. He noted that many of the sites in Montgomery County are filling to capacity; consequently, additional attachments at some sites may only be made if there are modifications to the tower. Mr. Hunnicutt said that the structural analysis recommended that additional support be added to the monopole between the 75’ and 119’ level on the structure.

Jane Lawton asked for an explanation of the analysis and recommended modifications. Mr. Hunnicutt said that based on the engineering calculations, the structural analysis determined that the monopole may fail at those elevations. Consequently, the engineer recommended additional support around the exterior of the monopole. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that this is typically done by adding a steel sheath around the monopole to provide additional strength at that location.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved that the application be recommended conditioned on completion of the necessary modifications to the structure to support the additional antennas and related cables. Jennifer Bryant seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Sprint/Nextel application to add six new antennas and relocate three existing antennas on chimneys at the 57’ level of the National 4-H Council building located at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase (Application #200610-05).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted that the recommendation was conditioned on any modifications that may be necessary to the Special Exceptions for this property. He added that when he spoke with the property manager for this site, he found that T-Mobile, whose application had been recommended previously by the TFCG for this facility, had not yet attached their antennas nor removed the existing satellite dish atop the building as they had agreed to do. He stated that the manager expressed an interest in Sprint removing the antenna. Mr. Hunnicutt said he had mentioned this matter to the applicant along with a recommendation that they get the concurrence of the Town of Chevy of Chase before coming to today’s
meeting. He asked Hillorie Morrison to update the group on the status of that aspect of this application.

Ms. Morrison stated that she had notified the Town but had not yet received a reply. Ms. Lawton noted that would be addressed at the hearing to modify the special exception. Ms. Morrison explained that Sprint had agreed that if the application was approved, they would remove the existing satellite dish. She said Sprint recognizes that there may be a need to modify the Special Exceptions and they were willing to make that request of the Board of Appeals as well. She explained the history of this site and noted that in the past Nextel had made several attempts to locate antennas in this area -- all of which failed. Now Sprint with Nextel has found that they can meet Nextel’s service objectives with just nine antennas and an equipment shelter that would, in fact, be somewhat smaller than the equipment shelters that are presently onsite.

Jane Lawton asked for an explanation of where the new antennas would be attached on the building. Mr. Hunnicutt provided photos of the site as it existed today. Ms. Morrison explained that the new antennas would be attached in the same location as the existing antennas and would be painted to match the chimney.

Ms. Lawton asked about the status of T-Mobile’s attachment. Mr. Hunnicutt said he did not know whether T-Mobile still planned to locate at this site.

**Motion:** Jennifer Bryant moved that the application be recommended conditioned on any modifications that may be necessary to the Special Exceptions on this property. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Modeo application to install antennas at the 125’ level and on the ice bridge of an existing monopole on the Rinaldi property located at 15700 Georgia Avenue in Olney (Application #200610-06).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted that this application is similar to the Bullis School application on today’s agenda. He said that at the time of the preparation of the agenda, he had questions about the structural capacity of this facility and his recommendation was initially conditioned on receipt of a structural analysis. However, since that time, Modeo provided a structural analysis that confirms the tower is adequate to support the antennas without modification. Consequently, he now recommends this application without the condition noted on the Recommendation Form for this application.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved that the application be recommended. Helen Xu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Modeo application to install antennas at the 182’ level and on the ice bridge of a 170’ monopole on Aspen Landscape property located at 15710 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200610-07).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted that this recommendation was also conditioned on completion of the structural modifications recommended in the structural analysis. He said that the modification for this structure was to install additional bolts to the base plate of the tower.

**Motion:** Jennifer Bryant moved that the application be recommended conditioned on completion of the structural modifications necessary to permit the safe attachment of the antenna and related cables as proposed. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Discussion Item – Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.