

**NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Charlottesville, Virginia
1985 April 2**

To: Coordinating Committee
From: P. Sebring
Subject: CC Meeting Notes, March 29

Participants

**NRAO- CV; Hvatum (moderator), Cotton, Benson, Porter,
Balister, Romney, Thompson, Burns, D'Addario**
- SOC: Horne, Clark
- VLA: Bignell, Napier
- GB: Kellermann, Peery, Seielstad

**Caltech : Pearson, Kator, Readhead, Walker (NRAO),
Rogers (Haystack)**

1. Action List

1.1. Decide on use of AT Chip. See extensive discussion of this reported in these notes for March 22 meeting. The telex to the Australians mentioned therein will go out Apr 1.

1.2. M/C Standard Interface Spec. Clark and Weber need another week on this. New date, April 5.

1.3. Spec M/C/Corr Language & Op. Sys. Clark reports this done.

1.4. Choose Microcomputer Development Systems. Also reported done.

1.5. Pie Town Schedule. A Pert chart and VisiSchedule-generated Gantt chart for this site was shown which included the antenna and the basic site construction. The computer schedule is designed so that subnet data for the various subsystems can be entered as it becomes available. Hein has found a new program called TIME LINE which seems to offer advantages. I will redo what has been done using this.

1.6. Decide Operator Interface Implementation. Clark said this will not be done by the April 1 date. He needs to work more with Caltech on this. New date, April 5.

1.7. Los Alamos land proposal. Peery reports he will be there next week and knows where to "drive the Stake". New date, April 12.

1.8 Servo-M/C Interface. Horne said this is not done. He needs to work with Barry on it. He points out that this is not an urgent item as yet. However, Les Temple's untimely death leaves us not only sad, but with a need for a servo person on this Project.

1.9. RFI Ft Davis complete. No report yet. (I spoke to Jesse James, the Station manager, late in the day on the matter of wind. Jim Oty had just left there after extensive measurements near the Harvard Station and some measurements on Mt. Locke near McDonald. Apparently little RFI found. However, Jesse reports that the Texas Highway Dept. has established a microwave link from Mt. Locke to Marfa, and plans another between Mt. Locke and the town of Ft. Davis proper. These are at S-band, and could cause us some problems. We should check.)
New date for completion, April 5.

1.10. Evaluate Ant. Polarization Performance. Napier reports that JPL is starting computations on this problem. He asked for two more weeks on this. However, new date seems to be April 5.

1.11. RFI Iowa (2 sites) start. Peery questioned start of this by April 26. (I assume he meant since Hawaii had been given such priority in earlier meetings.) RCW says Hawaii decision is still pending water-vapor tests. Data to date do not allow us to distinguish between prospective sites.

1.12. New Item: Decide Interface, Front ends - M/C. On list with date of April 12, Thompson responsible.

2. Budget.

Senate hearings were yesterday. Mr. Domenici very positive for VLBA. He was unhappy that our funding is not released as planned on April 1, and told Dr. Bloch that further delay past the already-delayed date of 15 May engineered by Mr. Boland would be "unacceptable".

3. VLBA Project Book.

Only the Monitor/Control and Correlator sections remain to be updated.

Barry says he needs 1-2 more weeks to finish. Caltech says they must wait until their report on the architectural design is done - perhaps three weeks. Hein will talk to Marty about this.

4. Change in Antenna Sequence.

Hein related that RSi, the antenna contractor, has submitted an estimate of \$140K total to change the sequence in which the antennas would be installed from the one in the contract to the one discussed and agreed upon in the CC meeting of 1985 March 1. Hein reviewed this as an example of what can happen when we change our minds on basic matters once the Project is rolling. This actual instance may fade into the noise if we must renegotiate the entire contract because of reduced annual funding, but the lesson is clear. As Bill Horne points out, the penalties will become more severe the further along matters have proceeded before a change is made.