

Report to the Board of the HF Band Planning Committee

July 2022

The Bandplanning Committee includes:

Director Jairam, N2RJ
Director Ritz, W7VO
Vice Director Hudgens, WB4RHQ
Vice Director Temples, K9HI
Vice Director Sterns, AA7A
1st Vice President Raisbeck, K1TWF, chair

The Bandplanning committee has been dormant the past 6 months, not for lack of issues but for lack of action on the part of the FCC. The sense is that we need resolution of the pending frequency allocation issues before we push further in the bandplanning/frequency allocation arena.

While we clearly want some action from the FCC, practically speaking, unless we have a “really big hammer”, our attempts to nudge the Commission seem unlikely to induce action, and may in fact annoy people and slow things down. I see no such “really big hammer” in sight.

Last January I mentioned the concern expressed by some in the digital (and non-digital) communities about unattended digital systems in HF. The proposals currently before the FCC expands the space for higher bandwidth unattended stations, but it also pushes lower bandwidth ones into the same segment. We may want to revisit this at some point, though consensus is that it would be best to not “rock the boat” with changes until after the current proposals are acted upon by the FCC. When things do open up, we need to have a hard look at what can practically be done in the Amateur space to automate frequency-in-use detection, and perhaps more importantly, whether and how such protocols could be enforced for unattended digital. The enforcement, rather than the mechanism, is certainly the bigger nut to crack.

73,

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

1st Vice President

Chair, HF Bandplanning Committee