



**Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program
Meeting Agenda – February 25, 2023
Clarion Hotel – Brandon**

Administration Report – Preliminary Background / Analysis Items

1. Item 12 - Website Group Reports

The MB COPP Website Coordinator Portal contains a Reports Tab with an easily fillable quarterly group report to submit which is separate from the monthly patrol data. Historically the purpose was a communications tool to stay in closer contact with the local groups.

Groups previously submitted this by email, but now through the website which I forward to the appropriate Regional Representative. At this time very few groups are compiling (hard enough to get them to regularly input their patrol data) and the new groups don't even know it exists.

In the past (years ago) if groups didn't submit this report they may be terminated as an active group, many group coordinators never complied but at the same time groups were not terminated from the program.

The Board needs to consider if this is valuable communications tool to reinstate / continue or possibly only on a voluntary basis. The brief report is valuable in that it keeps the lines of communication active between the Regional Rep and corresponding groups.

Link - <https://www.citizensonpatrolmb.ca/coordinator-group-portal/reports-coordinator/>

2. Item 14 - ACOP Patrol App Evaluation

An official request was made at our AGM to allow use of the ACOPA patrol app as it would be easier than hand written notes. If not this app, then design our own MB COPP electronic app.



Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

The Board indicated it would research and discuss with our resource law enforcement council, if an electronic method could be used in leu of the current numbered note books or as a substitute for shift notes. The patrol notes in the number pages current evidence note books are official documents and admissible as evidence in court.

No one on the Board is capable of designing an app and the work needs to be outsourced. Price is unknown but certainly significant from a professional.

The Board needs to consider if groups have the option to include electronic reporting in leu of hand written notes. Law enforcement should be consulted if supportive in using these technologies. Note nothing is really 100% secure and private in the cyber environment. New methods of electronic documenting technologies are emerging and may be beneficial with acceptable confidentiality / privacy risk

Current Options

ACOPA -Patrol (small number of users) and other electronic communicating such as widely used (Whats App)

Cons / Pros / Considerations/ Investigation

ACOPA - Patrol - for Apple or Android devices

The Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association (ACOPA) was formed to assist Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) groups throughout Alberta through support, development, and sustainability of C.O.P. programs. ACOPA-Patrol App is designed to assist and record the activities of C.O.P. on patrol in their communities. Users can document community interactions, patrol routes, and various activities. The location of many different types of incidences will be recorded and summarized into a report (consisting of both a PDF and an Excel document). The report can then be emailed to a designated department or specific individuals to advise them of the documented issues.

Cons:

- Many of our members are not tech savvy and may prefer traditional methods.



Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

- Also, some more remote areas don't have good quality internet or they only use their phone for phone calling not internet.
- Electronic confidential storage of reports required
- The device may be confiscated if required
- The ACOPA's developer, MusicCentric Technologies Inc., has not provided details about its privacy practices and handling of data to Apple.
- <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/acopapatrol/id1135148432?platform=iphone>

Pros:

- Much easier/ faster to document observations
- Photo can be included in report / possibly video?
- No download/ subscription fee
- Designed initiated development for COP by Alberta COP for assisting reporting patrols
- The developer will be required to provide privacy details when they submit their next app update
- Likely reviewed by Alberta law enforcement

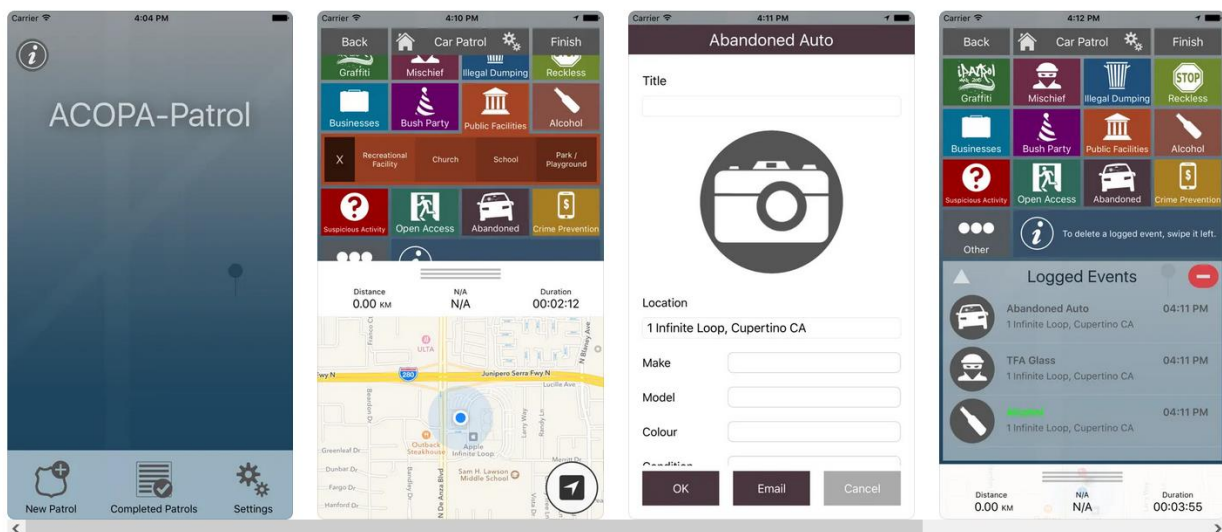
ACOPA Patrol - Unknown Data /Privacy platform

- **is data collection & data sharing with 3rd parties** being used?
- Ability to initiate, where you **authorize the data to be shared?**
- Is data is sent using **end-to-end encryption**. (This means the data is unreadable by anyone other than the sender and recipient)?
- The **app accesses the data only on your device and it is not sent off your device**. For example, if you provide an app permission to access your location, but it only uses that data to provide app functionality on your device and does not send it to its server, it does not need to disclose that data as collected?
- **Your data is sent off the device but only processed ephemerally**. This means the developer accesses and uses your data only when it is stored in memory, and retains the data for no longer than necessary to service a specific request.

Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

- **For example**, if a weather app sends your location off your device to get the current weather at your location, but the app only uses your location data in memory and does not store the data for longer than necessary to provide the weather?

Screenshots [iPad](#) [iPhone](#)



WhatsApp Messenger

WhatsApp - WhatsApp from Meta (Formerly Face Book) is a FREE messaging and video calling app. allows users to send text and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other content. It's used by over 2B people in more than 180 countries.

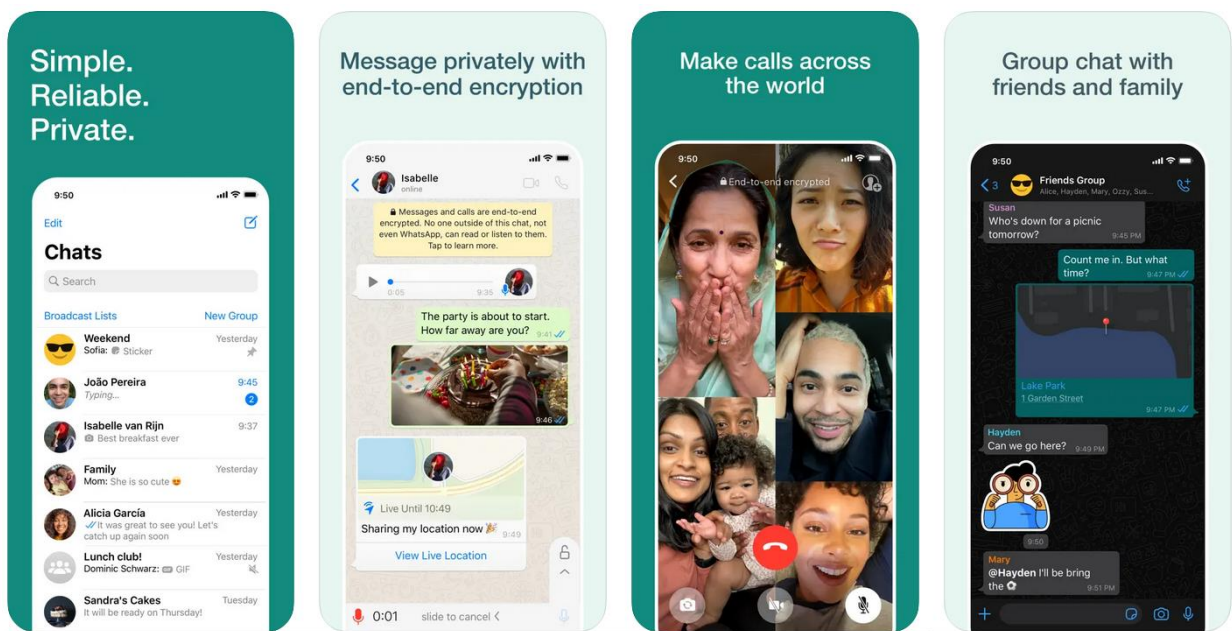
Considerations

- No data shared with third parties
- This app may collect these data types (Location, Personal info and 5 others)
- Data is encrypted in transit
- You can request that data be deleted
- Designed by technology conglomerate

Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

- Users may control the use of their information through privacy settings.
- Has a transparent privacy policy /data information policy
- <https://www.facebook.com/privacy/policy/>
- Supported use by a Manitoba local law enforcement detachment
- WhatsApp works even on slow connections, with no fees

WhatsApp- Screen Shot



3. Item 16 - CCTV COPP Patrols - Discussion of new initiative – Swan Valley

We have been advised Swan Valley is in process of acquiring and utilizing a linked CCTV system for the community and local participating businesses as a method to prevent crime.

The Swan Chamber of Commerce is currently working with the local RCMP detachment on submitting an application for funding from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund for the cost of CCTV camera system with a reporting and documenting application.



Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

It can work by linking footage and gathering a database of shared documentation which law enforcement will be able to access. The Town is planning to purchase CCTV equipment partnering with businesses to monitor activity on business premises and in public places, through a master control room.

There was consulting with the local RCMP to confirm they were meeting criteria that could assist the RCMP in their investigations and collection of evidence. The local RCMP supports the project but would be unlikely to provide any monitoring assistance. Both parties are asking if MB COPP members would be able to assist in the monitoring / reporting if needed of live CCTV.

Our Swan Valley COPP coordinator met with the RCMP, who did not see an issue from a law enforcement perspective. The RCMP felt it could be beneficial in their investigations for providing information and possible a starting point for pulling together video footage information. Both felt it may prove beneficial if there was occasional overlap between members actively patrolling on the streets and a member watching the CCTV cameras.

Swan Valley COPP suggests it would offer a safe venue for members to patrol by CCTV monitoring the activity on the streets and report any suspicious activity and call in any crimes in progress. Report notes could indicate which camera and the time stamp of suspicious activity.

I consulted other law enforcement for comments including liability and efficacy of electronic evidence vs. our current evidence note pads. There was “no foreseen liability risk **providing that no one is negligent in reporting a crime in progress**, however this could likely be similar in the field as well when patrolling”. “**The courts are wanting video more often for convictions**. Video is always the best option”.

Swan Valley RCMP commented to myself their support for the initiative of COPP members to assisting in monitoring public CCTV systems as another method to report potential / real criminal behaviors to the RCMP.

Our members would not necessarily be required to attend as court witnesses, as affidavits could be used instead. In many cases images from **download would be sufficient or the they would take a photo of the image with a police camera.**



Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

Technology is making vast changes in daily lives and workplaces, becoming rapidly more prevalent. With technology changes comes an opportunity to embrace newer approaches in actively enhancing patrolling methods.

This is a shift of our members in conducting a typical patrol, the Board will need to consider this new additional tool in assisting law enforcement for arresting and evidence under fundamental guidelines of how we currently operate. **Observe / Document / Report.** The difference would be members are now out on the streets in person / vehicle and now would be through the lens of a camera as an additional resource.

There are privacy requirements for the public which need to be considered with our involvement. https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/surveillance/video-surveillance-by-businesses/gl_vs_080306/

MB COPP does not have any information in our policies directly regarding CCTV monitoring as it's not how the program has functioned in the past.

Should the Board move forward there should be a policy drafted to clearly indicate what role members would have and the agency's requirements for complying with Federal Privacy laws for MB COPP to participate. This would be to outline member roles, protect the participating members and MB COPP. The primary emphasis should be monitoring in the public places much as we do now, but inevitably the monitoring may also include the business locations through a master control room somewhere yet to be finalized.

4. Item 18 - Powerline Tip Line - Information / Discussion - Marg Potts

A request from a Winnipeg COPP group for Board consideration for this local COPP to incorporate a role of actively monitoring a community tip phone line to relay information to authorities.

This program is currently in place in Point Douglas Winnipeg called "Powerline". The program itself focuses on having the public **not** call police but the programs dedicated phone number.



Administration Report – Background / Analysis continued...

Participating individuals distrust police and many have a checkered background, very uncomfortable with law enforcement members. Another program appointed member who would inform police. They also take action to verbally confront and pressure landlords to evict tenants of drugs houses, illicit functions ect. Past news media reports indicate personal physical engagements are not uncommon and have occurred in the past.

This program is very different to how we operate, cautious evaluation should be taken before this is included in conjunction with a local COPP group. Interested individuals not associated with MB COPP may still organize / operate this program in the same area as the established COPP group. Powerline Tip Line operations through a MB COPP group should be determined should new requests come forward.

5. Item 19 - In Camera- Confidential Board Briefing – Detlef Hindemith / Marg Potts
General Procedural Information

Members must agree to move the meeting in-camera, and out of camera.

This provides an opportunity for the board to discuss particularly sensitive matters confidentially. All discussion in the meeting after moved in camera is confidential. This includes the topic of the discussion itself, and every thing said. The content of the confidential discussions is not recorded in the Organizational Minutes of the Board Meeting. Rather notes discussed during in camera meetings will be kept separate from the general meeting Minutes.

6. Item 23 - Association of Manitoba Municipalities Trade Show - COPP Booth

AMM has supported MB COPP in lobbying the MB Government to fund COPP (2019) after MPI stopped funding the program. New elected officials have since been elected. Opportunity for MB COPP to make Municipalities aware of programs availability in their areas by giving out program information and answering questions. Who will monitor booths? Set up take down? Who would be available? Participation?
Dates: Tuesday April 4, 2023 - 10:00 am – Wed April 5, 2023 - 12:00 pm - RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg or Tuesday November 28, 2023 - 1:00 pm – November 30, 2023 - 3:00 pm Brandon Keystone center - Registration Fee required in advance.