

## September 27, 2018 Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council

### In Attendance:

Jeff Pierce, JD Geigle, Chris Saunsoci, Brad Maupin, Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, SFC David Goodwin, Dave Ackerman. Harold Timmerman, Matt Tooley, Doug Barthel, Casey Collins, Bruce Nachtigall, Dennis Gorton, Frank Jarman, Brian Soehl, Staci Ackerman, Mike Waldner, Jason Jones, Andy Barth, Paul Reiter, Doug Penniston, Jay Gerlach, Dan Hawkins, Steve Noel, Bryan Walz.

Chair Tooley called meeting to order at 10:02

**Roll Call**, 15 members in attendance so quorum was met.

### Request for additional Items to add to Agenda:

None

### Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Reiter, second Geigle. Approved on voice vote.

### New Business:

#### 1. Executive Order Changes:

Chairman Tooley read the following prepared statement:

*This council has been in existence since 2007 when Governor Rounds signed the Executive Order creating the South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council (SDPSCC). The council was established to provide user-based representation in an advisory role for the operations and management of the Statewide Radio System.*

*Since it's turn-up in 2003 The Statewide Radio System has been regarded as the "interoperability" tool for all public safety in the state and is used by agencies statewide on a primary or secondary basis. The System also has been a model for many other States across the nation for a Statewide Radio System. For the past eleven years the SDPSCC has set user policies, planned for additional coverage, and has been a conduit from that body to the user communities across the state for information related to the radio system, the industry, and regulatory issues.*

*In 2013, the SDPSCC was also assigned the role of providing governance for the National Public Safety Broadband System, or more commonly known as "FirstNet". Broadband is becoming an indispensable part of public safety communications, as the industry and our first responders look to technology as a means of providing better service and being more efficient.*

*FirstNet has also introduced commercialization into a realm typically managed by public safety or those agencies/divisions supporting them. This commercial aspect has been accompanied by a marketing effort and a profit-centric motivation that has not been*

*typical of public safety communications in the past. This marketing effort has created confusion on the capabilities and timelines of the newer technology and it's ability to supplant the traditional Land Mobile Radio (LMR) infrastructure.*

*These changes for public safety are perhaps the largest facing the industry since the introduction of LMR capabilities in the 1930's and 40's. The implications for budgetary, policy, and statutory changes will accompany the technology itself and as previously configured, beyond the skillsets of the original SDPSCC membership.*

*As amended, Executive Order 2018-07 now includes within it's membership the State 911 Coordinator to provide continuity between that system and the broadband tool increasingly used by public safety, and a member from each house of the legislature to provide expertise on the budgetary and statutory challenges ahead. It is the expectation that the two-way flow of information from and to these additional members to their respective peer groups will provide the group with good representation across the state.*

## **2. New Members**

Tooley introduced the new members, Rechtenbaugh, Barthel, and Cronin (who was unable to attend the meeting).

## **3. FCC Regulations**

Pierce reported out on issues voiced by a concerned citizen in Lawrence County on the county's communications equipment, specifically the station ID and maintenance records. Discussion was a reminder that we each as communicators need to observe laws and regulations applying to our systems and equipment. Additional discussion by Gorton, Gerlach, Geigle, Barth.

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. FY2019/2020 Budget**

Pierce provided update on the State Radio budget, all aspects of budget are in line with expectations. Adjustment to FY2018 budget include salary policy and \$10,000 allocated for support of the Union County site. Additional discussion and questions on status of budget by Gorton and Maupin.

#### **2. Grant Status**

Pierce covered the current State and Local Implementation Grant Program associated with the FirstNet project. The state match for this grant is being met through soft match hours worked on the project. The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) also had significant discussion with input from Gorton, Pierce, Reiter, Timmerman, Hawkins, and Barth.

#### **3. Digital Radio Infrastructure updates**

Pierce provided updated from Todd Dravland on the following system and site updates:

- Union county site: Equipment arriving, electrical work in building ongoing, FCC licensing ongoing, antennas/feedline installed, internal grounding installed, site will be brought on line as soon as all equipment has arrived and can be installed.
- Civil Disturbance Planning: Most pressing issue right now is encryption and how we will handle that, but questions remain on how many sites we can prepare for on the communications side. Programming of national interop channels (VTAC's/VCALL's) was discussed.
- Crandall: the SRC Crandall site is of interest to T-Mobile who would like to expand coverage from site. Capacity studies are underway.
- Additional site work: Lighting upgrades at towers completed and underway, would like to remove Murdo site if possible as we no longer utilize it, other site maintenance.
- Sturgis: System performance during the rally was discussed. System statistics during the Rally were lower than in the past, somewhat attributed to better mobile data service than encountered in the past.
- Other: Reiter outlined the outage at the Wildland Fire Center because of the fiber cut. The outage caused significant disruptions in operations, which triggered a discussion by Barth, Gorton, and Ackerman on redundancy and potential backups for public safety communications infrastructure. The subject of encryption also was raised again, with input from Tooley, Gorton, Timmerman.

#### **4. Discussion on sustainable Funding**

The agenda item of a sustainable funding source generated a significant amount of discussion. Discussion was led by Tooley and covered the history of the council attempts to secure a funding source that would allow for the upgrade of the radio system as well as future expansions and improvements that might be required without having to rely on general funds. Of primary concern is the project champion and path ahead. With the 2023 timeline rapidly approaching, the options become less each passing year, and upcoming changes in the administration and potentially in the legislature may further complicate this process.

A motion was made by Timmerman to: *“Motion to move ahead with the draft bill. Once completed and if it meets the approval of the council executive committee, introduce to legislative process.”* Motion was seconded by Ackerman and approved on unanimous voice vote.

Additional discussion on subject included Barthel, Pierce, Timmerman, Staci Ackerman, Hawkins, Noel, Gorton, Dave Ackerman, Goodwin, and Rechtenbaugh.

#### **5. State FirstNet Plan Update:**

Extensive discussion of the FirstNet plan. FirstNet is now being marketed and offered in South Dakota. Also discussed during this time was the offering that Verizon has comparable to the FirstNet service, coverage. An update from ATT/FirstNet on the number of sites the FirstNet project will be bringing has increased from 38 to 42. The topic of deployables was also discussed were potential apps, interoperability, and administration of the plans and subscriptions for volunteer agencies and other large groups. Included in the conversation were Pierce, Waldner, Barth, Penniston, Tooley, Goodwin, Timmerman, Gorton, Reiter.

**6. OEC Updates:**

Hawkins and Noel provided updates from the Department of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Communications. Hawkins outlined technical assistance offerings available, including current requests from South Dakota on Communications Unit Leader organization and a special course being formulated for our state on RF Technician training. Hawkins outlined the National Governors workshop held in Portland Oregon and the goals by the South Dakota team. Hawkins also led a discussion on Wireless Priority Service (WPS).

**7. Train the Trainer Program**

Pierce gave an update on the final train the trainer session held for use of the radio system. The session was held in Winner and was the final of six scheduled sessions during which several hundred were trained on system use.

**8. Keystone Pipeline**

Discussion on communications for First Responders and the potential pipeline protests. Construction is scheduled to start in 2019, and much planning needs to be done for radios, broadband and other comms for responders. Input by Collins, Pierce, and Rechtenbaugh.

**9. Union County Site**

Covered in the budget and system update agenda items.

**10. WAVE project**

Pierce outlined current status of the cellular application that allows communications with the radio system. Currently state and Minnehaha/Sioux Falls users on system, latency issues with the system are causing some problems, but for the intent of the product it does work OK. Barth outlined a system that the US Forestry Office is using, again about same experience as WAVE. Input from Tooley, Gorton.

**11. Standard programming template**

Report on current status of a standard programming template that can be used by all system users for both the legacy and upcoming system. System key for new system has been purchased, allowing agencies to pre-program radios allowing an easy transition. Included in the topic discussion were Dave Ackerman, Geigle, Brian Soehl, Tooley, Timmerman, and Pierce.

**12. Other**

None.

**Organizational Reports:**

Timmerman – EM’s had state conference already, no other report.

Ackerman—Sustainable Funding, Sheriff’s meeting in November

Tooley – 911 legislation, sustainable funding

Reiter – Andy Solvie center manager now, FireNet is fully operational and in use.

Maupin – North Dakota policy on DOT personnel and cell phones.

Geigle – Council moving in right direction on funding proposal.

Motion to Adjourn by Reiter  
Second by Maupin

Meeting adjourned 1400