

March 18, 2021 Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council

Council Representatives In Attendance:

Jeff Pierce, Steve Swenson, Harold Timmerman, Kevin Karley, Bruce Nachtigall, Jason Jones, Maria King, Casey Collins, Jim Pearson, Gary Jaeger, Tyler Green, Brent Long, Michael Steffen, Andy Barth, Tim Rave, Chuck Kevghas, John Wiik, Scott Rechtenbaugh,

Vice-Chair Nachtigall called meeting to order at 10:00

Roll Call, 18 members in attendance so quorum was met.

Request for additional Items to add to Agenda:

Grant County Communications

Approval of December 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Timmerman, second Collins. Approved on voice vote.

New Business:

1. Membership, Filling Open Positions

- Nominee's for Wildland Fire, DOT, EMT Association, DOH needs to name a replacement for Rick LaBrie

2. Report on 2021 legislative session, impact to communications

- SB64, modification to current year budget adds \$800K for new sites at Reliance and Hot Springs, \$2.4M for 3-site simulcast system in Rockerville, Keystone, Hill City.
- HB1265 provided \$800k for civil work on the Hills Simulcast buildout.
- Funding for electronics at an existing site (Battle Mountain), near Hot Springs.
- Funding for electronics at an existing site near Reliance.

3. Broadband FTE

- Funds to cover the FTE starting in FY22 were included in the BIT budget.

4. System Update Status

Dravland outlined the upgrade status for the P25 project:

- Completed system core upgrade to 7.19
- NICE recording upgrade next
- Once recording system is upgraded, work will begin on ethernet connectivity to connected dispatch centers and Critical Connect.

5. Member Terms

- Up for reappointment in 2021: Rave, Jones, Barth, Kludt, Jaeger.
- Up for reappointment in 2022: Barthel, Wiik, Swenson, Pearson, Karley, Barth.
- Termed out 2022: Timmerman.

6. Reliance, Hot Springs, & Hills project outlines.

- Reliance: \$400k, uses the existing SDPB tower & building. Improves coverage in Oacoma, Chamberlain, northern Lyman, Lower Bule, and Ft. Thompson.
- Hot Springs: \$400k, uses existing Battle Mountain site & building. Improves coverage in Hot Springs & Southern Hills. Should be a major improvement for fire response.
- Hills Simulcast: \$2.4M (system), \$800k (towers & buildings). Cooperative project with Pennington County who will be responsible for the towers, buildings, and telecommunications, state will supply & maintain electronics. Karley provided an update on status of new sites, still working on Keystone and Hill City sites. Jaeger provided input on additional coverage needed in northeastern SD.

7. Methodology for prioritization of new sites:

Per recommendation from the Bureau of Finance & Management, the council was encouraged to come up with a verifiable ranking system for the addition of new sites to the statewide radio system. This agenda item generated a significant amount of discussion, with a motion made by Timmerman for the following:

The Executive Committee of the South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council will work with the Association of County Commissioners on a prioritization methodology for adding new digital statewide radio sites to the system.

Pearson seconded the motion and discussion on the motion called for Jaeger to coordinate with the Association of County Commissioners to set up a meeting schedule to work on the development of the plan. The council had a unanimous vote for the proposal and Jaeger will coordinate between the groups.

8. Master Site Upgrade

Covered in agenda item #4.

9. Critical Connect/WAVE App

An overview of the Critical Connect service/application was provided. The updated service replaces the current WAVE application that requires donor radios and additional equipment for each talkgroup added to the application. This new service is directly connected and will not require that additional overhead, so will be much more practical for agencies. Discussed the number of talkgroups that could be added, which is virtually unlimited, cost of the service, and model of the licenses.

Old Business:

1. FYT2021/2022 Budget:

Pierce provided overview of the State Radio budget. At this time all aspects of the budget are at expected levels. For FY22 budget, BIT/State Radio will be receiving around \$128,000 to the base budget for the broadband position, expenditure authority for those upgrade funds already appropriated, and \$3.2M one-time funding for three additional tower site projects.

2. Grant Status:

SLIGP 2.0 (FirstNet) closeout in process, end of grant is 3-31-2021.

3. Digital Radio System Updates:

Dravland provided system updates on:

- Conversion of site & dispatch circuits to Ethernet.
- Duties for newest SRC tech Trent Nincehelser, brought on for IT/Network expertise.
- Audit of radios & unused radios by State Radio, estimating that up to 5,000 may be out of service or used only for off-network traffic.
- Telcom issues at the Hillhead site, hopefully addressed.
- Timeline for sites not yet identified. Discussed current workload, the possible addition of channels to the Mitchell site and expansion of the Sioux Falls sites.

4. FirstNet/Broadband

Mike Waldner covered the current status of the FirstNet and the broadband subcommittee for South Dakota. The subcommittee is meeting on a regular basis and has been working towards application standardization. Also discussed was a proposal by Waldner to move ahead with a standard application for first responders in the state, not as an exclusive, but as a common app for cross-agency situational awareness. Waldner was instructed to get a recommendation from the subcommittee and come back to the June meeting for approval from the council.

FirstNet regional coordinator Tracey Murdock gave a brief overview of the FirstNet Authority world, including the potential of a state workshop.

State FirstNet/ATT coordinator Doug Penniston gave an overview on buildout status. Of the 27 commit sites, a few have been completed, 13 are in progress, and the rest hopefully to come later 2021. Doug provided information on the high- power modem (HPEU) that should significantly extend the range of current broadband data devices.

5. Key-File, Code-Plug Template, Test Site

Dravland provided an update on the programming side. State Radio staff has finalized the programming template that will be required as standard. This template involved 16 channel zones, with the 16 special ops talkgroups requested earlier by the council.

To this point, Vantek has conducted radio testing on the Pierre test site and others are making arrangements to do so as well. Additional radio vendors may request approval to conduct testing as well.

6. Encryption Standard

AES-256 is the standard tied to Project 25 and all DHS funding opportunities, so is our default state standard.

7. Simulcast conversion Discussion

Nothing new on this item, Rapid City will be first site to be built out. This agenda item will be removed in future meetings.

8. Strategy to move out from simulcast builds

The plan continues to build out from the simulcast areas, possible change might be those sites that will not be ethernet ready at that time.

9. Scheduled calls with Radio Dealers and Stakeholders.

State Radio continues to get additional stakeholders on the calls each month, a very good way of spreading awareness of what is coming and when. Calls with dealers are well attended and are an interactive discussion as they get ready to prepare first responders for what is coming.

10. Other

Matt Tooley expanded on the plans in Sioux Falls to add an additional site on the Simulcast system.

Organizational Reports:

Jones – Joint Chiefs & Sheriffs meeting in April.

Swenson – Nothing

Rechtenbaugh – TransCanada on hold.

Nachtigal - Nothing

Green — Nothing.

Timmerman – Nothing

Rave – Just finished legislative session.

Steffen – Nothing

Collins – Nothing

Karley – Nothing

Long – Nothing

Jaeger – Nothing

Pearson – Nothing

Barth – Undergoing radio inspections right now.

Pierce - Nothing

King – Text to 911 soon to be released, 988 discussion

Tentative Next Meeting Date – June 17, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn by Jaeger

Second by Steffen

Meeting adjourned 1335