

March 10, 2022 Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council

Online- in Attendance:

Jeff Pierce, Harold Timmerman, Bruce Nachtigall, Brian Soehl, Andy Barth, Jason Jones, Jim Pearson, Jay Gerlach, Doug Penniston, JD Geigle, Tracey Murdock, David Goodwin, Steve Swenson, Michael Steffen, Chuck Kevghas, Tyler Green, Casey Collins, Kevin Karley, Andy Barth, Frank Jarman, Ray Black., Brent Long,, Maria King, Brian Hambeck, Allan Miller, Dave Ackerman, Matt Tooley, Garrett Wellman, Jason Ketterling, Joannah Tornow, Todd Dravland.

Chair Goodwin called meeting to order at 10:00

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

Request for additional Items to add to Agenda:

None. King moved to accept agenda, Timmerman second. Approved on voice vote.

Approval of December 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Timmerman motioned to approve, second Karley. Approved on voice vote.

New Business:

1. Legislative Update

Pierce provided an update on SB34 which is waiting on the Governors signature. This bill will provide \$600,000 for a new site near Redfield, and \$150,000 for a replacement tower near White River that is compromised. Another \$525,000 was requested as an ongoing general fund addition to the budget to cover the contracted support services on the radio system.

2. System Upgrade

Dravland Update. To date, the system core has been upgraded to 7.19, NICE logging recording system upgraded GenWatch working, the Critical Connect Platform that will allow an interface to similar systems in our region, LTE interface, and a PTT app. We have had a few delays in the turnup of this platform, so will be Q1 2022.

It is important to note that we are approximately one year out from beginning the conversion of sites across the state to P25.

3. Reliance, Hot Springs, & Hill's project outlines.

For both the Reliance and Hot Springs add sites the projects are running behind due to spectrum challenges. Reliance issue has been resolved and equipment is scheduled to be shipped on 4-1-2022, Hot Springs is still in progress getting clean frequencies. Additional projects underway are (1) Mitchell to add capacity to site to allow local operations as primary, and (2) direct connect of dispatch centers (PSAP's) for Rosebud Sioux Tribe, spearfish, and Deadwood. At this time King also brought up the difficulties that local PSAP's are having with supply chain and the necessary equipment to upgrade operations to P25. Soehl spoke about availability of equipment from the vendor perspective and Kevghas offered console loaners from the Dept of Health

The Hills project which requires the installation of new sites in the Rockerville, Hill City, and Keystone is on track as well. RCS was awarded the project civil work, which includes site prep and installation of the buildings, towers, and assistance with the telecommunications circuits. Progress for these sites is running ahead of schedule, with buildings and towers in place, and utility, connectivity, and fencing projects to complete sites underway. The sites could potentially be available for turnup in April.

4. Redfield/White River Projects

The White River and Redfield projects are under SB34 which at this point has been approved by legislature with a single dissenting vote. The bill is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

White River involves a replacement 250' tower that dates back to the 1970's and has been used for target practice with several sections punctured with bullet holes, making the interior of the tower unknown. For continued service and tech safety this tower needs to be replaced. \$150,000.

The Redfield tower project is a new site on the DOT maintenance shop site north of Redfield. This site will address an area underserved by surrounding towers and includes a 140' self-supporting tower, new building, RF equipment, etc. \$600,000

5. Member Term Update

Of the 21-member council, there are 11-member eligible for reappointment on 6-30-2022, two member that have served the 9 year maximum, two members that were reappointed until 2024, with the balance being state representatives who have no term limit. One state member has been replaced and is still listed so will need to be removed, one member has left state government and will need a formal replacement, one state representative has retired, and another will leave state government on June 8th, 2022. Pierce is working with the Governor's Office to get appointments current.

6. Critical Connect/WAVE System

Dravland gave an update of the Critical Connect platform that is partially installed, but State Radio is still working with the vendor to get the system operational. Vendor will be on site for the 3rd time during the week of March 14th.

7. Council 5-Year Plan

Pierce proposed looking ahead at a 5-year plan with the upgrade on track. The council has had almost a single primary focus the past 10 years of getting the statewide system upgraded and communicating the upgrade information to users across the state. After calendar year 2023, the network will be largely upgraded, and the council will need to focus on what is next. It was determined that members would come back to the June meeting with items for this plan.

8. SDPSCC Officer Review/Nominations

Per the SDPSCC by-laws, officer review/elections will be held annually. As the current slate of Executive Committee members have been in those posts longer than 1 year, members will need to nominate existing or new council members to serve on these posts. This March meeting provided the public notice for those elections so that it can be a formal agenda/business item for June meeting.

9. Review of Programming/Key Distribution

A lengthy discussion of access to the System Programming Key was held, triggered by the experiences of the State radio technical staff who had to invest a significant amount of time and resources addressing a problem created by a local entity who had been self-programming. The improperly programmed radios created officer safety issues not related to the system operation. It was proposed by Pierce that the council formally adopt standards that had been in place since 2007, that is:

- Agency has 100 minimum radios that they directly support.
- Agency has a dedicated shop to service radios.
- Agency has received certifiable training on radio programming.

After significant discussion, Timmerman proposed the adoption of the standards, with Karley seconding. During motion discussion, the term “certifiable” presented some challenges and the term “verifiable” was suggested and a motion to approve the original motion with that term was proposed by Geigle and seconded by Timmerman. The first motion was passed by voice vote and modified by voice vote on second motion.

10. Revisit County-Patch Talkgroups

An issue raised by Brown County in the last 6 months concerning the communications between teams who respond to incidents or issues statewide such as SWAT, HAZMAT, etc., and local entities who are not using the statewide system for primary communications. This lack of continuity can create a serious gap in emergency communications.

One thing that became clear during the discussion was the scope of the issue:

- What agencies maintaining a separate communications system had enough dual capabilities for their users and dispatch to operate on the statewide system?
- What agencies do not have the capabilities to run a joint operation on the statewide system without additional measures?

King volunteered to check with PSAP’s across the state to gauge the impact of this issue so that the council can work on a remedial plan if necessary. This issue will be revisited during the June meeting.

11. Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Project

Tooley provided an overview of a potential expansion of the radio system in this rapidly growing area of the state. Tooley is proposing additional sites in Lincoln and Minnehaha County, adding to the existing simulcast system in Sioux Falls. Tooley also discussed the new PSAP under construction which will greatly expand the number of operator consoles.

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. 33% of the fiscal year remains as of the report numbers provided. The budget items listed in the handout were incorrect as a result of a reporting issue, actual budget remaining is 22%

2. Broadband Subcommittee Report

Waldner and Pierce provided an update of the status of the subcommittee and of those personnel managing that committee. Waldner is willing to assist as he transitions to GOED, but both urged that the mission of the group is important and needs to be continued. Allan Miller contributed to the efforts with the Bridge4PS application in the state and how emergency management is building this application into their ongoing response process.

Penniston provided an update for FirstNet progress in South Dakota. 38 sites were committed to South Dakota, 26 were FirstNet funded. Of those 38 sites, 34 FirstNet sites are completed, 2 more in final stages of completion. All remaining sites should be completed in 2022. Band Class 14 is already built out beyond the 22% committed under the FirstNet program.

Murdock provided an update on the national scale, number of users in the program, and potential involvement of FirstNet in South Dakota.

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

Dravland updated council members on progress with different radio brand code-plugin development efforts. To date Bendix King, Motorola, EFJ/Kenwood radios have approved and functioning code plugs. State Radio staff continues to work with Icom and Harris.

4. Encryption Standard

Discussed with the council & visitors was the encryption workshop that has been requested. This workshop would build an encryption key management process, hopefully designing that so that keys assigned per agency and groups will not overlap. Ketterling brought up that scanners and scanner apps are being used to avoid law enforcement and that Highway Patrol could be very interested in participation in the workshop.

5. Moving Out Past Simulcast Builds

The initial plan to first complete the Rapid City simulcast, move to Sioux Falls and complete that simulcast before heading back to the Hills area to complete before Rally 2023. The December council meeting provided some direction that would keep the buildout out west and until completed. The logistics of users having to switch back and forth between the legacy system and new P25 buildout would present an officer safety issue. By Rally time, the Rapid City Simulcast, the Hills simulcast, and the Hot Springs sites will be on air creating operational confusion. It will be important for user notification to get the schedule out and public as soon as possible.

6. Monthly Calls with Radio Shops and Stakeholders

State Radio staff continues to host open forum meetings for the radio dealer community and stakeholders each month. Particularly on the radio dealer side, things have been worked through, and as we are at the 1 year or less point before the major part of the project kicks off, State Radio and the SDPSCC would like to promote as much as possible anything we can do to inform the community. State Radio is encouraging as much participation as possible to inform the user base.

Organizational Reports:

Jones – Joint Chiefs & Sheriff's meeting in April.

Swenson --

Green —

Goodwin –

Barth –

King – Text to 911 in place, Text from 911

Rave --

Timmerman –

Kludt – Discussed DHS grant process for new radios.

Collins –

Karley –

Geigle –

Long – Ambulance Directors meeting upcoming

Steffen –

Jaeger –

Barth – Issues with product availability on radio side.

Pearson –

Barthel –

Kevghas – Radio upgrades for hospitals and ambulances ongoing.

Motion to Adjourn by Geigle

Second by Jones

Next meeting date is June 8, 2022

Meeting adjourned 1235