**June 17, 2021 Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council**

**Council Representatives In Attendance (In-person and virtual):**

Jeff Pierce, Steve Swenson, Harold Timmerman, Kevin Karley, Bruce Nachtigall, Jason Jones, Maria King, Casey Collins, Jim Pearson, Gary Jaeger, Tyler Green, Michael Steffen, Andy Barth, Chuck Kevghas, John Wiik, Doug Barthel, JD Geigle, Charlie Kludt.

Guests attending; Tracey Murdock, Mike Waldner, Doug Penniston, Jay Gerlach, Brandon Smith; Frank Jarman, Brent Kohman

Executive Secretary Pierce 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:**

None

**Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Jones, second Karley. Approved on voice vote.

**New Business:**

1. **Membership, Filling Open Positions**

* Scott Rechtenbaugh has retired, working with ATG/DCI on replacement.
* JD Geigle was eligible to serve one more year, will co-chair with Brent Long.
* Other recent appointee’s have received oath from the Governor’s Office.
* Chuck Kevghas will fill in for DOH until further notice.

1. **System Update Status**

Dravland outlined the upgrade status for the P25 project:

* Completed system core upgrade to 7.19
* NICE recording upgrade completed.
* Critical Connect/WAVE upgrade will commence after 2021 Sturgis Rally.
* Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Spearfish PSAP’s upgrading to direct connected status.
* Mitchell FD and PD migrating to system, two additional channels being added to the Mitchell tower site.
* Replacement funds for the White River tower possible. Current tower has been used for target practice and has some structural defects. Frank Jarman suggested technology that might help mitigate this in the future.

1. **Reliance, Hot Springs, & Hills project outlines.**

* Purchase order for all three projects. We are responsible for procuring antennas & feedline.
* Pennington County has arrangements for the three additional tower sites. Karley confirmed all plans are on track.
* Spectrum plan for Reliance and Hot Springs is initially set. Motorola will need to confirm & then FCC licensing will need to be completed.
* Goal is to have Reliance and Hot Springs sites on-line by end of 2021, Hills project by end of Q1 2022.

1. **FirstNet/Broadband Subcommittee Report**

* ATT/FirstNet report. 16 sites on-line of the 38 committed for the FirstNet project, 17 in progress, hoping by end of the calendar year for at least 33 of the commit sites.
* Pearson expressed appreciation for the new site in the Waubay area, has much improved conditions there.
* Question on new sites in the Black Hills, Deerfield, Jewel Cave, and one other area.
* FirstNet will provide a presentation on HPUE on September 1. The high-power units will significantly enhance useability of the wireless data footprint.
* Mike Waldner gave an extensive overview of the process to select a single statewide application for public safety in the state. At this point in time Bridge for PS is the only practical solution to provide the widest number of users in the state access. Bridge has a basic application that is at no cost that will cover most of the needs for all-hazards situational awareness within the state. Discussed was purchasing a limited number of the pro licenses to allow an administrator for each department. Harold Timmerman introduced the motion*:* ***The Public Safety Communications Council supports adoption of the Bridge for PS application as the statewide standard, pending a security review by BIT.***Pearson provided a second, after discussion motion was passed on a voice vote.

1. **COMU Program**

* Restarting program initially begun in 2018 to organize, formalize training, credentialing, and exercise standards. DHS did not finalize the plan, so are starting over.
* Leveraging the experience of Wild Land Fire (WLF) who has a separate, but much more polished program. Tamara Dierks and Michael Steffen are participating and contributing to the effort to put together an all-hazards COMU program.
* Next step will be an open workshop that will lead to a formalized plan for the State of South Dakota. Any interested parties should contact [jeff.pierce@state.sd.us](mailto:jeff.pierce@state.sd.us)

1. **Critical Connect/WAVE App**

An overview of the Critical Connect service/WAVE application was provided by Brent Kohman of Motorola. 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 and other operational aspects of the service and application. The intent is to begin the upgrade process at the conclusion of the Sturgis Rally, 2021.

1. **FY23 Budget Request**

* Requesting $100k for a statewide situational awareness application.
* Expecting this upcoming and next fiscal years to be tight with project.

1. **Sturgis Rally/Upgrade Discussion**

* Calls with stakeholders/radio users and dealers lead to the conclusion that we could possibly build out the Hills area before Rally 2023.
* Circuit orders will be placed with the Hills area as priority.

**Old Business:**

1. **FY2021/2022 Budget:**

Pierce provided overview of the State Radio budget. All budgets with the exception of some personal services dollars will be zeroed out. FY22 changes starting in July are general funds for the app coordinator (Mike Waldner) and salary policy.

1. **Grant Status:**

SLIGP 2.0 (FirstNet) closeout in process final date of 6-30-2021.

1. **Digital Radio System Updates:**

Dravland provided system updates on:

* Conversion of site & dispatch circuits to Ethernet.
* Telcom issues at the Hillhead site, hopefully addressed.
* New sites, Mitchell addition, and

1. **FirstNet/Broadband**

Covered in new business.

1. **Key-File, Code-Plug Template, Test Site**

Dravland and Pierce briefly covered the template available to dealers to program user radios. SF 2-Way has not received the template, so State Radio needs to ensure that all commercial shops have the tools they need. Testing is ongoing, Jay Gerlach discussed using the P25 site coming into Pierre for the meeting and how well it worked.

1. **Encryption Standard**

Discussed in new business, a plan is in place moving forward to start as early as possible out west to conclude before the 2023 Rally starts.

1. **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.

1. **Stakeholder Calls**

Limited participation in the stakeholder calls, but very good discussion.

1. **Scheduled calls with Radio Dealers**

As with the stakeholders, our calls with the radio dealers are very productive. Everything from programming to system updates are discussed.

**Organizational Reports:**

Jones – Nothing.

Swenson – Nothing

DCI – Open.

Nachtigal - Nothing

Green — Nothing.

Timmerman – State Conference to be held in Watertown in September.

Kludt – Radio classes for first responders during district fire schools.

Rave –

Steffen – Fires ongoing, very busy.

Collins – Nothing

Karley – Dakota 911 conference Sept 13-16.

Kevghas – DOH bought 699 radios for EMS units, radio + installs.

Long – Nothing

Jaeger – Nothing

Pearson – EM conference and TIMS training.

Barth – As with WLF, very busy with fire season right now.

Pierce - Nothing

King – Text to 911 operational March 22nd.

Barthel – Nothing

Wiik – Dealing with stimulus funding management challenges.

**Tentative Next Meeting Date – TBD, September is a very booked month.**

Motion to Adjourn by Geigle

Second by King

Meeting adjourned 1310