

December 20th 2018, Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council

In Attendance:

Jeff Pierce, Brad Maupin, Dave Ackerman, Harold Timmerman, Matt Tooley, Doug Barthel, Casey Collins, Bruce Nachtigall, Dennis Gorton, Frank Jarman, Brian Soehl, Staci Ackerman, Mike Waldner, Jason Jones, Paul Reiter, Doug Penniston, Jay Gerlach, Tim Rave, Chuck Kevghas, Jeremy Walla, Nick Carlson, Scott Rechtenbaugh, Todd Dravland, John Dalldorf,

Chair Tooley called meeting to order at 10:02

Roll Call, 14 members in attendance so quorum was met.

Request for additional Items to add to Agenda:

Tooley, look at council membership expansion.

Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes:

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

New Business:

1. December 3, 2018 Interim Appropriations Meeting Report:

Tooley outlined the meeting held on December 3rd, with Ackerman providing additional details on the sustainable discussion held with the interim Appropriations Committee. A significant discussion followed on the following related topics: general fund giveback (Gorton), system sustainability aspects (Timmerman, Carlson), orienting leadership (Barthel), associated timelines (Timmerman), radio replacement funding (Barthel, Ackerman, Walla), healthcare facilities inclusion (Kevghas), reliance of local agencies on system (Carlson, Walla), Association importance (Staci Ackerman), potential opposition (Rave, Barthel), wireless industry view (Pierce).

2. Unified Correspondence (meeting report distribution)

General discussion on the need to improve communication and information output from the council. After the December Fire Chief's meeting it became obvious that our current communications channels were not working. Pierce and Tooley will work on an executive summary from each meeting and send that out to associations and individuals who would benefit from current information on the radio system. (Pierce, Tooley, Gorton, Walla, Reiter, others).

3. Council Member Terms

A number of the non-state appointees to the council will have terms expiring in 2019. A secondary topic of officer elections was deferred to the March meeting because public notice was not provided for this meeting as required for formal council business. (Pierce, Rave, Gorton, Tooley). Motion to delay officer vote by Ackerman, second by Timmerman, approved on voice vote.

4. Post-Upgrade Equipment Availability

Council members have been questioned on availability of additional equipment providers after the upgrade in 2023. Potential radio solutions after that point include Motorola, Kenwood, Icom, Harris, BK, Tait, and possibly others. Discussed was the need to develop an equipment approval process prior to that time to qualify equipment compatible with our system. (Dravland, Reiter, Pierce, Soehl, Gorton, Kevghas, Ackerman, Timmerman).

5. Key File, code plug template

Subject of a template for radio programming that would allow uniformity of programming across the state was discussed. Significant problems with utilization of the system and operational issues related to improperly programmed radios have been present in our system for many years. Process was led by Dravland and Dalldorf, with input by Tooley, Reiter, Soehl, Kevghas, Timmerman, Walla, and Maupin.

6. Priority Site List

The council has maintained a priority list for site expansion, and with the Union site near completion, that list will need to be updated. Time was spent covering the reported underserved areas, an example of the topography around an underserved site, and which site should be our next on the priority list. Ackerman made a motion that the Redfield/Clark area be added as the third in priority on that list, with Collins providing a second. Motion passed on a voice vote.

7. Radio Inventory

Pierce provided details on the 23,303 issued ID's on the network and the associated databases behind those ID's as the utilization of those devices on the system. The recently entered information into the databases and associated diagnostic application will allow a better look at what radios are using the system and a better means of removing inactive ID's from the system. Tooley and other commented on the data.

8. LE/IR MOU with the Department of Interior

Pierce outlined the MOU in process with the Dept of Interior that will allow programming of federal law enforcement and interoperability channels into non-federal radios in South Dakota. These channels will become part of the standard programming templates used in South Dakota.

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 FY2019 budget include salary policy and \$10,000 allocated for support of the Union County site. The requested 2020 budget is pretty much in-line with the 2018 budget.

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, Dravland, and Kevghas.

3. Digital Radio Infrastructure updates

Dravland provided an update on the following system and site updates:

- Overview on system and operations.
- Made some changes on the Huron site to improve coverage south of town.
- Site tuning and modifications to improve coverage from the Turkey Ridge tower.
- Improved coverage from the Long Valley tower.
- Various sites repairs to roofing systems and tower lighting systems.
- Other: Ackerman brought up potential issues in Day county, Timmerman also participated in discussion of system & coverage.

4. 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. 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, Penniston, Timmerman, Gorton. Reiter provided an overview of the FireNet app.

5. Keystone Pipeline

Discussion on communications for First Responders and the potential pipeline protests. Project on hold by Montana Federal Judge ruling, but preparation continues with counties along the path of the proposed construction.

6. Union County Site

Covered in the budget and system update agenda items, but hopefully site will be on line during week of January 7th.

7. 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. Also discussed was the hosted Kodiak service that functions much like the current WAVE without the need to maintain back-end equipment. Frank Jarmin of Motorola gave a brief overview of this service with more information to come.

8. Other

Tooley requested a discussion of the potential for adding additional member groups or associations. The council determined deferring further discussion on the subject until after the 2019 legislative session. Included in the discussion were Rave, Tooley, Pierce, Gorton.

Organizational Reports:

Timmerman – Communications to EM's on sustainable funding.

Ackerman—Sheriff's Association support for sustainable funding proposal on record.

Scott Rechtenbaugh – New Attorney General

Tooley – New 911 RFP in process

Gorton – Thanks to Ackerman for Fire Chiefs meeting session. Adding article to firefighters newsletter

Reiter – Federal shutdown impact, solution for fiber cuts to GPC, state Wi-Fi at GPC.

Motion to Adjourn by Ackerman

Second by Reiter

Meeting adjourned 1400