

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2014

- The meeting was called to order by Chair, Paco Aumand at 1:30 pm. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and Mr. William Casey, the FirstNet Region 1 Representative, was introduced. Introductions around the room included: Lt. Mike Manning, Suellen Royea, Sara Small, David Tucker, Jim Porter, Steve Locke, Frank Costantino, Joe Flynn, Michael Richards, Erin Lawrence, Terry LaValley, and William Casey.
- **Report on Workshop:** The meeting proceeded with a report from the four (4) members (Lt. Michael Manning, Sara Small, Michael Richards, and Chris Campbell) who attended the regional workshop in Atlanta, GA. Lt. Michael Manning noted the group had an opportunity to meet other states/regions and felt that Sara benefited from the discussions on management of the grant. (Chris Campbell arrived at 1:36 pm). In addition, FirstNet is still in the hiring phase and was looking for information from the states. Paco Aumand asked about how other states outside of Region 1 were doing. Mike Manning answered that some states are making some assumptions and have started hiring employees, while a lot of other states are waiting for more information. Chris Campbell added that the Mid-Atlantic Region has created a formal structure, which is called Macanack. In addition, he noted that there were some conversations held with other New England states and New York about interstate coverage and operability. He distributed contact information for possibly arranging a regional meeting. (Robert T. White joined the meeting at 1:43 pm.) William Casey added that he was impressed with what the Southeast states are doing. Paco Aumand expressed this would be a good opportunity to work with Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts due to the interstate corridor. Chris Campbell thought that State Consultations may be just around the corner and would be a multi-step process. It was noted that public/private networks could be part of the dialogue. NITSA gave a presentation on rural coverage and deployables. There was a question about a national level would include a rural deployment option. Mr. Casey indicated that the West Virginia representative is very keen on rural deployment and thought there would be a rural option. Paco Aumand asked if the format was similar to the workshop held in Needham, MA. Lt. Manning indicated the format was the same, but the focus of this workshop was regarding the management of the grant. Overall the members found it to be a good meeting. A couple of points/suggestions were made that included possibly shortening some of the workshops, having the opportunity for discussions about the business model of FirstNet, and the likelihood of states requesting extensions to use the funding.
- **Regional Representative:** The meeting was turned over to William Casey, who reviewed his experience/position. He advised that some of those first hired were engineers and the focus now is in hiring the Chief of Financials and Chief Technology Officer positions, which have been offered but are awaiting final approval, and some of the support staff. He showed a PowerPoint

presentation on the process so far and the next step, which will be Asset Identification from states. This step should include Initial Consultation; SPOC confirmation; Analysis, Clarification and Planning; and then Initial Consultation. The Initial Consultation package for the states will hopefully be distributed by the end of March/April. Mr. Casey encouraged early stage outreach to police & fire departments. The difficulties of outreach were reviewed and included: not enough information to provide to the local entities, lengthy technology implementation times, request for possible tools available for assessing business requirements, and determining what information FirstNet needs. Vermont has tried to bring key fire and police personnel together. An example of the type of information needed was if a local agency had cell towers. Another area reviewed was that local agencies will be asking how it will benefit them personally. Mr. Casey shared his experience in Boston where they couldn't afford cell phones for everyone, but could get the bond to get the hardware in place.

Mr. Casey also shared that FirstNet was charged with building a business plan, which will be proposed to the Board shortly. He felt the plan will show that we are going in the right direction and then it will incorporate the states information/plan.

There was some discussion regarding RAN (Radio Network) and funding requirements. It was noted we already have a radio network (RAN) and that we may not be asked to fund the actual build, but may have to find funding for maintaining the network. Mr. Casey explained that the core has to be built no matter what and the RAN will be how you access the core. There are many suggestions around how the rural/wilderness areas will work. Chris Campbell noted that not all the states are the same. Mr. Casey noted the Boston Marathon bomb situation was that the network could not handle the demand. There is a need to find other funding. AT&T and Verizon are spending \$22 Billion dollars a year on their networks. Chris Campbell noted that in regards to the Spectrum policy, there is a need to be careful on how you pair spectrum; may not be gaining much in economic value if additional development in urban areas and not rural areas.

In closing, Paco Aumand expressed his pleasure with Mr. Casey as our Region 1 Representative. Mr. Casey distributed an approved handout.

- **Update on SLIGP Grant:** Paco Aumand gave an update that the grant has been accepted and is in place, projects that can be drawn down are being drawn, and the Project Manager position has been authorized but pending Human Resources approval. Chris Campbell asked about when we might have someone on board. Paco Aumand thought the time frame may be 3-4 months. He also thought we may want to draft an RFP for a technical advisor, which he thought he could do through email. Frank Costantino and Dave Tucker agreed to review the RFP. Paco Aumand noted that he has been in touch with some consultants, who say that we need to do some planning.

- **Outreach opportunities:** Some possible outreach opportunities coming up included: Chiefs annual meeting in May, Fire annual meeting in St. Albans in September/October, EMS conference also in the Fall, EMHS meeting in September, and monthly Firefighters meetings. Lt. Mike Manning noted that he gave a presentation to the LEPC last month. Terry LaValley suggested sending out a letter to all public safety entities. Lt. Manning suggested using the Human Security email group, which includes every Public Safety entity. It was noted that for grant reporting, they require numbers and there is money in the budget for outreach material and mailing costs. Mr. Casey added that FirstNet could provide some materials. Jim Porter suggested informing the Legislature. Paco Aumand was not sure it was the right time. Terry LaValley suggested a website. Michael Richards suggested using social media and link it to a web page. Paco and Suellen will talk about web development. Robert White added that VTrans will hold an annual meeting in June.
- **Other business:**
 - Paco Aumand asked how FirstNet deals with Northern borders. Mr. Casey indicated that they are talking about it now. There was some discussion about Canadian and United States first responders having the ability to cross the border and the A Line/B Line treaty. It was noted that any radio frequency licenses issued have to be approved by the FCC and Industry Canada.
 - Lt. Manning spoke about a Broadband PA, and that DHS approved a Broadband 101 program to talk about broadband and its benefits. He will attend New Hampshire's class, and Connecticut will hold a similar class on March 19th. Paco Aumand suggested holding our class at our next meeting, April 2, 2014. Lt. Manning will try to distribute some preliminary information prior to the meeting.
- In summary, Paco Aumand will put together a draft RFP proposal and ask Frank Costantino, Dave Tucker and Terry LaValley to review/comment, which will be proposed to the full Commission for review; ensure all outreach opportunities and delivery options are captured in the minutes; will ask confirmed commission members to attend some of the local group meetings; put together a letter and obtain more flyers for a direct mailing, which was suggested could be sent out as a pdf attachment to an email; include a notice in the VLCT news letter; spread the word through local radio shops doing service for fire and police departments; and creating a FirstNet web page as part of the DPS web site.
- Sara Small reminded everyone to sign the Sign In sheet before leaving. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.