

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission  
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom  
Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2015

- The meeting was called to order by Chair, Paco Aumand, at 1:30 pm with the following present: Michael Richards, William LaFerriere, Joe Flynn, Tess Gauthier, Sara Small, Robert White, Frank Costantino, and Suellen Royea.
- Paco Aumand reported that there are at least two (2) members that have not regularly attended meetings, Al Barber and Paul Duquette. He noted that the Governor's office has scrutinized our membership and with the two (2) members that have left (Chris Campbell and Dave Tucker), wondered if he should encourage them to participate by sending them a letter as the project is heading into a significant time and their absence will be an issue. Joe Flynn suggested contacting Sue Spaulding at the Governor's Office, but thought that a letter from the Chair sent to a member inquiring about their intentions would be appropriate. Paco noted that VTA is being dissolved and will be incorporated into Public Service under Jim Porter.
- **Update from Tess Gauthier, FirstNet Project Manager:**
  - **FirstNet SPOC Meeting:** Paco Aumand reported that he and Tess Gauthier went to the SPOC meeting in Westin, Virginia. (Al Barber arrived at 1:37 pm.) There is a lot of momentum in many of the states to work with FirstNet; FirstNet is in the process of hiring supervisory leads for each region; the second public comment request was reviewed; and SLIGP Phase II requirements was discussed. One of FirstNet's key engineers, Doug from Boulder, Colorado, noted that if you want coverage in your state, be part of the planning process; the more subscriber devices and users you can identify, the better. Tess Gauthier continued that Vermont will be the first state to receive their GIS Maps and some of the Phase II funding requirements were lifted. Robert White noted that VTrans received a grant to install fiber and routers with the FirstNet component included, and asked if it will violate the FirstNet project. Paco noted that we need to disclose VTrans' project and funding and have it added into the State Plan for the Opt-In/Opt-out as Burlington may want their own RAN. Tess Gauthier suggested it as a use case at the State Consultation. She also reported that FirstNet released their draft RFP documents and hopes to have the final RFP documents released next year.
  - **Website:** Tess Gauthier reported that she submitted a website request, which should be up and running in 30-40 days.
  - **Naming of Project:** Tess displayed the ideas from the last meeting and suggested VermontNet. Al Barber noted that will be about buy in and will depend on the target; who are we going to have to get the most buy in from to make it work. It was reviewed

that FirstNet has requested that their name not be used in our project. Some additional suggestions included: Vermont Emergency Response Broadband Network, Vermont First Net, Vermont Emergency Response Network, Vermont Broadband Initiative, Vermont Public Safety Network, Vermont First Responder Network, Vermont Safety Network, Vermont Broadband Communications Network, VT Emergency Responder Network (VTern/VTERN), and Vermont Broadband Emergency Responder Network. After consideration and some preliminary Google searches, the following suggestions were removed: VermontNet, Vermont Safety Information Exchange (V-Six) powering information into the future, Vermont First Net, and Vermont Broadband Network. Tess noted that a name is needed within 30 days. Joe Flynn asked if professions needed to be part of the name. It was thought that it would be helpful. After careful consideration, it was decided that the name for the project will be Vermont Emergency Responder Network (VTern/VTERN).

- **State Consultation Discussion:**

- **Consultation has been set for June 15-16, 2015:** Paco Aumand reported that there has been a pre-consultation preparation call. Governor Douglas will open the day. Tess Gauthier added that if you are interested on being on the agenda, to please email her.
- **Input on Invitees List:** Tess Gauthier reviewed the list of potential invitees to the consultation meeting. She is waiting for some names of EMS, county sheriffs, and police chief representatives. Joe Flynn asked Tess to email a copy of the agenda to him, which she agreed to do. Paco Aumand asked Mike Richards and Al Barber if they thought fire departments have enough representation. Mike Richards indicated he is reaching out to Bradley Clark. Joe Flynn asked about reaching out to the RPC's. Tess Gauthier indicated that the original location of the consultation had limited space, but space is not an issue (Statehouse Room 11 instead of the Best Western) and thought it would be beneficial to invite more regional planning commissions. Joe Flynn suggested inviting a Rutland Fire representative and the Vermont State Fire Fighters Association Executive Committee. Other suggestions included: Kevin Goodhue from Bennington County; representatives from Newport, St. Albans, and Barre; Mike Canon, Mike Desrochers from Fire Safety; and Chris Herrick from HazMat. Robert White asked for SharePoint Access for John Filipek and Scott Davidson. Paco Aumand asked if there were any private entities or rescue entities that are called upon that should be included. Some suggestions included: 211-Mary Ellen Mandell, Amicare, Lamoille Ambulance, Rescue Inc. from Brattleboro, and E911 Board-Roger Marcoux. Paco Aumand reviewed an incident that took place on a mountain top this winter and noted that one of our themes in northern New England is that we are a state that recreates and wondered how broadband coverage could be enhanced for mountain rescue. Robert White noted that Transportation gets 911 calls occasionally on 511. Some additional suggestions for

invitees included a ski association, someone from Forest & Parks (Mike Fray would be a contact), US coast guard (Kain Foglesong, BM1 would be a contact), and a representative from the National Guard (General Heston would be a contact).

- **Providers of broadband providers:** Paco Aumand reviewed concerns and questions about including private providers; how and when do we engage them. FirstNet has left it up to the states to decide. He noted that at some state consultations the private providers took over and in others, they were invited but were not allowed to say anything. Some New England states have decided not to invite them. Paco Aumand asked when and how do we engage them. Bill LaFerriere asked if getting them involved made sense. Paco was not sure. Joe Flynn suggested holding a different meeting with just them. Robert White reported that VTel applied for funds and felt they should be invited. Paco said it might be a good idea to introduced ourselves and FirstNet. The Consultation meeting purpose was reviewed; they want to hear examples of use and the coverage needed. Paco thought that we could work on a separate presentation to private providers and noted that FirstNet is providing additional opportunities to private providers. Al Barber suggested creating an awareness document with functional information to give to private providers.
- **Data Collection:**
  - **Staffing for Data Collection:** Paco noted there was a lot of discussion about data collection at the SPOC Meeting and the due date was 7/31/2015. Tess Gauthier noted that the deadline was extended to 9/30/2015, and shared her strategy for collecting the requested data is to hire three (3) temporary employees. There are 75 questions to answer on the questionnaire. Joe Flynn requested a copy of the questionnaire. Sara Small noted that the grant allows for only one (1) position. To modify this, a grant modification would have to be completed. Tess reviewed her plan to use surveygizmo to collect and complete the questionnaire. Paco Aumand noted that we are less driven to contract for a technical contractor, but if we could find some folks to help with data collection it would be helpful to show users and their interest in the network. Robert White volunteered to test the survey. Tess Gauthier gave a quick review of the survey. The new deadline is September 30, 2015.
- **Coverage Priorities, need a meeting dedicated only to this and to identify a working group:** By September 30, 2015, we need to show coverage needs and to explain why we need coverage in that area. Joe Flynn noted that we have access to ACCD/GIS, and suggested that Kiersten may be able to help. Bill LaFerriere and Al Barber volunteered to be part of this project. Paco asked Tess to send out the coverage map for Vermont to the Commission Members and noted his

impression with FirstNet's proposed coverage. Burlington was the only full coverage. It was suggested to include someone from VTA/Public Service to the working group.

- **State Plan, Communications to Governor:** Paco Aumand reported that one thing that needs to be included is how the Governor is going to respond. He noted that Kiersten and he will be meeting with the Governor's office after the legislature adjourns to talk about the process. In addition, our response to FirstNet was that they should require something in writing about the state's decision.
- **Letter, two (2) new appointments:** Paco Aumand reported that Doug Johnson has volunteered and possibly Mike Leyden/Chris Bell could help determine an EMS representative, which will leave a VSP representative vacancy.
- **Other Business:**
  - A handout entitled "Guiding Principles" was distributed by Paco Aumand and reviewed. He noted that these are what he uses when responding to the requests for public comments. There were no objections. It was suggested to post these on the webpage.
  - **Next Meeting:** It was decided that the June meeting will be the consultation. It was suggested that parking be away from the Taylor street parking lot. Paco's goal for the consultation is to show that we are organized and understand broadband coverage.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.