



Meeting Minutes Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee

Attendance	DATE	Monday, June 15, 2015	
	TIME	9:00 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Training Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701	
		Nevada Highway Patrol – Southern Command Training Room A105 – First Floor 4615 W.Sunset Road Las Vegas, NV 89101	
	METHOD	Videoconference	
	RECORDER	Janell Woodward	
Committee Members	Present	Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
James Wright	X		
Michael Barnbeck	X	George Molnar	X
		Thomas Lawless	X
Rudy Malfabon	X		
Mitchell Sperling		Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	X
Chris Ipsen		Janell Woodward (NDEM Staff)	X
Scott Taylor	X	Rick Martin (NDEM Staff)	X
Matthew Morris	X	Kelli Anderson (NDEM Staff)	X
Dave Hunkup		Selby Marks (NDEM Staff)	
Louis Amell	X	Karen Hall (NDEM Staff)	X
Michael Brown	X		
Sandra Barfield	X		
Kevin Judice	X		
Bill Welch			
Gary Hames			

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright called the meeting to order and Janell Woodward called roll. A quorum was established with 9 of 13 from the total membership in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright opened the meeting for public comment. There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2014 and January 7, 2015 FirstNet Initial State Consultation meeting. Mike Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and Sandi Barfield seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION BY RIVADA REGARDING FIRSTNET AND ALTERNATIVES TO BROADBAND SOLUTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

Co-Chair, Director Wright indicated he wanted to bring this presentation to the NPSCC after hearing their presentation with the consensus that it would be interesting for the NPSCC to hear as well.

Chris Moore of Rivada provided a presentation regarding alternatives to broadband solutions for public safety with regard to FirstNet. Mr. Moore provided a brief history of his work in public safety and how he came to work with Rivada. Two Rivada videos were shown in both the southern venue and at the northern venue. These videos addressed dedicated public safety broadband and bandwidth.

FirstNet's plan is to charge a fee for network access. Rivada believes there should be no fee to public safety but would rather charge secondary users for access to excess bandwidth. Public safety would be provided with mission-critical grade and would be the first of its kind.

George Molnar asked for clarification that Rivada is speaking of the same spectrum that would be used for FirstNet or the potential opt-out for states. Mr. Moore confirmed that is correct and is LTE 3GPB. George additionally asked how this is different for an opt-out state. Mr. Moore elaborated on the vetting process that is required by FirstNet for opt-out states. A FirstNet core access fee would still be required.

Budge Currier, California Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), asked about the length from start to finish of a buildout. Because Rivada would not make money until a network was up and running, so this process would go as quickly as possible. As an example, for a state like Nevada, it might take anywhere from 12-24 months.

5. REVIEW OF JANUARY 7, 2015, NEVADA FIRSTNET INITIAL STATE CONSULTATION MEETING.

Co-Chair, Director Wright asked everyone to once again reference the minutes from the January 7, 2015, State Consultation meeting. At the time of this State Consultation, Nevada was the 10th state to go through this process. To date, FirstNet is nearly halfway through the states with the State Consultation process. Director Wright opened up the agenda item for any questions with regard to this meeting.

Co-Chair, Director Barnbeck, indicated that obtaining an accurate definition of who the appropriate end-user is remains a critical point.

Scott Taylor stated he has not seen any information from FirstNet regarding answers to questions or what FirstNet will do for public safety users. George Molnar indicated that FirstNet has put out a request for information as well as several public notices. George has responded to each of these on behalf of the State of Nevada. Again, there is not a whole lot of new information from FirstNet. Additionally, FirstNet has put out \$30 monthly fee they feel might work as well as a plan for a phased deployment somewhere between 2017 and 2022. They are talking about 4 to 12 million users. Coverage areas are sparse, talking about just

over major thoroughfares and critical infrastructure areas. Speeds being mentioned are about 3 mbps. These are very preliminary numbers and are subject to change. Comments by Nevada are on www.regulations.gov.

Director Barnbeck stated he is really waiting to see what they are going to offer and how much it is going to cost and asked when that information would be available. George indicated the state consultation process is iterative and will go back and forth many times before it is considered by each state. The current stage is data collection.

Director Wright added that with Chief Smith's departure about a month ago, there have been several people covering that Single Point of Contact position for FirstNet and communication lines need to be kept open. It is hoped the Chief of Emergency Management position will be filled in the near future or at least prior to the next NPSCC meeting.

Tom Lawless asked to clarify the stated 3 mbps download rate by FirstNet that George mentioned. George stated this is referring to the most efficient areas closest to cell. Tom's technical comment was that on his iPad he is getting 41 mbps with his current provider. If FirstNet or anyone else cannot provide at least the rate that everyone gets with their current providers, then it is a 90% reduction in speed. According to the FCC, it is felt that broadband starts at 25 mbps. The question of how FirstNet can call something as slow as 3 mbps broadband was raised in FirstNet's draft RFP process. No answer has yet been received.

6. STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR (SWIC) REPORT.

George Molnar provided his SWIC update to the NPSCC as follows.

- **State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) outreach update, including vendor update.**
 - The Digital Decision, a Black & Veach Company headquartered in Virginia, has been selected as our SLIGP partner and is working with the SWIC to assist in outreach and data collection.
 - Approximately 40 outreach sessions in person and on-line with over 1,000 people attending. The SWIC is currently holding some webinars regarding data collection at share.dhs.gov/nevadaswic with the next webinars June 30 at 10:00 AM and July 2 at 3:00 PM. We are scheduling the next round of in-person meetings. If your agency, county commission, LEPC, or other body would like a briefing on FirstNet, please contact George or Janell.
 - Outreach has moved into a new phase. Rather than just informing stakeholders that "FirstNet is coming," Nevada is asking each agency who might use public safety broadband designate someone to go to the Mobile Data Survey Tool (MDST) at www.publicsafetytools.info and take the survey as soon as possible. We must report the findings to FirstNet by September.
 - Free orientation to public safety broadband and the MDST are available on-line at TXLTE.FreedomLearn.com. Registration is required; however, there is no charge. Anyone is welcome to view this content.

Questions:

- Director Barnbeck: What is the timeframe for data collection?

Answer: We have June, July and August for data collection with a due date of September. Information from MDST will be incorporated in report to FirstNet.

- **FirstNet news, including 2nd and 3rd Public Notice responses, Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) response.**
 - 5,346 word response to 2nd Notice concerning technical standards, the roles and responsibilities of FirstNet vis-a-vis States, and the process for creating, delivering, and responding to a state plan. We strongly objected to FirstNet's interpretations of the Act concerning their ability to impose a plan upon a state.
 - 1,060 word response to 3rd Notice concerning eligible users of FirstNet. We reiterated our comments from the First Notice (2,757 word response) advocating the "Big Tent" approach to public safety interoperability. That is, allowing access to FirstNet by any agency or organization that provides service safeguarding life or property. This does not imply that all users would be able to directly talk to each other at all times - only that they would have prioritized access to a resilient network with the capacity for interoperability, as authorized.
 - Nevada asked 25 questions of the 642 questions filed regarding the draft RFP. Nevada was one of 9 non-vendor questioners. None of our questions have been answered yet.
 - Public Notice responses are available on regulations.gov, and RFP questions (when answered) at fbo.gov.

- **Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups (RECCWG) membership expanded.**
 - FEMA supports a regional interoperability group in each of the 10 regions. The RECCWG works to ensure regional communications interoperability, the exchange of best practices, and operational advice. Region IX will have an in-person meeting at the Nevada State EOC this Thursday. New members from Las Vegas Metro, SNACC and the Washoe County Radio System have been invited. NSRS (NDOT) was invited to membership but has not responded.

- **National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) update.**
 - NCSWIC is the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)-supported representative body of all 56 state and territorial SWICs. Molnar was just elected NCSWIC Vice-Chair.
 - New National Emergency Communications Plan is now in effect. NCSWIC and SAFECOM were heavily involved in this project. Nevada anticipates a revision of our Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) in early 2016 to accommodate the changes. In the interim, there is an item on the agenda to deal with some inoperative language in the current SCIP.
 - The SWIC Enhancement Act has moved out of committee in the House of Representatives. If it becomes law, each state will need to appoint and certify having a SWIC in order to receive HSGP funds.
 - NCSWIC conducted a survey of all states and territories. Over 90% have their SWIC as a state employee. Nevada is one of the few that does not. Typically SWICs travel outside the office from 1/3 to 1/2 of their time, about half are also their FirstNet Single Point of Contact (SPOC), most all are members of their Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB), and 1 in 10 are also their state 911 Coordinator. Nevada is one of two states without a 911 Coordinator.

- **SWIC participation in professional meetings and outreach events.**

- California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Town Hall, invited speaker with FirstNet Chair Sue Swenson.
 - Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Western Regional Conference, panelist on Public Safety Broadband
 - State conventions of the American radio Relay League in NV, AZ, as speaker on Auxcomm, National conference speaker in Ohio at Office of Emergency Communications' (OEC) invitation
 - With Selby Marks, represented NV at the FirstNet SPOC meeting in Reston, VA. Chaired Region IX breakout, panelist on governance.
 - Attended Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) conference in San Diego - latest technical developments on public safety long-term evolution (LTE), including local control, security, priority, range and bandwidth, voice intelligibility. Joint with FirstNet Board meeting.
 - Conducted six webinars on data collection effort.
- **Tribal Statewide Communications exercise**
 - OEC-sponsored exercise set for 6/17. All tribes were invited. We expect less than half to participate, unfortunately. The goals are simple - to exercise the “disaster box” capabilities and operate using an interoperable radio, satellite phone, and data connection, contacting the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), other tribes, and federal partners. Thanks to Dan Hourihan and Tim Cary for NDEM support.
- **Clark County School District (CCSD) System Evaluation.**
 - This is a communications system gap analysis and technical evaluation by OEC to provide routine and interoperable communications guidance.
- **All Hazards Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) training offering in Southern Nevada**
 - Training to be held 7/14-16 at Vegas PBS in Las Vegas. Enrollment is open on the NDEM website. Candidates must meet prerequisites including ICS-300. Transportation and lodging, if necessary, are the responsibility of the student's home agency.
- **COM-L Train-the-Trainer in Region IX training.**
 - This is a first-of-its-kind offering from OEC. This training workshop is designed to develop “home grown” Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) trainers to provide recognized national-level COM Unit certification, and to provide a cadre of Amateur Radio Auxiliary Communicator instructors.
 - The training will be held July 21 through 25 at the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Reno. Two candidates from each state in the region (AZ, CA, HI, NV) have been identified.

Director Barnbeck stressed the importance of the COM-L program and expanding this program in Nevada.

- **For possible action:**

- SWIC recommendation that all radio systems fully implement Nevada Core Radio Systems (NCORE) channels in radios and dispatch facilities. NCORE is an abbreviated form of Nevada Core Systems that includes five radio system partners in the state. The project provides a set 16 interoperability channels on each system that allow users on one system to talk to users on others. The NPSCC may recommend each partner deploy the capabilities that NCORE has built.
- The NCORE channels should be programmed in each system's radios as an interoperability group. The channels have been assigned for statewide, northern, and southern users.

George requested that the NPSCC make a motion that NPSCC recommend that each partner in NCORE aggressively market and train and work towards using NCORE on a routine basis and not just for big events. This is different than the crossband repeater system.

Director Barnbeck recommended that before a motion is made on this by the committee that the next NPSCC meeting have a for action agenda item for a status update of the north and south including rurals as to where all individuals are at. He asked that, instead of this information coming from George, representatives from these groups actually be at the meeting to give the updates, such as Washoe, Reno, and other rurals, and Director Barnbeck will represent Southern Nevada.

Director Wright agreed with this recommendation and suggested that it is unclear what type of enforcement ability the NPSCC has to do this. A frustration is that a lot of grant money has been put into creating these systems but people are not using these systems.

Director Barnbeck concurred with the above and suggested that the NPSCC could simply suggest that everyone use these systems. George also agreed and reiterated that he is really asking for this recommendation that agencies adopt, train and exercise to utilize these systems.

Budge Currier, California SWIC, stated that he was one of the original engineers in designing the NCORE system and is happy to answer any questions.

The outcome of this item is that there will be an agenda item for the next NPSCC meeting for a status check to see what other agencies are dealing with and then a recommendation may be made by the NPSCC regarding recommendations for utilizing NCORE. George will work with Janell to get this information on the agenda and to get representatives at the next NPSCC meeting so the group can hear from them.

Additional Information:

- There are 25 Crossband Repeaters (800 MHz to VHF) funded throughout the state. Those systems have been undergoing testing recently. George tested 12 of the sites in May. Five had been previously verified. George is planning on visiting the remaining 8 this week. Of those 17 tested, only 8 are fully functional. Plan is to visit Austin, Cave, Elko, Mary's, Peavy, Penn Hill, Spruce, and Squaw.
- VMED 28 (primary) and VMED 29 (backup) have been requested to establish the Nevada Helicopter EMS channel statewide. This channel will be used to allow helicopters operating statewide to have an air-to-bound interoperability channel with local responders. The channels have been submitted for clearance and FCC action. We are awaiting a letter of support from the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director to complete our application. Once granted to NDEM, use of the channels may be requested by any agency in the state by a letter to

the SWIC. These channels (details in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) may be programmed at any time.

Director Wright stated that he could help with obtaining this letter of support from Dr. Green.

7. STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY PLAN (SCIP) UPDATES.

George Molnar stated that the current SCIP contains references to antecedent groups that no longer exist such as the Nevada Communications Steering Committee (NCSC) and the State of Nevada Network (SoNNet) board. He asked the committee to make a motion that editorial changes only be made for these items only.

Director Wright asked whose role it is to maintain the SCIP and George stated the SWIC maintains the SCIP. George indicated he simply wanted to clear this through the NPSCC to make those changes. Director Wright indicated that the NPSCC could just instruct George to make those changes.

Lou Amell indicated that he would like to have George make the changes to the SCIP and then submit the document to the committee for approval. The committee would like to review the entire document.

Director Wright asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the next NPSCC meeting.

8. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA AREA COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL (SNACC) AND THEIR MOVE TO PROJECT 25 PHASE 1 RADIO SYSTEM.

Lou Amell reported to the NPSCC that the project is moving along quite well. Equipment has been received and is either installed or due to be installed in the near future. The big challenge is to reprogram the 10,000 radios that need to be touched in order to be ready for the P-25 phase 1 system. This will take several months. Agencies will be moved onto the system in a phased process. The system will be operational by November 2015.

Director Barnbeck gave the example of Mesquite who recently came onto the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and were able to interact with SNACC and the process went very smoothly.

Director Wright asked that this agenda item be placed on the agenda for the next NPSCC meeting for another update.

9. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.

Co-chair, Director Barnbeck stated that though the grants subcommittee does not have any current work to do, it is important to choose the members of the committee in order to have the subcommittee be ready as needed.

Lou Amell stated that he sat on a grants subcommittee for the former NCSC. He recommended that the NPSCC come up with definite ground rules in order to avoid any issues that might come up, especially with regard to deobligated funds.

Director Barnbeck suggested that grants subcommittee membership be kept within the membership of the NPSCC to avoid competing interests. He also recommended a diversified representation between fire and police, etc. It was recommended that the membership be kept to 5 members. Deputy Attorney General Samantha Ladich instructed that a subcommittee based on members of the NPSCC cannot reach a quorum size which is 8 at this point and could rise to 9 members. A membership of 5 was agreed upon.

Director Wright asked Kelli Anderson to explain, for deobligated funds, how they ensure that agencies are purchasing the correct equipment. Kelli stated protocols were in place in the past from the NCSC. With deobligated funds, there is a very short time period that necessitates time-sensitive guidelines as it is often not possible to go through the open meeting process. Ultimately it is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) decision on time-sensitive issues. The SAA is either the Chief of the Division of Emergency Management or the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Director Barnbeck recommended that membership be made up of 2 members from the north and 2 members from the south and the fifth member be Kevin Judice from NV Energy as an outside agency. Kevin Judice agreed.

Membership is as follows:

Scott Taylor - South
Matt Morris – South
Kevin Judice – South
Mike Brown – North
Dave Hunkup – North
George Molnar (SWIC) – advisory, counsel only
Kelli Anderson – advisory only from NDEM

Lou Amell moved that the subcommittee be formed with the volunteers as mentioned today. Mike Brown seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.

Co-Chair Director Barnbeck suggested that this subcommittee be delayed for six months and then come back for creation so that this subcommittee can look at current state and local laws to see if any recommendations need to be made for security of communications-related topics.

11. CONSIDERATION OF STATEWIDE 911 COORDINATOR SUBCOMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.

Co-Chair, Director Barnbeck stated this position is extremely important to the State. As George Molnar stated, Nevada is one of two states that do not have a statewide 911 coordinator.

Right now we are missing out on a significant tax portion for wireless with over 50% of residents without a landline any longer and instead having wireless usage. These funds go toward various PSAPs. This leads to Next-Gen 911 with the use of mobile devices.

The 911 Coordinator needs to be responsible for revamping of how the surcharge for taxes goes as well as the coordination for where we are going with the PSAPs. A major task would be to move these projects forward.

Director Barnbeck made the recommendation that this subcommittee be developed. This subcommittee may be made up of individuals outside of the NPSCC. Several recommendations were made for consideration. Additionally, this committee will not vote on information but will be writing the recommended job description for this position.

Membership:

Lou Amell – SNACC

Denise Kee – LVMPD

Barbara Brabenec – City of Henderson

Karen Stout – Washoe County

Nonie McCandless – Douglas County

Open position – Rural community

Matt Morris made a motion that the subcommittee be formed with the five known members and the sixth person will be determined later. Kevin Judice seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright opened the meeting up once again for public comment. There was no comment from the public.

13. ADJOURN.

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Brown made the motion for adjournment and Lou Amell seconded. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.