

DRAFT Minutes  
 Nevada Communications Steering Committee (NCSC)  
 Long Term Evolution (LTE) Working Group  
 March 8, 2012.

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>DATE</b>	March 8, 2012
<b>TIME</b>	9:00 am
<b>LOCATION</b>	DEM Fairview Drive, Carson City/ PBS Las Vegas
<b>METHOD</b>	Videoconference
<b>RECORDER</b>	Hanne Epstein, DEM

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>		
Lou Amell	<b>X</b>		
Robert Chisel			
Pat Conmay	<b>X</b>		
Chris Magenheimer	<b>X</b>		
Craig Harrison	<b>X</b>		
David Loar	<b>X</b>		
Jeffrey Yeagley	<b>X</b>		
David Fein	<b>X</b>		
Pete Reinschmidt	<b>X</b>		
George Molnar	<b>X</b>		
Ray Flynn	<b>X</b>		
Lester Lewis	<b>X</b>		
<b>Ex Officio Members</b>			
Richard Mirgon			
Michael Odom			

**CALL TO ORDER** –Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**ROLL CALL** – Hanne Epstein called the roll and informed Chairman Lewis a quorum was declared

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –Chairman Lewis asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none the Chairman moved on to the next agenda item.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Chairman Lewis** called for comments to the minutes of the LTE working group meeting February 9, 2012; hearing none he called for a motion to approve the minutes. George Molnar moved to approve the minutes, Ray Flynn seconded the motion. Chairman Lewis called for a vote, all were in favor none opposed the motion carried.

## COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

**Chairman Lewis** asked Raymond Flynn to give an update on the latest development concerning the Middle Class Tax relief and Job Creation Act, which includes the Title VI –Public safety Communications and Electromagnetic Spectrum Auctions.

**Raymond Flynn** reported that what public safety representatives have been working on for the last three years, to get the D-block allocated to public safety has been passed as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

The act reallocates 700 MHz D block spectrum to public safety, and authorizes NTIA to establish a network authority, FirstNet (first responder network authority). One single public Safety 700 MHz wireless broadband license was granted to FirstNet to be used nationwide.

FirstNet will be headed by a 15 member governance board. Permanent members of the board are the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce and the US Attorney General. Of the regular members of the board three will represent state tribal and local interest and three will represent public safety professionals. No format have been released yet of the nomination/ selection process for the board, but by law there are six month from the time the bill is signed till the board has to be formed. The board will meet at a minimum of four times a year.

Ray Flynn noted that the Nevada Homeland Security Commission took a vote and will be nominating Ray Flynn as a member of the FirstNet board to represent the State. The major county sheriffs and the major cities' Chiefs Association will be nominating Ray Flynn to represent Public Safety. He hopes to fill one of those two positions.

The Governor of each State will have the options to participate in the deployment of the nationwide network or to opt out and conduct their own deployment of a radio access network in their State. This option was requested by the national Governors' Association as a matter of a State's' rights issue

The funding allocated in the act includes:

Build out of Public Safety Broadband Network: \$7 billion

Next generation 911: \$115 million for

Public safety research and development: \$100 million, which will go to NIST to hand out in grants

Leadership on the Republican side wanted public safety to give up something in return for the D block allocation The 700 MHz narrowband had been discussed at length but there was a lot of lobbying done for Public Safety to keep the 700 MHz band. In the end the T-band was given up. This will not affect Nevada.

FCC made an announcement two weeks ago that they will form a Technology Committee. The Technology Committee will work to approve standards for the nationwide interoperability network. On the committee will be four Public Safety members. Of the four one will represent management and one will represent employee groups. The nomination process is ongoing and there is less than two weeks to get the nominations in to the FCC. Ray Flynn suggested at the last Homeland Security Commission meeting that they nominate a person from Nevada to the Technology Committee preferably a person who is working on the SoNNET.

**Chris Magenheimer** noted that the FCC nominations for the Technology Committee had closed yesterday so a nomination from Nevada was no longer relevant.

#### **LTE GOVERNANCE**

**Chairman Lewis** asked for an update on the proposed RFP in the light of the passed Bill.

#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS UPDATE**

**David Loar** Chair of the RFP Sub-committee noted that The RFP was released after considerable discussion with NDOT director Rick Nelson and Chris Magenheimer. Now that the Bill is passed and the essence of that bill is discovered, the information and recommendations of the work that was asked for in the RFP is somewhat redundant and may not be necessary. Based on these developments David Loar informed the LTE Working Group that the RFP would be suspended for possibly 2-3 months after which it may be repurposed to accommodate the rulings from the FCC. David Loar informed the LTE Working Group that the funding for the RFP is good till September 2013.

#### **STATE OF NEVADA 700 MHZ BROADBAND WIRELESS NETWORK (SoNNET) FUNDING OPTIONS**

David Fein noted that Federal legislation with a \$7 billion budget will not support the build out and sustainment of the complete network. The intent of this agenda item was for the group to start thinking about other possible funding options. By beginning to identify funding options already now Nevada will be able to build out the network system faster.

**George Molnar** noted that legislation does speak to ongoing self funding opportunities and specifically says that network user fees and lease fees are permissible with audit.

**Ray Flynn** reminded everyone that the build out of the system is a process that will take 10-20 years to build and more money will need to be allocated by congress. The budget allocated at this point is short \$ 4 billion just for start up.

**Chairman Lewis** noted that the RFP may also be of use in clarifying funding options for the network system, maybe including a rate study.

**David Loar** agreed that there is a lot of considerations to be made in terms of what to charge and who to charge, questions that the RFP could help answer.

**Ray Flynn** noted that he would send out a list to the LTE Working Group members of the 21 waivers granted by FCC to city and regional jurisdictions to build out network systems, and **David Fein** said that based on the list he would do some research on funding models that may already be written up by some of the waiver recipients and present them at the next meeting on April 12.

#### **STATE OF NEVADA BROADBAND WAIVER UPDATE**

**Chris Magenheimer** reported that prior to the passage of the bill FCC had requested several items from the State of Nevada. The main items were a letter showing inclusion of tribal entities and a letter that addresses NV Energy being part of the waiver request, qualifying that they would not be a part of the initial build out. There is a bit of turmoil between the FCC and the NTIA and it is not clear right now what the FCC will do with waivers. The main thing for Nevada right now, is to ensure the FCC that the State of Nevada has done everything that they were requested to do and thereby meeting all of their compliance issues.

**Chairman Lewis** asked clarification on whether asking for a waiver after the bill passed would be considered an automatic opt in for the State.

**Ray Flynn** responded that there was no answer to the question at this point, but stressed that with the build out and the limited amount of money available it is very important to continue to show that Nevada is seriously working towards a broadband network, working on RFPs, pushing our waiver, this will help secure funds as opposed to states that do nothing hoping to get something. Ray Flynn suggested to keep pushing the waiver until told that it is not needed anymore, and he recommended using the term “postponing the RFP” rather than “suspending the RFP”.

The LTE Working Group members all agreed that this strategy was right.

#### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON UPDATE**

**Richard Mirgon** was not present and the item was considered already discussed during previous agenda items

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Chairman Lewis** asked if there were any public comments.

**Curtis Steadman** with Motorola wished to display the first ever LTE device with a push to talk button. It will support video and radio and directly link core to core with p25 networks. The device is windows based. Curtis Steadman had brochures and handouts for the LTE working group members describing the device and its capabilities.

**Craig Harrison:** asked if the standards for technology and devices to be used were established or would be established within 90 days.

**Ray Flynn** responded that the platform of technology and how the devices will communicate with each other will be out. The goal is to have as many vendors as possible to make the market competitive but all the devices will have to be able to talk to each other. The technical advisory board which will be formed has numerous seats for the private sector, so the industry will be represented as the standards are decided.

**George Molnar** noted that the technology committee will approve and qualify the standards but not create the standards because they by and large exist in the market place today.

The LTE Working Group members raised a number of questions under public comments:

- Will the devices have capability of roaming on commercial networks?
- If there are areas that have marginal or no initial build out, could they just start buying the devices and just continuously roam until such time as the build out would cover the full spectrum of their area?
- If roaming is possible how will you charge for it?
- FirstNet is responsible to ensure rural coverage which is the biggest problem we have in Nevada, can we rely on the commercial carriers to fulfill that part of the agreement?
- Should LTE only be used for emergencies or for all day normal operations?
- How will the commercial providers prioritize traffic from public safety versus private customers?

**Ray Flynn** summed up that they are all great questions; the truth is that none of that has been decided yet.

**Pete Reinschmidt** noted that there are a lot of questions to be asked many of which at this point do not have answers. He then suggested collecting questions from the LTE Working Group members in writing and presenting them to Ray Flynn who may be representing Nevada in Washington DC. Pete Reinschmidt noted

that he would take it as a task for DEM to get out a survey to all members of the LTE Working Group and collect questions and get it back to Craig Harrison for processing before the next meeting.

**Ray Flynn** agreed that it was a great idea to collect these questions from the state of Nevada and push the questions through the State representative or the public safety representative to the FirstNet board this summer as some of the first action items.

**ADJOURNMENT** –**Chairman Lewis** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lou Amell motioned to adjourn the meeting. **George Molnar** seconded the motion. Chairman Lewis called for a vote; all was in favor none opposed the Chairman adjourned the meeting.