

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

	<u>MEETING MINUTES</u> NEVADA COMMUNICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE		
DATE:	Wednesday, July 11, 2012		
TIME:	1:30PM – 4:00PM		
LOCATION:	Las Vegas PBS Wells Fargo Videoconference Room #138 3050 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89121		
METHOD	Video/Teleconference		
RECORDER	Hanne Epstein / Karen Hall		
ATTENDANCE			
Committee Members	Present	Committee Members	Present
Lou Amell (Chairman)	X	James Johns	
Steve Albertson		Tim Kuzanek	X
Don Belcher	X	Dan Lake	
Robert Chisel		Lester Lewis	X
Jake Conely (Vice-Chairman)	X	Chris Perry	X
Tony DeMeo	X	Bonnie Petti	
Mark Foxen	X	Vernon Scarbrough	
Craig Harrison	X	Jeffery Stilson	
Tammy James	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lou Amell called the Nevada Communications Steering Committee (NCSC) meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Hanne Epstein, Nevada Division of Emergency Management performed a roll call with attendance noted in table above. Quorum requirements were met for this meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Amell opened discussion for public commentary. No commentary from either venue noted.

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Amell called for comment and approval of the NCSC meeting minutes from May 23, 2012. No commentary noted in either venue. Motion put forth by Chief Don Belcher, Las Vegas Paiute Police Department to approve minutes with second by Craig Harrison, Nevada Interoperable Communications Project Manager. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Amell thanked both the NCSC members and public attendees for their participation in this meeting. The Chairman requested the movement of agenda item #9, Presentation of the "Live Mesh" Wireless Data Network Project for Nevada Tribal Nations, to follow agenda item #11, Update on the Status of the Statewide 700 MHz Broadband Network Committee (SONNet). No commentary or concern noted from either venue. Request approved.

6. UPDATE ON THE SEARCH FOR A NEW STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR (SWIC)

Pete Reinschmidt, Nevada Division of Emergency Management Program Manager, presented an update Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) selection process. With eight applicants under consideration, the goal is to present applicant recommendation(s) to Chief Christopher Smith, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, by Friday, July 13, 2012. The chosen candidate will be subject to a Nevada Department of Public Safety background check prior to hire.

Chairman Amell presented inquiry as to whether the NCSC membership will be presented with any biographical information on the candidate of choice. Pete Reinschmidt indicated that he would share the applicant's biographical information with the committee membership upon completion of the vetting process. No questions were presented by either venue.

7. SWIC STAFF REPORT

David Fein, Interim Acting Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator and Project Manager/Nevada Division of Emergency Management briefed committee members on the current status of SWIC projects. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), Interoperability Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), and Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program (PSIC) project summaries were presented with the following highlights (Complete staff report provided as handout for reference if needed):

- PSIC is complete. Mr. Fein thanked all involved with this complex program as it had a huge impact on the State of Nevada.
- Core System Interconnect Switch Project is now referred to as the Nevada Radio Core System (NCORE)

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

- Nevada Dispatch Interconnect Project (NDIP) received Phase 3 funding for completion.
- Coordination of both the All-Hazards Communications Technician (COMT) and All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader (COML) training is occurring on July 9, 2012 and July 16, 2012 respectively.
- Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Update – Update is required every five years. The draft for the new SCIP is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

Chairman Amell opened the discussion for any questions regarding this report. Jake Conely, Sparks Fire Department informed the committee that the two portable cross-band repeaters which were part of reallocated PSIC money were delivered to Washoe County's Emergency Operations Center. He will be working to get the units serviced for deployment.

8. NARROW BANDING

Craig Harrison, Narrow-Banding Coordinator gave a status update on the narrow banding project. Discussion on the required accomplishments as well as progress status included the following highlights:

- 469 Public Safety related agencies have been identified with 90% contacted to date.
- 162 lists are complete to date, 34.5% identified. This may seem low, but there are numerous activities scheduled in August, so improvement should be seen in subsequent reports.

Chairman Amell opened discussion for questions. No questions presented. Commentary was presented by Pete Reinschmidt stressing the importance of the January 1, 2013 deadline pertaining to the FCC waivers. Chairman Amell asked Mr. Harrison if it would be helpful if the NCSC membership could reach out to any individuals that need to provide input for this process with Mr. Harrison following up on providing contact information.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE "LIVE MESH" WIRELESS DATA NETWORK PROJECT FOR NEVADA TRIBAL NATIONS

Terry Bohl offered a detailed presentation pertaining to the challenges, rural need, and design of a mesh network system which will tie into existing emergency communication boxes allowing an extension of communicability up to a 50 mile circumference around an event. A demonstration of the mesh system will be shown after the meeting adjourns. Mr. Bohl requests the purchase of three more mesh systems to cover the entire state of Nevada in addition to the single unit already purchased. The additional units would allow communicability to increase around an event up to a 200 mile circumference.

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

Chairman Amell opened up discussion for any questions pertaining to Mr. Bohl's request. Craig Harrison inquired as to what frequency band the mesh system will be employed under voicing concern that as a statewide initiative, the frequencies should all be the same. Mr. Bohl replied that the frequency is currently 2.4 GHz, but can be set to any frequency with antenna changes. Pete Reinschmidt inquired if this presentation was a request to fund the support of this mesh system at \$60,000.00 per unit, for a total of \$180,000.00. Mr. Bohl indicated that he needed no support funding, only funding to purchase the additional units using State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP) funds. Both Mr. Reinschmidt and Rick Martin, Program Manager/Nevada Division of Emergency Management voiced concern relating to this request questioning the prioritization of projects through the NCSC in addition to concerns that this may be an entirely separate project. Mr. Bohl indicated that he was not trying to circumvent the process, but understood that this request had to come through NCSC due to his request to use de-obligated funding through SHSP with the belief that this did not qualify as a new project.

Chairman Amell asked for any more questions from either venue with the caveat that this may be possible action item request from Mr. Bohl, and with that this committee cannot approve funding. The Chairman also indicated that Mr. Bohl should follow the same process for any other grant funding request. Mr. Bohl indicated he was requesting de-obligated funds for this project, and that is the approval he is seeking in order to enhance current system capability. Expressing concern again relating to the vetting process in addition to prioritization of this project, Mr. Reinschmidt stressed that those concerns be considered as this project is competing with many other already prioritized projects. The Chairman indicated that this request needs to be in the form of an investment justification.

Lester Lewis, Clark County Chief Information Officer stressed the importance of those projects that were not funded receiving first priority relating to issuance of any de-obligated funding. David Fein indicated that other entities have increased the scope of their projects without being re-vetted, and this request may fall under that same category. Chairman Amell expressed concern regarding multiple upgrades to projects that actually may change the entire scope. Mr. Bohl indicated that putting this project on a list will not solve his funding gap. Chris Perry indicated that it would be beneficial to look at the original scope of Mr. Bohl's project to see if this current request differs in significance from the original scope with approval based on outcome in addition to concerns related to the upcoming broadband rollout and the effect of that roll out on this project. Jake Conely questioned whether de-obligated PSIC funds could be used for project expansions or existing investment justifications. Chris Smith indicated this has happened in the past with those projects moving to the Finance Committee for approvals noting funding expiration in June of 2013.

Craig Harrison presented concerns relating to the extent of vetting this project with no standards in place for anyone else to be using this system.

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

Terry Bohl will put this request in as an investment justification to move this process forward.

Chairman Amell moved to agenda item #12. After meeting adjournment, a demonstration of the Live-Mesh system ensued for interested committee and public attendees.

10. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE 700 MHz BROADBAND NETWORK COMMITTEE (SONNet)

Chief Christopher Smith presented for Fire Chief Chris Magenheimer, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District an update on the formation of the State of Nevada Network (SONNet) Committee to assist in the implementation of House Resolution 3630. Michael Haley, Washoe County Sheriff, will chair the committee with appointed membership to include Raymond Flynn, Assistant Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Mike Zaccagnino, Director of Communications, NV Energy, Richard Nelson, Assistant Director of Operations, Nevada Division of Transportation, Lester Lewis, Network and Telecommunications Manager, Southern Nevada Area Communications Council, Cory Casazza, Chief Information Management Officer, Washoe County, and Todd Vinger, Undersheriff, Washoe County. There is emphasis to convene the SONNet Committee prior to August 22, 2012 identifying that entity as a single point of contact in the state of Nevada through the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) with the eventual goal of identifying, planning, and coordinating events to enable SONNet to mirror the structure of the FirstNet Board.

Director Chris Perry, Nevada Department of Public Safety, presented information on National Telecommunications and Intelligence Administration (NTIA) meeting. This meeting included personnel from FCC, NTIA, suppliers, and vendors. It is evident that this will be an aggressive schedule. The FirstNet Board won't be seated until mid-August, so expectations are not clear at this point. Nevada will be requested to provide inventory of all assets. Funding will be driven by what we need for our build-out. From the moment the state receives the proposal, Governor Sandoval will have 90 days to opt in or opt out. If we opt out, we will have to come up with our own plan. We need to wait to see what FirstNet does before we choose our option. Municipalities/Counties opting out are not part of the bill. This initiative is a statewide "yes or no", so once it comes to fruition, Governor Sandoval will decide based on state-wide needs, not area needs. Verizon/AT&T are both eager, as they expect this effort to fail. They are well prepared to take over this process.

Chairman Amell opened up discussion for schedules. David Fein, Interoperable Communications Project Manager posed a question to Director Perry regarding the NTIA funding schedule for this project. Director Perry indicated that funding information is guarded currently until the FirstNet board is seated. Current figures are believed to be \$7 Billion or more, with \$135 Million for state planning. Mr. Fein indicated that NTIA presented at the National Conference of Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinators (NCSWIC) meeting that the \$135 Million will be available 12 months from

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

now at the direction of FirstNet, and the bulk remainder coming from the Treasury and auction by 2017. Although Director Perry did not get that exact information, he did indicate that there is a 20% match required. There is a waiver available that we can apply for, and there is in-kind matching.

Lester Lewis, Clark County Chief Information Officer asked if the referenced auction spectrum T-Band related. If so, this schedule needs to be pushed back. David Fein indicated that the auction must generate more than \$20 Billion.

Craig Harrison inquired if there has been any discussion between metropolitan and rural implementation as the rural cost is so much higher. Director Perry said they know there are places that will not be covered by broadband build out. Regional concern exists with how to address this.

11. CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

George Molnar, Engineering/Information Technology/Emergency Response Director, Las Vegas Public Broadcasting presented information relating to concerns about the Clark County School District's ability to attain a standard of interoperability at any level during a communications emergency. An enlisted consultant, Macro Corporation, found that there is unfamiliarity with the concepts of radio communication. As a result, Las Vegas is in a difficult position due to enhanced efforts by the FCC in regulating/monitoring communications. The district is exposed to heavy risk. Mr. Molnar thanked all stakeholders and shareholders for coming to the table to provide this information.

Committee goals are to provide a project roadmap, organize deployment of solutions, avoid fines, and make sense of what is going on. Options range from leaving this at status quo to joining Southern Nevada Area Communications Council (SNACC). Working group presented going with SNACC or building an overlay interoperable network (i.e.) a UHF simulcast system that key personnel in key locations have communicability. Mr. Molnar would like to have a governance group within the school district to harmonize plans, centralize dispatch, and centralize licensing. This plan is on hold temporarily pending funding and equipment needs.

Pete Reinschmidt presented commentary that it is still identified in emergency response plans that schools are used as primary shelters. He had spoken to Mr. Molnar and Dimitri Theodorou, Clark County School District regarding starting with the county commission up to state legislation. He wanted to know where Clark County is at with that process currently. Mr. Molnar indicated the communications piece is still a sticking point currently. Dimitri Theodorou indicated that they are considered a logistics resource to the district and considered a response agency without being first responders. If he doesn't have communication capability, he cannot request resources. He inquired that it may be necessary to request approval for funding assistance from the Homeland Security Grant program. Mr. Molnar indicated that this will be taken to the school district's emergency management council to discuss governance path. This will be a coordinated effort for a unified message.

OFFICIAL

Approved at the September 12, 2012 Nevada Communications Steering Committee meeting

Pete Reinschmidt inquired if there was a bill sponsor yet, with George Molnar indicating there is not at this time.

Craig Harrison inquired on a process update on the narrow banding efforts in Clark County. Mr. Molnar said that this has been completed.

Chairman Amell provided commentary on concerns he has that Clark County schools cannot adequately be protected. He believes this project requires a lot of help directed toward the district to ensure the safety.

Chairman Amell opened up discussion for any closing remarks or questions from the North or South.

Dennis Cobb indicated that part of the project deliverables is for Clark County School District is to share plans and lessons to provide shortcuts for poorly funded districts; it was never intended as a statewide project.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Amell opened discussion for public comment. No public commentary noted in either venue. Next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Amell called for a motion to adjourn. Jake Conely put forth a motion to adjourn with second by Lester Lewis. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.