



Meeting Minutes Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee

Attendance	DATE	Thursday, February 15, 2018	
	TIME	1:30 P.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701	
		Clark County Fire Department, Station 18 2 nd Floor Conference Room 575 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV 89119	
	METHOD	Videoconference and Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Shea Schultz	
Committee Members	Present	Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Jim Wright	x	Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	x
Scott Taylor	x	Shea Schultz (NDEM)	x
Sandra Barfield	x	Kelli Anderson (NDEM)	x
Gary Hames		Jeannette Kennedy (AT&T)	x
Chris Ipsen	x	Adam Geisler (FirstNet)	x
Chris Lake		Stephanie Tyler (AT&T)	x
Rudy Malfabon	x	Seth Daniels (NDOT)	x
Dane Mattoon	x		
William Olsen	x		
Vincent Puglia	x		
Shannon Rahming			
Ryan Sommers	x		
Caleb Cage	x		
Tom Lawless	x		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-Chair, Director Jim Wright called the meeting to order and Shealyne Schultz called roll. A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair, Director Wright opened the meeting for public comment.

Matt Grogan with the Combined Communications Center of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue asked for a status on the Statewide 911 Administrator and where the Committee was on moving forward with this position. Director Wright confirmed that the Committee had received a Subcommittee report suggesting that Nevada establish a Statewide 911

Coordinator a couple years ago. He advised that there was a recommendation for an additional tax to create funding for this position. At that time, the administration was not going to impose an additional tax and the state budgets were already closed. His original recommendation to the Committee was to reach out to a legislator to carry a bill forward to provide the funding and authority to establish a 911 Coordinator. He advised that to his knowledge, this has not been taken forward to a legislator. Mr. Rogan thanked Director Wright for his update and advised that the Combined Communications Center will be working on this position in the coming weeks.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair, Director Wright opened this agenda item for approval of the minutes from the July 28, 2017, NPSCC meeting. Dean Mattoon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Rudy Malfabon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

4. UPDATE ON VFIRE VHF RADIO FREQUENCIES

Chief Ryan Sommers provided background on the frequencies explaining that back in 2013 there was a nationwide event to narrowband frequencies and that with this came changes to fire tactical frequencies in the VHF range. It is his understanding that there have been some Nationwide/Western U.S. changes and nomenclature to frequencies labeled VFIRE 21-26. These frequencies were published for all fire agencies to place into their radios for use as tactical channels on a mutual aid aspect. He explained that California has taken these frequencies and placed an additional code to protect the frequencies from interference. While this has helped California frequencies it has caused an issue with Nevada agencies that have not taken the second step in protecting their frequencies. When Nevada engines are sent to California to assist there are issues with the Nevada engines not being able to hear California. He noted the importance of bringing awareness to the changes that California has made throughout Nevada.

Director Wright noted that when this issue was brought forward he had reached out to partners at CalOES to see if there would be any interference across state lines if Nevada programmed PLs into their radios. They advised that they did not believe so. Director Wright advised that he would like the SWIC to look into why Nevada chose not to have PL tones. He noted that prior years they were able to turn PL tones off and on and questioned if this is possible with the more recent radios or if the radios could be programmed to another VFIRE channel with different PL tones used between the states.

Chief Sommers explained that the new radios that are coming out transmit code guard and are user selectable in the field. This is something that would need to be programmed beforehand. He added that though every agency can label something "California VFIRE", this will take up one of the channels in the radio.

Tom Lawless noted that most of the modern radios have many channels. They could add an additional zone to the radio and name it specifically for that jurisdiction. He explained that these things are doable, but it would be a matter of finding the exact solution and moving forward.

Chris Ipsen requested clarification on the exact challenge they are facing and the solution. Chief Sommers advised this would be a programming technicality that they could distribute informational literature (similar to the memo CalOES did) on how to program radios properly to Nevada agencies. This would bring awareness to the issue and get everyone on the same page. Chris was in agreement with this recommendation and added that the State leading this sounds appropriate to coordinate better communications.

Director Wright requested that Chief Sommers and Tom Lawless continue to work on this. He suggested Chief Sommers bring this issue to the Nevada Chief's to bring awareness and get their buy in to move this forward. They are to report back to the Committee at the next meeting regarding this.

Chief Cage asked Tom is this is something that they can request technical assistance for from his organization through the SWIC. Tom advised that they would be able to support a request like this.

5. DISCUSSION ON GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Chief Caleb Cage provided a brief overview of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to members. He explained that in recent years there has been a demand for communications projects. The Grants Subcommittee was created to assist in the vetting process and with making recommendations to the Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG). This agenda item is to appoint membership to the Grants Subcommittee. Previously, this Subcommittee has consisted of five individuals from NPSCC proper and there is typically one meeting held per year. Currently, there is one member, Scott Taylor.

Dane Mattoon inquired on when the Subcommittee meeting would be held. Chief Cage explained that it has not been set, but the HSWG process will begin following the release of the notice of funding opportunity from the federal government. This is usually done in the April timeframe, but can vary.

Director Wright requested volunteers from the Committee. The following members volunteered membership on the NPSCC Grants Subcommittee:

- Sandra Barfield
- Vincent Puglia
- William Olsen
- Dane Mattoon
- Scott Taylor, Chair

Chris Ipsen made a motion to accept the Subcommittee membership as presented. Chief Ryan Sommers seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

6. HSGP UPDATE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES FOR REVIEWING FFY 2018 HSGP COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS

Kelli Anderson provided an overview of the draft priorities, explaining that these are used to assist with the HSGP process. The draft priorities provided to members are the same ones that have been used for the past two grant years. They are used to assist with the vetting process of investment justifications and proposal submittals for communications projects. She noted that it would be up to the Committee to update, modify, or add to these draft priorities as they see fit. She did note there are two priorities she would like to remain:

1. Must Follow the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security's Priorities and Direction
2. Must be Compliant with Federal and State Grant Guidance

William Olsen advised he would like to add a cyber security component as a priority. His suggestion is to have the cyber protections referenced in the proposals.

Director Wright asked for a motion. Dane Mattoon made a motion to approve the draft priorities with the addition of the cyber component recommendation. Vincent Puglia seconded.

There was discussion regarding the priorities. Chris Ipsen noted that often times the subcommittees don't always follow the Commission's recommendations correctly and asked for clarification. There was discussion among members regarding this. It was advised that these are not a rank ordered list. Chief Cage noted that if the projects do not fall within the priorities of the Commission then it will not make it to the subcommittees for consideration. This ensures the projects will meet the direction and priorities of the Commission.

There was no further discussion regarding the motion of the floor. All were in favor and the motion carried.

7. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM (NSRS) UPDATE

Seth Daniels with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) provided a quick update on the NSRS upgrade project to a P-25 Phase II system. He noted the Request for Proposal (RFP) process started mid-last year which was structure to allow for competition and innovation, but still cover the needs of statewide users. A revised RFP was submitted in September to clarify issues. These were returned. Last week, the review committee (technical review committee) met with good representation from various public agencies. He noted there are 16,000 statewide users and 113 sites, though this is growing as new sites (including the USA Parkway area) are added. The cost proposal review will be tomorrow morning with a recommendation to follow. On February 21st, the results will be available for the selection official, Director Malfabon. On February 22nd, the issue of Notice of Intent will be released and negotiations will begin. Mr. Daniels explained this could be a lengthy process as each agency will negotiate their portion of the NSRS and construction. Once the negotiations are completed there will be three contracts, one for each of the partners. He advised this will take approximately five years to make a full switchover to this system, and this will be phased in for each partner to ensure complete coverage.

Director Wright commended NDOT for their work. He noted he is glad to hear they are addressing USA Parkway and the issues they are having with this area. He commented on some of the confusion that they face when building budgets and buying radios today when the systems are not ready. He explained the need for constant education that the radios can work with both systems.

Director Malfabon thanked all participants in the procurement process and advised he is looking forward to this moving forward.

8. FIRSTNET UPDATE

Jeanette Kennedy with FirstNet provided an update. She thanked the Committee for supporting a decision to opt-in to FirstNet. With this decision and that of 55 other governors they are now able to move forward with the public safety broadband network and continuing their engagement with states. She explained they are currently in the process of finalizing Task Order 4, which is what they are using as a mechanism to codify all of the radio access network plans. She continued, explaining that all previous discussions and coverage areas will be put into a plan of record and issued as a task order to AT&T. These will be used to support continuity of the program and the relationship with the State of Nevada. FirstNet welcomes any questions at any time to ensure this process is being completed in the way the State would like. She noted that if there are any issues or concerns they are open to having these discussions. These task orders are expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Adam Geisler with FirstNet spoke to the additional consultation activities what will be done moving forward. He commented on the relation to prior conversations regarding security around communication services, noting that on March 30th, 2018, they will be transitioning the FirstNet services off of the commercial AT&T core to the dedicated FirstNet core. This transition is ahead of schedule. With regards to continued engagement, he stressed the importance that this will continue for the next 25 years and is massive. He spoke to his work with the tribal governments across the state. FirstNet has implemented a tribal consultation policy, which is available on the FirstNet website, and will allow them to begin working more directly with tribal partners. Lastly, he commented on the discussion regarding the procurement of devices and recommended sitting down with FirstNet to discuss the solution and some of the devices that are available.

Director Wright highly recommended that agencies reach out to FirstNet and AT&T and have them come to their offices to explain the next steps in the process. He noted that the more they can reach out and gain exposure, the better off they will be as this is deployed throughout Nevada.

Stephanie Tyler with AT&T commented on the partnership with FirstNet and the dedication that has been put forth in continuing this dialogue with states.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair, Director Wright opened the meeting for public comment.

Kim Johnson, a sign language interpreter with the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services, introduced herself and a project she is working on. This project is a statewide emergency response interpreter program to ensure that interpreters are available and accessible in the event of an emergency. She advised she is working on developing a training program and will be working with state and local emergency managers on this project moving forward.

Chief Cage commented on this program that is underway and asked who they should reach out to in the event of an emergency to get the support that is needed. Ms. Johnson advised that this is in the beginning phases with the focus being on training interpreters. She explained that their next step will be working with emergency managers at all levels to ensure this is an item on an operational checklist as it has been a misstep statewide and nationally. She advised that there are interpreter referral agencies that work for all kinds of settings that would require an interpreter, and that they would be the point of contact for this at this time.

10. ADJOURN

Co-Chair, Director Wright, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Ipsen made the motion for adjournment and William Olsen seconded. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.