**June 11th, 2024, Meeting Note for Public Safety Communication Council** (Camp Rapid)

**Online/In Attendance:**

Steve Swenson, Jason Jones, Pat Harrington, Garrett Wellman, Charlie Kludt, Trent Nincehelser, Kendall Light, Chuck Kevghas, Todd Dravland, Jim Pearson, David Goodwin, Jason Husby, Kevin Karley, Andy Barth, Greg Ehrsam, Doug Penniston, Brian Wacholz, Brett Long, Ray Black, Jay Gerlach, Jeff Stahlecker.

Vice- Chairman Wellman called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM CST.

**Roll Call** – 14 members in attendance, quorum was met.

**Request for Additional Items to add to agenda:** T Mobile not presenting, and Add Spearfish underserved area formula and discussion.

**Approval of March 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Karley motioned to approve, second Goodwin. Approved on a voice vote.

**New Business:** None

1. **SWIC Updates** – Todd Dravland provided update.
   * SCIP online calls completed, and Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshop (in person) that CISA is hosting is **tomorrow- Wednesday 6.12.2024,** from 8:30am-5:00 PM at the GSM EOC.  We will be discussing 4 major areas regarding communications and finalizing the SCIP plan- including Tribal, Funding, Governance, Technology/ Cybersecurity.  We will discuss all these areas and the inputs we have received thus far, and add to those if there is any additional, and complete.   Also, will receive any input on radio communications, in general. ALL are welcome to join us in Pierre, or on-line.  You should have received an invite for Teams now.
   * Wyoming/ SD Cross border interoperability, looking to use Critical Connect ISSI connection.  Have had 3 calls with Wyoming. Very good discussion, and Montana will also be a player in this, so we can have a 3-state area covered. AND Nebraska has spoken up also, requesting border Interop with SD.   We need to decide on what tower sites and areas are allowed this use on our system. It will be a Critical Connect ISSI connection.  Mark Kelly, Nathan Smolinski, and Neil Gardiner from Wyoming are our primary contacts. Also have Motorola on board from our last call.
   * We will be ramping up on the TICP (SD eFOG) updates, to finish out our other TA, after the SCIP process is completed.
   * Continue to have RECCWG Region 8 calls, which are VERY valuable for technical information and what other SWIC's and states are working on.  Our last Plenary meeting, which was scheduled for Salt Lake City, but was changed to virtual ONLY, was on May 16th, 2024.  Approx. 30 participants online, from State/ local/Fed/ Tribal, and industry partners, and AuxComm.
   * Work on ASK requests, sent to the local technicians. I get them in, review, contact applicants about knowledge and background, and if approved send to our local technical staff for their review and contact end users.
   * Continue work on State NAWAS, what are the next steps.  Doing a State NAWAS call on a Digital Talkgroup seems like a good way to do it, and 1 time a week is sufficient at this point.  Some folks are resistant due to not having their radios easily accessible.
   * Wildland Fire, John D. working on to bring their Motorola consoles back online, so they can use for day-to-day operations and for patching analog to digital when needed.
   * Since last meeting, ALL 25 tower inspections and anchor work are completed, there are items to correct such as tower guy wire tensions, grounding, fencing, ice bridge cable protection, some hardware issues.
   * Looking at replacement for the site at Orient Hills, for better coverage, since we now have Redfield tower covering from the east.  We are considering a tower west of Faulkton. We are running RadioSoft coverage analysis software to looking at existing and new coverage there.
   * Working on JPA's for many tower sites statewide
   * UO on site- Motorola, to gather system data for the next System release upgrade in July2024, will go from 2019.2 to 2022.1 version.
   * Training for technical staff, RF site and programming.
   * UPS for Master site, replacement. Signed, now design work in progress by West Plains engineering, and that hopefully will be designed by end of June 2024.  Total budgeted amount $420K.
   * NAWAS State circuit replacement upcoming.
2. **System upgrade status –** Nincehelser provided status update on the completion of the P25 project.

* The Final phase of the P25 site upgrades was completed in December with Smart Connect.
* Now performing System Cleanup/Unused radios post project. We deleted 10,000 unused radio IDs from the system. Radio IDs have licensing cost associated with them so cleaning up unused ID licenses post P25 upgrade is a priority. Also, surplus obsolete hardware statewide at the master site, tower sites, and stock rooms.
* Not deleting any radios that are cached or staged with Federal agencies.
* Smart Connect – Setting RSSI Thresholds, for Wifi- to RF service and Working on Smart Connect template to deploy to users in the State.
* River Cities Transit now using Critical Connect dispatch solution. This will optimize the RF system statewide by routing dispatch traffic over IP.
* Working with Avera to review and potentially stand up the Responder SSID at Avera campus locations.
* Dealers can submit radio ID requests as normal indicating whether they will be Smart Connect users or not.

1. **Radio Programming Challenges – Looking towards the future and filling voids-** Nincehelser provided updates.

* Recent P25 site upgrades have exposed some programming issues in the state.
* Radio programming can potentially undermine the interoperability of the state radio system.
* Recent retirements of radio vendors leaving gaps in radio service (especially in central SD)
* Nincehelser asked council to consider limitations of the ASK requirements for out-of-state vendors not within 200 miles of organizations that they support, citing concerns of lack of reasonable support and response time. Wellman mentioned federal level, what if they must buy radios outside of SD. Nincehelser mentioned that if a vendor out of state, and they don’t support 100 users, they can coordinate programming and support to an in-state service shop. Concern would be what happens when a LARGE agency purchases radios out of state that they don't have a presence in SD. Hoping by next meeting to have rough draft of policy amendment for review and discussion.
* If someone from any organization is interested in joining volunteer programmer effort, please email Trent Nincehelser.
* Working with a vendor to provide State Radio codeplug training to vendors and volunteers.

1. **State Radio Redundant Core Solution – Nincehelser presented the formula for underserved areas regarding a redundant core solution.**

* Nincehelser asked for the PSCC to review, discuss, and ultimately champion This request to purchase a failover solution for public safety radio system core infrastructure in the event of a catastrophic failure of the lone State Radio Master Site. This resilient solution was made possible by the recent technology advancements implemented with P25 upgrade in South Dakota and will ensure communications survivability for first responders across the state during a catastrophe. The proposed solution would leverage the robust redundant network infrastructure that is already in place for the BIT state data network.
  + State Radio is seeking $1.42 million in funding with support from the SDPSCC. This request is to add a geographically separate ASTRO P25 core in the GSM (where the EOC is located) building to protect against a catastrophic failure. DSR includes redundancy for voice, network management, data, and information assurance services. If the remote sites cannot connect with their currently active core, the sites will switch to their alternative core. DSR provides continuity of operations in case of disaster, thus ensuring end user communications are maintained if the primary Master Site experiences a catastrophic event.
  + Redundant core solution would leverage redundant data network infrastructure already in place, requiring no/very limited additional networking costs.
  + There is also a Cloud Hosted redundant Master Site. Problem with Cloud Hosted DOES NOT support Critical Connect or Smart Connect.
* During discussion Husby provided input stating the importance of redundancy built into 911 and state radio infrastructure and how this could also impact directly connected PSAPS to the state radio core and supports the ask for redundancy.
* Executive session should be called to score the underserved areas worksheet and discuss further.

1. RoIP policy- Nincehelser Share draft version of RoIP policy with council members to review and offer input.
   * Hope to have final draft completed by next meeting for review.
2. New State Radio technical solutions

* Kendall Light presented new technology available to state radio users following P25 upgrade.
* Critical Connect WAVE smart phone app and TLK 110 Radio - WAVE is an app on the phone, will have 6 zones and 16 talkgroups per zone. We now also offer a TLK110 radio, very small, has Verizon SIM card, it does not have a phone option, you will not get a call interruption.Testing new SIyata SD7 with FirstNet- SIyata is dual SIM capable with WIFI and Bluetooth and supports 6 zones with 16 talkgroups. Testing is going well and working with Hughes County and now DCI as bet test groups.
* SmartConnect- State Radio working with SDHP to optimize RSSI levels for radio users. They are testing in the northern Black Hills area. We are hoping to get RSSI optimized and deploy new codeplug to SmartCOnnect users prior to the Rally.
* State Radio currently has 5 techs participating in training for the FAA part 107 license to become drone pilots. State Radio plan to use the drone to perform tower inspections potentially saving tens of thousands of dollars each year in physical tower site inspections. Nincehelser thanked Lt Wellman and SDHP for their expertise and assistance in getting the drone program started at state radio.
* River Cities Transit using the Critical Connect dispatch solution which will make free up resources on the state radio RF infrastructure.

1. **Meade County I90 corridor update**
   * State radio has been funded $46,000 for a comprehensive radio coverage study to determine optimal locations for potential future tower sites in the area to enhance portable coverage.
   * Statement of Work has been completed and working on a contract with vendor to perform he study.
2. **Minnehaha County Projects**-

* Nincehelser provided update on new North Minnehaha simulcast system stating frequency work is completed and circuits have been ordered for the sites. Anticipating an early fall date to turn up the new simulcast system.
* Moved VA subsite to another water tower in Menlo Park in May. The decision stems from challenges at the VA site with maintenance and removal of RF equipment too frequently.

1. **Spearfish I90 corridor Mobile coverage challenges- Nincehelser presented.**
   * SDHP has alerted state radio to coverage challenges in the Spearfish area along I90 from MM2 to MM18.
   * Issue stems from high noise floor interference from potentially dozens of high-power transmitters on towers at the Terry Peak site. The interference causes severe signal degradation estimated at 20-25dB.
   * Nincehelser presented RadioSoft coverage map representing the areas that are seeing issues with Mobile coverage in the area.
   * SDHP is currently using SmartConnect to combat this issue.
   * SDPB has a site in the Spearfish area that state radio can leverage to add an additional tower site with a projected cost of around $430,000.
   * Bonus would be portable coverage for the city of Spearfish.
   * Will call executive session to review the formula for underserved areas and seek support from the council.

**Old Business:**

1. **FYT2022/2023 Budget-**
   * Nincehelser provided an overview of the State Radio FY 2023/24 budget.
   * Nearly 22% of total operational budget is paid in July for annual Motorola support contract.
   * 9% Personnel and 16% of Operational funds available
   * 8.5% fiscal year remains.
   * Successfully navigated the potential funding challenges presented by the P25 project.
2. **FirstNet/Broadband subcommittee report –**

* **Doug Pennistion- ATT**
  + FirstNet and ATT announced that there will be a new tower going up in the Spearfish area as well to help cover gaps in service.
  + Working with DCI and Hughes County, as well as state radio testing Siyata SD7 devices.

1. **Organization Representatives Vacancies –**
   * John Wiik term limit expires in June working on potential candidates for replacement.
   * New elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Member-at-Large were held in June meeting.
   * Member at large- Sheriff Swenson- nominates Kevin Karley, Jason Husby second, elected unanimously (voice vote)
   * Vice Chair - Kevin Karley nominates Garrett Wellman, Ray Black second, elected unanimously (voice vote)
   * Chair- Garrett Wellman nominated Bruce Nachtigall, Kevin Carley seconded- elected unanimously (voice vote)
2. **5-Year Plan –** Nincehelser review the 5-year plan with group and provided updates on goals met for 2023

* Nincehelser added 2027 and 2028 five-year plan expansion categories.
* Asked SDPSCC members to help identify next 5-year plan goals and bring to next meeting in September.
* Created subcommittee to address PSAP direct connect efforts including Karley, Husby, Wellman, Nincehelser
* Added NAMAS upgrade plans to 2025.
* Merge SDPSCC 5-year plan into parallel SCIP planning

**Organizational Reports:**

Jones –. Nothing

Swenson - Nothing

Mosteller – Nothing

Nachtigall – Nothing

Wacholz - Nothing

Goodwin/Carter – Nothing

Harrington – Nothing

Kludt – State Fire School this week

Rave - Nothing

Black- WLF working with Great Plains Dispatch to transition back to MCC7500 usage by June 21st

Wellman - Nothing

Karley – Nothing

Long- Nothing

Haley (County Commissioners) – Nothing

Kevghas – Nothing

Pearson - Nothing

Barth – thanks state radio tech John D for his help at Great Plains DIspatch

Nincehelser - Nothing

Wiik – Nothing

Kull – Nothing

Husby 911– Nothing

**Tentative Next Meeting Date – September 18th**

**Motion to Adjourn –** Jones motion to adjourn, second by Black.

**Meeting Adjourned 12:49 PM CST**