

October 13, 2021 Meeting Notes for the Public Safety Communications Council

Online- in Attendance:

Jeff Pierce, Harold Timmerman, Todd Dravland, Bruce Nachtigall, Brian Soehl, Andy Barth, Jason Jones, Maria King, Gary Jaeger, Jim Pearson, Doug Barthel, Jay Gerlach, Doug Penniston, JD Geigle, Staci Ackerman, Bob Scheiber, Tracey Murdock, Trent Ninceheler, Jeremy Johnson, John Dalldorf, Lisa Beyer, David Goodwin, Jon Hubregtse, Steve Swenson, Michael Steffen, Chuck Kevghas,

Vice-Chair Nachtigall called meeting to order at 10:05

Roll Call, 14 members in attendance so quorum was met.

Request for additional Items to add to Agenda:

None.

Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes:

King motioned to approve, second Jones.

New Business:

1. System Upgrade Status

Dravland and Pierre provided an update on the system upgrade. To date, the system core has been upgraded to 20.19.2, NICE logging recording system upgraded, GenWatch added for system and user reporting, next up is the Critical Connect Platform that will allow an interface to similar systems in our region, LTE interface, and a PTT app. We hope to have this phase completed by end of the calendar year.

It is important to note that we are approximately one year out from beginning the conversion of sites across the state to P25.

2. Reliance, Hot Springs, & Hill's project outlines.

For both the Reliance and Hot Springs add sites the projects are on track and on schedule. For both sites the equipment is ordered and installed, circuits ordered, and tower crews scheduled to install the equipment on the towers. It is still the plan to turn up Hot Springs in the new P25 format and Reliance in the legacy SmartZone format by end of calendar year 2021.

The Hills project which requires the installation of new sites in the Rockerville, Hill City, and Keystone is on track as well. RCS was awarded the project civil work, which includes site prep and installation of the buildings, towers, and assistance with the telecommunications circuits. Planning on a first quarter 2022 completion.

3. Site Prioritization

The process to determine a formal process for the addition of sites on the state system has not made any further progress and council members Pierce and Jager will resume work on that.

4. Critical Connect/WAVE System

Trent Nincehelter gave an update of the Critical Connect platform that be installed very soon. Critical Connect provides a direct interface to a cellular push to talk (PTT) application, has the capabilities of eventually extending coverage out over LTE networks to compatible devices, and is the platform to allow direct interface to other P25 systems. Schedule is to have this completed by Thanksgiving 2021.

5. FY23 Budget Request

Budget request by State Radio, but not necessarily accepted into the final budget are the following:

- \$500,000 for the increased support cost associated with the buildout of the system, expected cost and recurring.
- \$140,000 for replacement of the While River tower. Aging tower (early 1970's) and has been used for target practice. Better to replace before it falls down. One-time.
- \$60,000 recurring for a public safety application that will standardize situational awareness within the state.
- Requested funding for an additional site in the Redfield area.

Timmerman requested an update on the sustainable funding mechanism the state worked on

6. Bridge4PS application, Rollout and Status.

In order to avoid some of the issues the radio side encountered when no common system, frequency, or protocols were put forth in South Dakota, the council approved of the adoption of Bridge4PS as a common application for situational awareness in the state, this application can share from one-to-many awareness items such as pictures, maps, weather reports, etc. that can't be delivered over the radio. The application has been tested at numerous events over the past 2 years within the state and has a unique pricing model that makes it the most efficient option for the state. Mike Waldner provided an overview of the application. Timmerman and Long provided input as users with experience with the application.

7. Aberdeen Request for Patching

Aberdeen and Brown County maintain a local radio system that is separate from the statewide digital trunked system. As such there are issues with communications during emergencies because the radios and frequencies are not compatible without a "patch" between the two systems through the PSAP console. The patch can create issues if not properly managed and used, so this was discussed as an agenda item. The first request was to dedicate a Special Ops talkgroups for Aberdeen/Brown County, which we can make a best-effort on but not guarantee that will be available in a statewide emergency, and the second to patch to the regional Interagency Talkgroup was not accepted because of the area affected.

Old Business:

1. FYT2021/2022 Budget:

Pierce provided overview of the State Radio budget. At this time all aspects of the budget are at expected levels. A change in accounting practices now includes all encumbrances so balances at the outset of each fiscal year will appear to be lower.

2. Grant Status:

Pierce and Waldner provided updates on the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) SLIGP 2.0, which is now completely closed out.

A second grant being worked on is funding from DHS through Emergency Management that would purchase an additional tower trailer to have those regionally located and a Compact Rapid Deployable LTE unit that would allow a much more mobile deployment for a band class 14 cell service.

3. Digital Radio System Updates:

Dravland provided system updates. User ID's are up to 27,917, and talkgroup ID's increased to 1522. General maintenance on sites, Huron building repaired and revamped. Planning meetings with Motorola and stakeholders continues. Scott clarified status of test site.

4. FirstNet/Broadband

Waldner covered the progress of the broadband subcommittee with progress continuing on app testing and evaluation. Penniston did not have an opportunity to update on the FirstNet buildout, and asked that the following be included in the notes:

On Air since last meeting:

- Vetal area, 25 miles East of Martin
- Box Elder / Ellsworth AFB
- Highway 183 near Ideal, approximately 20 miles South of Presho

30 day window: Hwy 63 South 25 miles S. of Eagle Butte

60 day window: McPherson County, Southern Tripp County

90 day window: Meade County, North Sioux City

120 day window: Butte, Corson, Haakon, Hughes County sites.

5. Unified Correspondence;

Currently notifications related to council meeting announcements and follow-up notes are sent out to the following groups

- SD Dept of Ag
- SD Association of County Officials
- SD DOT
- SD Municipal League
- SD Fire Fighters
- SD Emergency Management Association
- SD Fire Chiefs

- SD Sheriff's Association
- Ambulance Association

6. Key-File, Code-Plug Template, Test Site

Key file protection, work on the standard programming template, and the test site were covered in a brief discussion.

7. Encryption Standard

AES-256 is the default standard moving ahead and should be the only encryption option ordered if working with other agencies.

8. Other

No additional agenda items were entered.

Organizational Reports:

Jones –

Rechtenbaugh –

Maupin – Craig Smith discussed DOT plan to replace Maupin on the council.

Goodwin –

Barth –

King – Working on text to 911. Also working with Ellsworth AFB and Tribal PSAP's.

Timmerman – State Association meeting in Spearfish.

Kludt – district fire schools in Parkston, Burke, Wessington Springs, and Selby. State Association meeting last week of September in Pierre. Discussed working radio training courses into fire school.

Collins –

Karley – APCO/NENA conf in SD cancelled, next year in ND.

EMS – State meeting virtual this year.

Wildland Fire – Mike Steffen sitting in for this meeting, working on replacement for Paul.

Jaeger – Sept 14-15 association meeting in Sioux Falls.

Barth –

Pearson –

Barthel --

Motion to Adjourn by Pearson

Second by Jones

Meeting adjourned 1050