10:00 Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Nachtigall

Roll call of members – Chairman Nachtigall

Police Chiefs Assn. – Jeremy Wellnitz - Present

Sheriff’s Assn. – Steve Swenson - Present

DCI – Attorney General – Preston Patterson- Present

GFP – Bruce Nachtigall- Present

DOT – Brian Wacholz -Absent

National Guard – David Goodwin- Present

Emergency Managers – Pat Harrington- Absent

Firefighters – Charlie Kludt - Present

Healthcare – Jacob Parsons- Absent

Highway Patrol – Michael Peterson- Present

APCO/NENA – Mary Shoemaker- Present

EMT’s – Robert Rendon- Present

Wildland Fire – Ray Black - Present

County Commissioners – Kade Haley- Present

Health Dept – Danielle Daak- Present

Tribal Governments – Tommy Thompson- Present

Federal Gov’t – Andy Barth- Present

BIT Engineering – Trent Nincehelser- Present

SD Senate – Randy Deibert- Present

SD House- Kevin Van Diepen- Present

911- Jason Husby - Present

Quorum was met with 18

Guests in attendance include the following: Greg Ehrsam, Derek Dipetro, Erik Pershmann, Gloria LeCount, Steven Butler, Carter Howard, Colton Hunter, Jeff Jensen, Jason Ketterling.

Additional Items to be added to agenda – Rogers Two way was set to ask for special accommodations on ASK policy to program Helicopter radios but did not attend. None

Approved minutes of June 2025 meeting – Motion to approve Daak, Second Goodwin – Approved by voice vote

OLD BUSINESS:

1. FY2025/2026 Budget- Trent Nincehelser presented budget 83% FY26 remains with 79% of Personnel funds available and 67% Operational funds available
2. FirstNet/Broadband update and presentation, subcommittee report- Kendall light reported that the Broadband Subcommittee held presentations on FirstNet Critical Connect Dispatch solutions for mobile/redundant dispatch solutions especially for smaller PSAPs

No updates from FirstNet

Erik with T-Mobile reported that “light data” availability for Low Earth Orbit devices is coming soon and will support apps such as Wave, Evertel, Bridge4PS, but not tethering for Smart Connect or Critical Connect.

1. Meade County I90 corridor final survey -Trent Nincehelser reported There has been portable radio coverage issues reported in Gauntlet area including Piedmont, Blackhawk, and Summerset areas. Legislature funded a $46K coverage study, project kicked off a year ago in October with RFCC who sent out surveys for feedback, surveyed the area, did coverage studies/RSSI checks with multiple models of radios. RFCC held a meeting that was in conjunction with the Sturgis Rally Stakeholder presentation on their initial findings while seeking more feedback from stakeholders, particularly the impact that LTE capable radio has had since deployment recently.  Meade county purchased N-70 radios and Motorola provided Cache APX Next Radios during August and September for testing. The consensus is that the new radios solve portable coverage challenges in the area. RFCC will provide a final report soon and the SDPSCC will make recommendations on how to best solve the issue of portable coverage in the area moving forward. Meade County representatives mentioned that the new radios solved nearly all coverage challenges in the area except for Vanocker Canyon.
2. Minnehaha County projects update- Trent Nincehelser reported that the new North Minnehaha Simulcast System is now operational as of last week. This will enhance RF communications coverage in the areas of Baltic, Hartford, Canton, and Garretson. We are also seeing good coverage into parts of northern Sioux Falls. The city of Sioux Falls has recently purchased LTE capable radios to bridge portable coverage gaps in and around the city of Sioux Falls. These radios should be deployed in October following testing and final codeplug acceptance.
3. Organization representative vacancies Nincehelser took time to recognize new appointees to the SDPSCC including Jeremy Wellnitz with Police Chiefs Association, Jacob Parsons with Healthcare, Robert Rendon with the EMTs, Mary Shoemaker representing APCO/NENA, Danielle Daak representing DOH, Tommy Thompson representing Tribal Government, Randy Deibert -Senator from district 31, and Kevin Van Diepen – Representative from district 22. The council took a few moments to make introductions to the new members. Welcome to all new council members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SWIC updates – Todd Dravland updated the council on the following efforts:
   1. Wyoming/ SD/NE/ MT Cross border interoperability; Teams call every other Friday. Additional states interested, IA, UT, ND and others, along with CISA and NCSWIC groups.   
      This connectivity is using CC/ ISSI to connect our systems together.  We have tested with Wyoming on the connection TG to TG, and it works well using console, radio, and LTE.   Next item will be the automatic roaming configuration, that has been purchased and Motorola to configure, with Wyoming and then Nebraska.

* 1. SCIP items to complete this year include:  SDFOG/ eFOG, TA's (2 maximum in this Federal Fiscal year, October 2025-Sept 2026. PACE planning- (Primary, Alternate, Contingent, Emergency).

* 1. Continue to have RECCWG Region 8 calls every 2 months.

* 1. State NAWAS, telco connectivity discontinued by FEMA.  Will use radio/ data/ etc, for notifications.
  2. UPS for Master site, replacement is now completed.

1. BRINC Drones- A New Era of Response – Greg Ehrsam will be transitioning from regional sales to North American sales for BRINC Drones. BRINC drones for Public Safety demonstrated the Responder Drone and the Lemur 2 drones following the meeting.
2. Spearfish site addition – Trent Nincehelser SDPB already has a site at this location with a suitable tower, building, and network access. For the past year SDHP has been notifying state radio and submitting incidents regarding spotty mobile radio coverage in the Spearfish area to the Wyoming line. If SDHP is affected by these coverage challenges, it is also certainly affecting all first responder agencies utilizing the state radio system. The area hosts Black Hills State University, and this is a high traffic area year-round and sees a significant increase in traffic and activity during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. As an added benefit, much of the city of Spearfish will enjoy portable (handheld) coverage that they lack today. Currently, the City of Spearfish uses their own conventional channel for law enforcement instead of the state radio system due to lack of portable coverage. FCC licenses have been granted, and equipment has begun to arrive for installation. The project is slated for completion in January 2026.
3. 85th Sturgis Rally success story- Trent Nincehelser reported to the SDPSCC regarding recent success with the 85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. By taking a tactical technical approach state radio has managed to not only handle the 294% increase in radio traffic for the Sturgis site but also decrease busies during the rally by 98.3%. These efforts can be attributed to greater planning coordination, recent addition of 2 trunked channels at the Sturgis site, integration of Smart Connect capable radios into the Meade County Dispatch, LTE cache radios provided by Motorola, new N70 radios purchased by Meade County, and overall increases in efficiencies of the RF system by implementation of Smart Connect and Critical Connect capable devices. These efforts have made it possible for Meade County and Pennington County’s dispatches to have direct communications during the rally for the first time. Recent enhancements with Cirrus Central for advance monitoring capabilities have also allowed state radio staff to identify issues and resolve prior to becoming service impacting. Mary Schumaker mentioned that the busies were MUCH reduced, and the interagency communications between dispatch centers played a critical role during this year’s rally.
4. Grade of Service Standard for State Radio – Trent Nincehelser proposed that the new Grade of Service standard set by state radio should be 2% with a 1 second or less acceptable wait time. This would be used as a metric to measure state radio system performance on a site-by-site basis. This will help state radio identify constrained resources and elevate priority to technically intervene to maximize site efficiency moving forward. This will help stat radio identify where to increase capacity if needed or potentially restrict site access to increase efficiency.
5. Walworth County Radio Survey and Formula for underserved areas updates – Jeff Jensen, Walworth County EM provided update on the potential to use an MDU tower 4 miles east of Mobridge to construct a state radio site to fix mobile coverage problems in Walworth County. Jeff is working to secure funds to retrofit the existing tower to support state radio antennas and feedlines and construct a new tower shelter. Walworth County also struggles with LTE coverage so, Smart Connect/Critical Connect solutions are not a great alternative to bridge gaps in coverage. State Radio and 911 will continue to investigate potential resources for funding and report back to the SDPSCC in December on a recommendation to a path forward.
6. FirstNet buildouts focus group update – Trent Nincehelser updated the council on the progress that the FirstNet buildout focus group including coverage analysis, testing, coverage mapping, and stakeholder survey feedback in an effort to prioritize buildout of new LTE infrastructure in the state from the public safety perspective. The Intention is to prioritize new tower site buildout in areas that struggle with both LTE and RF coverage for first responders today. The focus group will provide initial findings to LTE providers in October while the overall prioritization efforts will continue to be defined by the SDPSCC moving forward. If counties have not submitted input into the process, it is not to late, please contact Trent Nincehelser, Jason Husby, or Allan Miller to get a survey completed.

ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

Police Chiefs Assn. – Jeremy Wellnitz - nothing

Sheriff’s Assn. – Steve Swenson- nothing

DCI – Attorney General – Preston Patterson- nothing

GFP – Bruce Nachtigall- nothing

DOT – Brian Wacholz – nothing

National Guard – David Goodwin - nothing

Emergency Managers – Pat Harrington

Firefighters – Charlie Kludt

Healthcare – Jacob Parsons

Highway Patrol – Michael Peterson- nothing

APCO/NENA – Mary Shoemaker – Dakota 911 Conference is October 7-10 in Bismarck

EMT’s – Robert Rendon- nothing

Wildland Fire – Ray Black - nothing

County Commissioners – Kade Haley- nothing

Health Dept – Danielle Daak- nothing

Tribal Governments – Tommy Thompson- nothing

Federal Gov’t – Andy Barth – Appreciated the explanation of the Meade County Gauntlet coverage challenges

BIT Engineering – Trent Nincehelser- nothing

SD Senate – Randy Deibert – Question regarding the Public Safety Power Shutoff preparedness generally and informed the council that the efforts are moving to Otter Tail Electric as well. Nincehelser responded that state radio is controlling the things we can including hardening backup power and increasing capacity in preparation for potential long-term outages.

SD House- Kevin Van Diepen – Bill 216 While funding can be challenging wanted to ensure that we prioritize addressing public safety and communications challenges and underserved areas in upcoming legislative session.

911- Jason Husby – Looking to discontinue use of State Radio Turkey Ridge INT talkgroup, creating redundant and challenging communications in SE part of state.  911 coordination board meeting upcoming addressing 911 consolidation of centers, improving interoperability between 911 centers. It will not change what we can spend monies on for 911 but should open funding opportunities for communications projects.

Closing comments

Chair – Bruce Nachtigall - nothing

Vice-chair – Michael Peterson- nothing

Member at Large – Vacant- nothing

Next Meeting: December 10th

Motion to Adjourn – Goodwin, Second Daak – Adjourned 12:08 PM