

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

December 16, 2015

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Harry Hughes Conference Rooms, Suite #3

MDOT Headquarters

7201 Corporate Center Drive

Hanover, Maryland 21076

Minutes

Attending:

Board Members: Greg Urban, Ken Hasenei, Tony Rose, Craig Moe, Wayne Darrell, Bud Frank, Charles Summers, Dave Balthis, Pete Landon

Staff to the Board: Norm Farley, Betsy Jackson

Others: Christina Sides, Justin Ellingwood, Gary Davis, Brandon Renehan, Dave Christner, Kristen Skogsberg, Robin Clark

A. Call to Order and Introductions – Greg Urban.

1. Greg Urban introduced Norman Farley as the new DoIT Director of Statewide Interoperable Communications and replacement for Ken Coppage.

B. Review of Minutes from September 23, 2015 Meeting –

1. Motion to approve the minutes from September 23, 2015 meeting was made by Bud Frank, and seconded by Ken Hasenei. Approved by unanimous vote.

C. Committee Reports – Greg Urban

1. System Performance Report – Brandon Renehan
 - Overview of Call Volume Sept - Nov
 - Grade of Service Overview
 - Voice, Data, and TDMA usage

D. Project Status Update - Ken Hasenei

- Project team has been reminding Counties and local jurisdictions that there is an approval process for becoming part of the System.
- Phase 3: Central Maryland
 - Baltimore County Operational
 - Harford/Cecil Operational
 - MSP Northeast will go live on the System on Jan 20, 2016
 - Howard and Anne Arundel Counties expected to go live by June 2016
 - Carroll/Frederick preliminary coverage testing done.
- Phase 4: WAGIN Counties and Towson
 - Meeting scheduled in January
 - Design complete, implementation in process target 2017

- Phase 5: Southern Maryland
 - Funding now available to support this phase
 - Discussions with Virginia State Police in process
- Update to State Communications Plan will soon start
- FCC
 - 6 available channels have been obtained for Region 20 portable units

E. New Business

- Proposed New Users –
 - US Air Marshall Service
 - Motion made by W Darrell and seconded by Charles Summers. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - Maryland Department of Agriculture
 - Motion made by W Darrell, Seconded by Tony Rose. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - Caroline County
 - Motion made by W Darrell, Seconded by Charles Summers. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - Allegany County
 - Motion made by Charles Summers. Seconded by Dave Balthis. Approved by unanimous vote.

F. Old Business –

- 700 MHz Acceptable Use Policy.
 - Issue is will users abide by the FCC license requirements for 700 MHz usage and how to ensure compliance.
 - DoIT legal conducted a review and advised the issue is covered in the first page of the MOU agreement signed by users.
 - A draft handout titled “Permissible Use of the 700 MHz Public Safety Communications Band” was distributed to Board members for review and comment. This handout could be used by potential new users as a tool or reference document to help self-certify compliance with the 700 MHz Acceptable Use Policy.
 - A discussion ensued concerning:
 - a. How do we socialize and enforce license requirements from MOU signers (agencies and county/local governments) down to individual users in the field?
 - b. In some counties Fire and EMS are volunteer organizations and local government can’t sanction them for acceptable use violations.
 - c. Who is held accountable for violations of law or FCC policy in use of the System? License is held by DoIT for State of Maryland and the Secretary could be held responsible.
 - d. How can enforcement be conducted? What is remediation?

- For Action: Draft a Policy for remediating non-acceptable use on the Radio System.
- O&M Funding
 - A draft O&M Position Paper titled “Operations and Maintenance Funding Model for the Maryland FiRST 700 MHz Radio System” was distributed to Board members for review and comment. The paper recommended that system level O&M cost for the Maryland FiRST 700 MHz public safety radio system be fully funded via appropriated dollars from the General Fund.
 - Members were requested to review the draft Position Paper and submit comments by the first week in January 2016.
 - A discussion ensued concerning the recommendations contained in the draft position paper, what the funding split between State and County governments should be, and concerns with the cost of System software upgrades would have on County and local governments. There needs to be socialization among budget approvers that the total cost of ownership (O&M, lifecycle replacement, upgrades, etc.) for the new radio system will be significantly greater than the previous systems in place throughout the State.

G. Meeting Closed