

# Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

## Quarterly Public Meeting

September 28, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

100 Community Place

First Floor Conference Room

Crownsville, MD 21032

### Minutes

#### **A. Call to Order and Introductions** – Norm Farley

1. Norm welcomed the group and introductions were made.

#### **B. Review of Minutes from June 22, 2016 Meeting** – Norm

1. Motion was made by Norm to approve the minutes from June 22, 2016, without further review, and seconded by Wayne Darrell. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **C. System Performance Report** – Brandon Renehan

1. Completed underway water testing yesterday for Anne Arundel County. Phase 3 is complete.

Q: Any sites included from southern Anne Arundel County?

A: Yes, Tracy's Landing.

2. Highlights from System Performance Report

- Added new slide to show Maintenance Case Overview.
  - Shows Motorola's responses to different kinds of maintenance calls and requests.
  - Shows number of calls for different levels of severity.
- System Call Volume
  - We're now at just over 30,350 users.
  - No busies this quarter.
  - Q: What makes the Worcester/OC numbers so high?  
A: 97% of call volume is from MD FiRST rebroadcasting calls to Berlin Police Dept, Worcester Co. Sheriff, and OC Police Dept. MD State Police listens and scans the calls. It's a temporary patch until Worcester/OC moves to their own P-25 system. At that point the call volume would drop way down.

Q: Still patching lowband into 700 system on the Eastern Shore?

A: Yes. We've thinned it down, but still have a few non-state agencies that need it, and because of the helicopter issue.

- System call volume trend continues to trend closely year-to-year.

- Level 6 Interoperability
  - Note the spike during May and June. This is due to the UMDES system outage.

#### **D. Project Status Update – Curt Andrich**

1. Phase 3 is complete. This is Central Maryland: Baltimore, Harford, Carroll, Frederick, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. All cells are built, and all cells are operational.
2. Phase 4 (Western Maryland)
  - Design complete, implementation in progress. Equipment is being delivered to the sites.
  - Terrain makes this the most challenging phase. Extensively redesigned fiber and microwave backbone will be engineered and installed to expand the State’s network – fiber installation and civil work in process.
  - Expecting to be operational at the end of 2017.
3. Phase 5 (Southern Maryland)
  - Design process for backhaul ongoing.
  - LMR equipment staging complete.
  - Core and redundant core will be acquired to support this phase of the project.
4. Questions for Status Update
 

Q: From a budgetary perspective, are we good?

A: We are set to get through FY17. Can pay for the milestones. For FY18, being discussed actively but still early in the process.

Q: Where are we with our recommendation to the Governor that O&M come out of the General Fund?

A: We have not gotten a response yet. In response to the Board’s request, Norm will follow up on the status of our recommendation.

#### **E. Continuing Business**

1. Information Paper Regarding Portable Radio Antenna
  - Information paper has been drafted to include in the packet of information sent to parties interested in joining MD FiRST.
  - Copy of draft distributed to Board members. Highlights:
    - State that the system was designed and tested based on ½ wave length antennas;
    - State that using ¼ length “stubby” antennas will reduce performance and coverage;
    - Agencies can make their own policies regarding the use of stubby antennas;
    - Agencies should conduct coverage testing of their critical areas before procuring/fielding stubby antennas;
    - Discussion:
      - It was suggested that by even suggesting that agencies conduct coverage testing, we open the door a crack. Should delete that sentence. Board was in agreement, so it will be deleted.

## 2. Status of MTA

- MTA is wiring tunnels for subways, then there will be coverage testing. If the results are successful, MTA will be able to come onto our system.
- The second part will be an expansion of the Baltimore cell to support MTA police. An 8 channel expansion will have to go to the BPW. Hope to have everything done by 2019.

## 3. Discussion: Recruiting More Counties

- Q: Are we leveraging/entering into any relationships with other counties to expand FirstNet in the counties?
- If we collaborate with counties we could piggy back on their existing sites and get supplemental coverage.
- Counties are wary of joining MD FiRST
  - There's a lack of understanding about how MD FiRST and existing sites owned by counties would interact;
  - Counties want to know who's paying for infrastructure;
  - Counties think why give up licenses without knowing future maintenance costs and system upgrades? (Brandon noted that we don't ask counties to give up licenses, which indicates the level of misinformation out there).
- We need to continue pumping information to the counties.
  - Utilize MACO's newly created Emergency Management affiliate;
  - Radio Control Board members can use their association with different groups to share information. Board can offer technical input and advice;
  - Board members who represent counties that are already part of the system can speak to their own experiences.
- Concluded that as long as a Board is in place that represents people from the state, local, and technical perspectives, we can be successful with counties.

## F. Meeting Adjourned

**Next Meeting is December 14, 2016 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
100 Community Place, Crownsville, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room**