



DATE: September 12, 2023
TIME: 12:09 – 12:50 pm
LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

MD FIRST System Users Committee

Quarterly Public Meeting

Members in Attendance

- Andrew Cummins, Officer, MNRP
- Bobby Ritchie, Chief, Lonaconing Fire Department Allegany County
- Christopher Parker, Officer, MNRP
- Curtis O’Neil, Lt. (Garrett County Emergency Services)
- Dan Dougan, Lt. (Garrett County Sheriff)
- David Larsen, MDOT
- Harold Taylor (Howard County)
- John Butts, Officer, MNRP
- Joshua Bosley, EMS Captain, Cresaptown Fire Department, Allegany County
- Korey Rounds, Lt., Cumberland City PD
- Phillip Via, Radio System Manager, Allegany County
- Seth Rhoades (Harford County EOC)
- Shannon Cotton, Sergeant, Towson University PD
- Shawtae Privette (UMD)
- Steve Smith, Chief (Grantsville Fire, Garrett County)
- Major Doanne Reedy, MDTA

Board Support Staff in Attendance

- Pat King (DoIT/Chairman)
- Norm Farley (DoIT)
- Brandon Renehan (DoIT)
- Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
- Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
- Curt Andrich (DoIT)

Call to Order – 12:09 pm

Review Minutes from 6/15/2023– Pat King

Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the June 15, 2023, meeting.

Moved – Norm Farley/DoIT

Second – John Butts/MNRP

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Questions/Discussion MD FIRST Project Status/Coverage Improvement Update – Patrick King

Pat King presented an update on the DC/Capital station site in downtown DC has come about as a result of an unprecedented level of coordination. The communication and interoperability between agencies since 911 is remarkable. This will be a game-changer with the entire NCR, MD FiRST is becoming the go-to-system for interoperability.

Questions/Discussion MD FiRST Operations Status Update – Patrick King

Pat King presented an update on the project operations including LMR and AT&T FirstNet. This committee discussed the importance of making sure their upper management and financial/budget decision makers understand the robust reliability of coverage and redundancy with MD FiRST interoperability during major weather or human events. Including these decision makers being aware of the durability and reliability of LMRs compared to delicate AT&T Firstnet cell phones (LTE). These phones can't withstand the heat, cold, water and other extreme conditions that first responders and LMRs are exposed to. Typically, during extreme weather conditions AT&T is required to bring in deployables and depend on LMR communication due to cell tower coverage being interrupted.

Old Business

The action item from past meetings was reviewed: Standardization of Interop Zone usage across disciplines.

It was recommended to write a "Recommendation/Position Paper" for SWIC (Draft sent with read-ahead documents). This paper would be presented to the Radio Control Board which, by definition includes the SWIC. This committee decided to table this presentation until the Governors cabinet appoints the SWIC.

The purpose of this paper is for the SWIC to use it to encourage senior level leaders to help break down barriers inhibiting interoperability. Senior level leaders that understand there is a communication gap can drive a more effective interoperable approach. In addition the RCB could use this to support the 4 pillars of interoperability; 1. Technology 2. Governance 3. Funding 4. Culture.

New Business

An election for Chair and Vice-Chair for System Users' Committee was held. Those elected will serve the term through September 2024.

Norn Farley presented the election for the Chairperson position. Pat King presented the election for the Vice Chairperson position.

Nominations were open to the current and new nominees:

Chair: W. Patrick King, DoIT; incumbent seeking re-election

Vice Chair: Ofc. Andrew Cummins, MNRP; incumbent seeking re-election

Additional Nominees and/or Motion to Close Nominations – resulted in no other nominees.

Chair: W. Patrick King, DoIT; incumbent seeking re-election

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Vice Chair: Ofc. Andrew Cummins, MNRP; incumbent seeking re-election

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

Worcester County has a new band plan going into effect sometime in January. New frequencies will be added, this documentation is available for counties bordering Worcester County. Contact Pat King/MD FiRST or James Hamilton/Worcester Cty.

Any users that have Motorola APEX 6000 portables with a model number ending in AN, be aware AN series will be discontinued by 12/31/2023. It's important to get parts replaced now for any AN radios before the parts are unavailable.

Closing/Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was considered to adjourn the meeting.

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene prior to the next RCB meeting on November 29, 2023.

Moved – John Butts/MNRP

Second – Tony Clare/Queen Anne’s Cty

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Chairman of Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

William Patrick King

3/3/2025

Director of Board APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

Norman Farley

03/03/25
