



DATE: March 20, 2019

TIME: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

LOCATION: 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ **Voting Members**

- Wayne Darrell (Kent Co.)
- Bud Frank (SWIC, MSP)
- Walter Landon (GOHS)
- Michael Leahy (DoIT)
- Clay Stamp (Talbot Co.)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Sean Powell (Designee for Pete Rahn – MDOT)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)
- Rich Berg (Designee for Dr. Theodore Delbridge – MIEMSS)

▪ **Board Support Staff**

- Steve Kolbe
- Chris Carroll
- Jennifer Benedictus
- Brittany Brothers
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Norm Farley
- Brandon Renehan

▪ **Attendees Not Present**

- Pete Rahn (MDOT)
- Dr. Theodore Delbridge – MIEMSS
- Col. Palozzi (MSP)
- Tony Rose (Charles Co.)

Call to Order / Introductions – (Michael Leahy)

- Secretary Michael Leahy called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. He welcomed everyone and began introductions.

Review and approve minutes from 12/12/18

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Charles Summers

Second: Bud Frank

Yay: 7 Nay: 0

Abstain: Sean Powell, Craig Moe

New Business – (Norm Farley)

- **Proposed New Primary Users:**

- Coppin State University – 25 TDMA radios, application supported by the Ops Committee
Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Coppin State University to become a Primary User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Coppin State University.

Motion: Craig Moe

Second: Charles Summers

Yay: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

- Baltimore City Community College – 30 TDMA radios, application supported by the Ops Committee

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Baltimore City Community College to become a Primary User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Baltimore City Community College.

Motion: Pete Landon

Second: Bud Frank

Clay Stamp – question about capacity. Answer: Didn't see any capacity issue due to small number of radios and not planning on adding any consoles.

Yay: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

- **Proposed New Comm Interop Users:**

- Carroll County – 1,100 TDMA & 900 FDMA radios. FDMA radios will not be used on MD FiRST, County will only use their TDMA radios (FDMA radios will be replaced by TDMA over next 5 years).

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Carroll County, MD to become a Communications Interoperable User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Carroll County, MD.

Charles Summers – Question: who, in the county, will use MD FiRST? Answer: All users will be first responders, law enforcement EMS, Fire.

Motion: Clay Stamp

Second: Pete Landon

Yay: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

- U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Fire Dept. (Perry Point) – 30 TDMA radios (procurement in process)

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Fire Dept. (Perry Point) to become a Communications Interoperable User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Fire Dept. (Perry Point).

Move: Pete Landon

Second: Clay Stamp

Yay: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

- **Proposed New SOP/SOG:**

There are no new SOP/SOG to approve for this meeting.

There are three SOP/SOG in draft or under consideration. They are:

- LTE-MD FiRST Interface Policy
- Talkgroup Sharing Agreement Approval Process
- PSAP Talkgroup SOG

- **End-of-FY Spending Plan:**

- Crisfield ASR Site – Will improve coverage in this area and over the Bay
- Customer Enterprise Network (CEN) Upgrade – Needs to be upgraded prior to next system upgrade
- UPS Plus-Ups – When we have a power outage where the generator does not function, we want the UPS to run long enough for the tech to get to the site. Plus-up basically doubles the UPS run time. Can do about 4-5 prime sites and 8-12 other sites with the money left over this year. The priority list is created based on need, overlap of coverage in area, and how long it takes a technician to get to a site. Another way to increase redundancy. Underlying issue has been the reliability of site generators. Generators are owned and maintained by various counties and State agencies, each with varying levels of maintenance support and available budgets.

ACTION: Bud Frank:

Will evaluate generator maintenance and set up a program and process on how maintenance is managed, budgeted, and tracked.

- Alle-Gar Microwave Repairs – Damaged due to recent wind storms
- 6 St Paul Backhaul Site UPS AC to DC Rectifier

System Performance Reports – (Brandon Renehan)

- Brandon asked if the Board wanted him to continue to review the system stats at each meeting. Clay responded that he likes to hear Brandon's commentary on the stats. It was agreed that the stats would continue to be reviewed during the meetings, but they will also be sent to Board Members as a read-ahead.
- Traffic volume for the winter months were as expected, with over 2.1 million push-to-talk (PTTs) in February 2019.
- System busies were zero in December, 2 in January and 1 in February. This is a significant decline and is partly due to the activation of the 2-channel expansion in the Talbot cell.
- The number of maintenance cases is inflated due to the system upgrade that occurred in late January/early February. Cases were opened as part of the upgrade action.

Project Status Update – (Curt Andrich)

- **Phase 4 Status**
 - Garrett County went live in Dec 2019. Though one ASR site, Table Rock, in the far southwest corner, is in the process of being built, coverage throughout the county is very good and the local Sheriff had commented on how good the coverage was.
- **Phase 5 Status**
 - Nice Bridge – Procurement action in progress. Expect to be built buy end of summer 2019.
 - Georgia Ave – Group of local citizens are objecting to current site. Continuing to do due diligence analysis of other potential alternative sites. Working with county exec office for scheduling a second community outreach meeting.
- **Cherry Town Chicken ASR RF Site**
 - Leasing space on commercial tower (Crown Castle). Funds are budgeted, license almost complete.

Operations Status Update – (Norm Farley & Brandon Renehan)

- Completed Senate and House Hearings for both Capital & Ops Budgets. \$30,840,000 FY 20 Capital budget approved by the House.

- Major System Upgrade to 7.16 successfully completed early Feb 2019.
- Next Major System Upgrade to 7.18 schedule for March 2020. After this upgrade is completed, schedule will be to do a system upgrade every 2 years.
- Dorchester County successfully migrated their First Responders on to Maryland FiRST in early March, 2019.
- Cecil Cell scheduled to be move from Zone 1 to Zone 3 in early April 2019. A temporary ASR site will be established in Elkton to help with coverage during the outage period of the move.
- Cecilton ASR Site won't be installed until after the Cecil zone 1 to zone 3 is moved.
- Cecil County 2-Channel Expansion will occur in the June/July time frame, after County cuts over to the system.
- Cecil County scheduled to migrate their First Responders on June 24, 2019
- Garrett County Migration – County has received a proposal from Motorola. DoIT is reviewing the proposal with Garrett County to make sure everything is covered, doesn't include items they don't need and pricing is correct. DoIT and Garrett County scheduled to meet 3/21/2019.
- Purple Line 2-Channel Expansion – MTA is planning to fund a 2-Channel expansion of the Montgomery and PG county cells to support the Purple line. Waiting on receipt of proposal from Motorola.
- TV Hill RF Site – MTA is planning to fund a RF site at TV Hill to address a coverage issue at the Falls Road light rail station. The station is in a deep valley that impedes radio signals. The TV Hill site will fill in coverage in the valley, and a lot more. It will also provide good in building coverage for this area. MD FIRT will have outstanding coverage for most of the Baltimore area.
- Anne Arundel County is building their own Motorola LMR system. To support in-building coverage, the county has identified 196 “Critical 1” buildings and 118 “Critical 2” buildings. Those buildings that don't receive sufficient coverage from an outside source will have BDAs installed. The county will include Maryland FiRST frequencies in the BDAs to also give Maryland FiRST indoor coverage in those buildings.
- T1 to Ethernet design/migration
 - Issue: Motorola announced in 2015 that it will cease in 2022 factory support for T-1 based designs. Motorola has also announced (Nov 2017) that major software releases made after 2019 will not support T-1s. As a result of Motorola's 2015 announcement, Phase 5 is being built as Ethernet capable. However, Phases 1 to 4 utilize T-1s and need to be upgraded to Ethernet. If the upgrade is not done the network will continue to operate, but it will obsolesce in place since it will be unable to receive new software releases, and as network equipment ages and malfunctions, replacement equipment may not be available.
 - To maintain the viability of the radio system, Phases 1 to 4 need to be converted to Ethernet. This upgrade will incur a cost to both the State and to Primary User counties.
 - In July 2017, DoIT submitted a capital budget request of \$9M for FY 21 based on Motorola ROM. In July 2018, DoIT submitted an updated budget request of \$16.1M (\$8.1M in FY 20 and \$8M in FY 21) based on new budgetary estimate from Motorola. These estimates did not

include costs to the counties for their side of the demark. Motorola is in the process of doing a detailed design of the Ethernet backhaul and won't have an accurate cost proposal until July 1, 2019.

- Though this issue had been discussed for years, there was a concern that counties were not receiving timely information to plan and budget. An email was sent to county officials on November 1, 2018 concerning this issue and requesting that they contact their Motorola Account Manager for additional information/budget estimates.
- For the past year DoIT staff had been pushing Motorola to provide cost estimates to the counties in time for budget planning. DoIT informed Motorola many times about deadlines they needed to meet in order to make the state's and counties' budget deadline.
- ~~On February 28, 2019, Motorola sent an e-mail to DoIT providing just a ROM pricing for the counties with no other details provided. This information was immediately passed on to the counties. The ROM pricing was received too late for the counties to put into their FY 20 budgets.~~
- During the ensuing discussion comments were made concerning whether or not sufficient internal coordination was occurring within Motorola (there is a State team and various county teams), and whether or not Motorola understands that this is a partnership, that the State and the counties work together. That the Board views Maryland FiRST as a single network and that Motorola should also view it that way.
- Because of Motorola has not addressed the requests of the state or responded in a timely manner, we need to create another process of communication between the state and counties regarding Motorola contracts, upgrades, etc.
- Board members requested that Motorola attend future RCB meetings with the correct person at the correct level.
- Board members requested that a meeting with Motorola be scheduled prior to the June RCB meeting. The Board request the attendance of high level Motorola personnel from Sales, Accounts, Equipment divisions to present their BIG picture program for all equipment, build-outs, upgrades, systems to be phased out, budget and cost estimating system for ALL of Maryland.

ACTION: Bud, Norm, Clay to start the planning of this meeting. Prepare an agenda to establish what we want to accomplish at this Motorola meeting – report back to Mike Leahy.

Operations Committee Status Update (Rich Berg)

- Eastern Shore meeting was well attended.
- Central meeting was not well attended – Carroll County, Dept. of Veterans Affairs Fire Dept. Perry Point were approved to present to RCB as potential new user.
- Western meeting was well attended, Garrett and Alleghany counties very happy with MD FiRST, goes far beyond their expectations. A sheriff from Garrett County said they used to say when using their old radios they were talking to themselves because no one would answer. However, with Maryland FiRST they would now get a reply to their call. Coppin University, Baltimore City Community College were approved to present to RCB as potential new user during this meeting.

Old Business

- Clay Stamp remarked: Some of us have been in this for a long time. It's good to see the progress that has been made. To see the map of statewide coverage. A lot has been accomplished.
- No other old business.

Closing & Adjournment

- Craig Moe – any chance of getting June 19 meeting date changed. So many conferences, events at this same time.
- Norm Farley - We need to find out when we are going to have Motorola meeting. We are required by law to have quarterly meetings in certain times frames.

Proposed Motion: I move that we adjourn and reconvene on June 19, 2019.

Motion: Wayne Darrell

Second: Pete Landon

Yay: All

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Next Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Director of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Norman J. Farley 6/24/2019

Chairmen of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Michael G. Farley 24 Jun 2019