



**DATE:** December 11, 2019

**TIME:** 1:00 – 3:00pm

**LOCATION:** 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

## Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

### Quarterly Public Meeting

#### ▪ Voting Members in Attendance

- Mike Leahy (DoIT)
- Clay Stamp (Talbot County)
- Bud Frank (SWIC, MSP)
- David Balthis (Designee for Ted Delbridge - MIEMSS)
- Chris Holland (Designee for Pete Rahn - MDOT)
- Walter “Pete” Landon (GOHS)
- Tony Rose (Charles County)
- Wayne Darrell (Kent Co.)

#### ▪ Board Support Staff

- Norman Farley
- Maria Hooe
- Curt Andrich
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Brandon Renehan
- Jennifer Benedictis

#### ▪ Members Not Present

- Colonel W. Pallozzi (MSP)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)

### Call to Order – Mike Leahy 1:02 pm

### Review Minutes from 9/18/2019 – Mike Leahy

**Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the September 18, 2019 meeting.**

Moved – Dave Balthis

Second – Pete Landon

The vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

### New Business – Norman Farley

Proposed New Primary Users:

#### Chesapeake College PD

The Chesapeake College PD requested to be a Primary Users on the system. They would like 1 Talkgroup and they have 4 TDMA radios shared between 10 officers. In addition to their main campus, they operate two satellite campuses. This application was reviewed and supported by the Operations Committee. After a brief discussion the following motion was made:

**Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Chesapeake College PD to become a Primary User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the**

## **appropriate MOU with Chesapeake College PD.**

Moved – Clay Stamp

Second – Pete Landon

The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

### **Anne Arundel County**

Anne Arundel County requested to become a Modified Primary User in order to have 12 emergency backup talkgroups to be used only during a county system outage. During the ensuing discussion, Clay Stamp raised the issue concerning what impact to system capacity would occur should Anne Arundel County come on Maryland FiRST in the event of a catastrophic failure of their system. He inquired if the Operations group has had the opportunity to test some scenarios, in the Anne Arundel County area to see what would happen. He recommended that these test scenarios be run. Brandon Renehan responded that we did look at the numbers Anne Arundel County provided (Erlang data to address concerns about system load) and that should Maryland FiRST and Anne Arundel County experience high traffic volume at the same time only about half of the available talk-paths would be used at any given moment. However, if there was an unusually high volume of traffic, Brandon expressed that the overall feeling from the community is that the system can suffer from having some busies, to provide a backup capability for Anne Arundel County as opposed to no one can talk and now people's lives are in danger. The discussion continued that this is similar to the request by St Mary's County and we anticipate other counties that have their own system will make the same request. There was a discussion about coming up with a system and process that can be used by any Interop counties if they experience a catastrophic failure. It was agreed that Anne Arundel County use of talkgroups would be restricted to critical first responder communications only, and this and other Modified Primary User MOUs will be void when MD FiRST develops a zone that will be used by any county during a system failure.

The discussion concerning potential capacity issues continued with what would happen if multiple counties have failures at the same time. The discussion concluded with plans to have the Ops committee gather more information from each local jurisdiction and possibly run some testing scenarios.

## **Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Anne Arundel County to become a modified Primary User to Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Anne Arundel County.**

Moved – Bud Frank

Second – Tony Rose

The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

### **System Performance Reports – Brandon Renehan**

Brandon Renehan provided a System Performance Report. Currently there are 23,999 primary users on the system and another 40,090 interoperable users. There were 7 busies in September, one busy in October, and one busy in November. The 7 busies in September all occurred in Kent County with majority during a 10-11 second time frame. All of the system measures were well within standards.

The overall calls between agencies/counties is rapidly increasing, demonstrating the effectiveness of MD FiRST interoperability.

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

- Phase 4 – Table Rock ASR (Garrett County) site: Construction is planned to start in early 2020. This will complete the last RF site in Phase 4.
- Phase 5 – The primary focus is getting the backhaul in place. The Ethernet layer 3 backhaul ring that links all Phase 5 counties is scheduled for testing in early July 2020. The activation testing will start in August 2020.

- Nice Bridge Tower – The tower was complete in December 2019. The equipment is scheduled to be installed and operational by January 2020.
- New Shelters are in progress at Persimmon Tree Lane and Rockefeller Court (Waldorf).
- Georgia Ave Tower – The contract has been awarded and the site work will begin shortly. Completion will be late April 2020.
- Cherrytown Chicken ASR – This is in partnership with Carroll County and Crown Castle. The contract modification is complete. The shelter and equipment are on order. Completion is scheduled for late summer 2020.
- Developing a follow-on project plan to address any coverage gaps throughout the state. Will maximize the use of partnerships and existing infrastructures to reduce costs.

### **Operations Status Update – Norman Farley**

- T1 to Ethernet Migration/Budget – The Ethernet procurement will be on the December 18, 2019 BPW agenda. The non-Ethernet capable legacy portions of the backhaul microwave will be replaced as part of this upgrade.
- Tower Road ASR, Frederick County – MD FiRST currently uses it as a backhaul site, and it has known coverage issues. Priority on this tower increased because it is close to Camp David where the G7 Summit to be held in June 2020. This site should be complete by May 1, 2020.
- Crisfield ASR – This is an existing county tower, MD First is adding a shelter and extending State fiber to the shelter. This was accomplished through a good partnership with Somerset County and the town of Crisfield. The new shelter is to be built on a cement pad to get it above the flood plain, the equipment on the racks will also be as high as possible to protect against flooding. This shelter also includes auxiliary power.
- CEN upgrade – The PO has been issued to Motorola to upgrade the CEN. This upgrade is important since Genesis, voice logging, KMF, etc. reside on the CEN. Motorola is currently working on how to fit it into the schedule, the majority of this work will happen next summer through fall, 2020. The upgrade should result in increased reliability and fewer choke points in the system.
- Major System Upgrade to 7.18 – The upgrade to the infrastructure will occur in March 2020, with console site upgrades scheduled afterwards. We have informed Users not to add any new users into the system after Feb 21, 2020 so they don't have to add it again after the March upgrade is completed.
- Coverage Reporting Tool – DoIT developed a much needed Coverage reporting tool. This tool will be used to gather more accurate data for reducing any possible coverage issues. The radio managers will use the App/Link to report all gaps in coverage after they vet the report to make sure it is not user error. With this data MD FiRST can accurately calculate where we have the real coverage gaps and use this data to determine where new RF sites should be added.
- Cecilton ASR – Antennas were not placed on the tower where they should have been. Moto is going back to reposition the antennas. This should increase coverage along the northern border of Kent County and in Cecil County.
- Ocean City Tower Mapping/Antenna relocation– After factoring in the removal of old DNR antennas, the tower is still overloaded and would need \$150k in structural upgrades. We don't know how much this upgrade would improve coverage. As an alternate, we are looking for a site in West Ocean City.
- Garrett County migration – Garrett County ordered new consoles for the EOC and is working with Network MD to get the connectivity they need. They won't go live on the system until after the system upgrade (May-June, 2020). The Fire and Sheriff's department received Federal grant funding to purchase subscriber radios. One fire department is using the system because their legacy repeater has failed.
- Purple Line 2-Channel Addition – MTA is increasing capacity to the PG and Montgomery County cells by adding 2 channels to offset the additional radio traffic the Purple Line will generate.
- TV Hill RF site – The Falls Road Light Rail station is in a deep valley where radio coverage is poor. MTA is funding this site to improve coverage at the station.

### **Operations Committee Status Update - Gary Davis**

Remarks – The Ops Committee is working on a process to vet new technologies, similar to the process for approving new users. They plan to have some of these topics ready to present to the board at the next meeting.

**Old Business - Norm Farley**

Remarks – None

**Closing**

**Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on March 18, 2020.**

Moved – Pete Landon

Second – Bud Frank

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourn.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Director of Board APPROVAL:**  
(Signature & Date)

DocuSigned by:

*Norman J. Farley*

08/31/2020

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**Chairmen of Board APPROVAL:**  
(Signature & Date)

DocuSigned by:

*Michael G. Leahy*

08/31/2020

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