



DATE: September 14, 2022
TIME: 1:00 – 1:50 pm
LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ Voting Members in Attendance

- Michael Leahy (DoIT)
- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)
- Walter “Pete” Landon (GoHS)
- Bud Frank (SWIC)
- Chris Holland (MDOT)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)
- Tony Rose (Charles County)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)

▪ Board Support Staff

- Norman Farley
- Jen Zambito
- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Pat King
- Curt Andrich

▪ Not Attended

- Dr Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS)(Represented by Rich Berg)
- Jim Ports (MDOT) (Represented by Chris Holland)
- Col Jerry Jones (MSP)
- Wayne Darrell (Kent County)
- Clay Stamp (Talbot County)

Call to Order – 1:00 pm

Review Minutes from 6/15/2022– Norman Farley

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the June 15, 2022 meeting.

Moved – Pete Landon

Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

New Business – Norman Farley

Proposed New Interoperable Users:

Fauquier County, VA:

Representing Fauquier County was Joell Kight, Radio Manager. Currently they have ~930 TDMA radios. Fauquier County fire and sheriff are part of the Fauquier, Culpeper, and Rappahannock (FCR) Radio System. If approved their radios will be programmed with MD FIRST Interoperability zones as part of the Region 20 template. This will help with mutual aid when assisting in the Capital Region.

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

Motion – Bud Frank

Second – Rich Berg

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Alexandria City, VA:

Representing Alexandria City, VA was Eric Parker, Radio System Manager. Currently they have 7 TDMA consolettes as resources to the dispatchers. All new radios will be TDMA compatible with potential future expansion to ~1300 TDMA radios. Alexandria is a full member of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and maintains interoperability with most MWCOG members including Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The current TDMA radios will be programmed with MD FIRST Interoperability zones as part of the Region 20 template. This will help with mutual aid when assisting in the Capital Region.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Alexandria City, VA to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Alexandria City, VA.

Motion – Pete Landon

Second – Tony Rose

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Prince William County, VA:

Representing Prince William County, VA was Jared Juliano, Radio System Administrator. They currently have ~3,500 TDMA radios. They are a member of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). In MD, MWCOG agencies include, but not limited to, Charles County, Montgomery County, Frederick County, and Prince George's County. Prince William Counties police and fire rescue radios will be programmed with MD FIRST Interoperability zones as part of the Region 20 template. This will help with mutual aid and strengthen interoperability in Maryland and DC, especially when covering the Potomac River.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Prince William County, VA to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Prince William County, VA.

Motion – Rich Berg
Second – Pete Landon

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8
Nay – 0

Proposed New Limited-Primary User:

United States Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS):
Representing USFWS was John Ashcraft, Zone Fire Management Officer. The USFWS is requesting Limited Primary use for the wildland fire management on all USFWS lands in Maryland. The lands are located in Dorchester, Wicomico, Kent, Anne Arundel, Prince George’s Counties, and several islands within the Chesapeake Bay. They are requesting 1-2 Talkgroups, for use in the spring to support their prescribed fire operations on refuge lands, as well as other special events. They currently have 5 mobile and 4 portable TDMA radios, with 8 additional TDMA radios on order. USFWS has been working with DNR and surrounding counties such as Dorchester, to secure necessary Talkgroup Sharing agreements for coordination of their fire operations. MD FIRST usage will greatly expand and improve their communication with DNR and other counties that have USFWS lands in Maryland.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of the USFWS to become a Communications Limited-Primary User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with the USFWS.

Motion – Pete Landon
Second – Rich Berg

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – 8
Nay – 0

System Performance Reports – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the system performance report statistics. There were no action items based on his brief.

MD FiRST Project Status Update – Jen Zambito

Jen presented a project update, covering the status of Phase 5, the T1 to Ethernet conversion, and the Motorola contract extension. BPW approved extending the contract to November 16, 2025. There were no action items based on her brief.

Coverage Improvement Program Update – Jen Zambito, Brandon Renehan

Jen and Brandon presented the Coverage Improvement Program update. The Carroll County simulcast conversion is expected to be completed in the next few days. There were no action items based on the brief.

Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the operations update. MD FiRST successfully completed a Cybersecurity Assessment conducted by DHS/CISA.

As a follow-up to the March 16, 2022, Radio Control Board meeting, DoIT continues to work on a MWCOG grant to build 1-2 site(s) within the Capital Region to help with coverage and interoperability in downtown DC, along the National Mall, for planned or unplanned events. The grant approval process may not be complete until early 2023.

Brandon's brief also included an update on the Critical Connect/Smart Connect pilot and on the ongoing A2021.1 major system upgrade.

System Managers Committee Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon reported on the results of the System Managers Committee meeting held on September 1, 2022.

System Users Committee Status Update – Pat King

Pat reported on the results of the System Users Committee, held on September 1, 2022. Pat King was elected as the Chairperson of the committee and Andrew Cummins, DNR/NRP was elected as the Vice-Chairperson.

Old Business - Norman Farley

No old business was raised.

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on December 7, 2022.

Moved – Charlie Summers

Second – Pete Landon

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Yea – 8

Nay – 0

Director of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Norman J. Farley 12/15/2022

Chairman of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Michael G. Leahy
Michael G. Leahy (Dec 15, 2022 13:45 EST)

Dec 15, 2022