



**DATE:** March 7, 2024

**TIME:** 10:01 – 11:26 am

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

## **MD FIRST System Managers Committee**

### **Quarterly Public Meeting**

#### **▪ Members in Attendance**

- Brad Russum (Kent County)
- Christine Hamrick (Queen Anne’s County)
- Dave Tyler (Talbot County)
- David Christner (DNR)
- David Larsen (MDOT)
- Dave Green (Carroll County)
- Delawrence Smith (DHS/SSC)
- Donnae Reedy (MTA Police)
- Earl Erickson (FBI)
- Gary Zamerski (MSP)
- Geoffrey Donahue (MDE)
- Harold Taylor (Howard County)
- Irvin Church (DHS/SSC)
- James Hamilton (Worcester County)
- Jennifer Edwards (MPA)
- Jerry Calabrese (MD Judiciary)
- John Coll (SHA)
- JP Garvin (Johns Hopkins PD)
- Justin Hoyer (York County, PA)
- Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
- Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
- Michael Harrod (Howard County)
- Mike Himmer (MDTA)
- Michael Baltrotsky (Montgomery County)
- Murray Hunt (NRP)
- Phil Via (Allegany County)
- Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)
- Rick Esenwine (Adams County, PA)

- Sean O’Conner (Talbot County)
- Shawn Haynes (ATF)
- Tim Perry (Wicomico County)
- Tim Welsh (DNR)
- Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)
- Tony Maise (DPSCS)
- Wayne Anderson (WSSC)
  
- **Board Support Staff**
  - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
  - Norm Farley (DoIT)
  - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
  - Brandon Renehan (DoIT)
  - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
  - Pat King (DoIT)
  - Rob O’Neil (DoIT)

**Call to Order – 10:01 am**

**Review Minutes from 11/29/2023– Brandon Renehan**

**Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the November 29, 2023, meeting.**

Moved – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Tony Clair (Queens Anne’s County)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Project Status Update & Coverage Improvement – Jen Zambito**

Jen presented the Project Status and Coverage Improvement Program update.

- Core Motorola project ends Nov. 2025. Outstanding deliverables from Motorola include tower inspections, documentation, microwave installs and several other activities.
- An RFP is being drafted to replace the Motorola contract for future work after Nov 2025.
- T1-Ethernet MPLS equipment installations will begin in a few months. Microwave inspections are being completed; T1 to E is scheduled to go live by Nov. 2025.
- The new RF site in Washington DC is on schedule. This site supports MD FIRST users along with primary and interoperability partners responding to events in DC.

- Procurement is underway for three (3) BDAs to improve coverage in critical buildings and facilities such as schools, courthouses and other government facilities. In Fy24 these are slated for two (2) fire stations in Kent County and one (1) elementary school in Talbot County.

### **System Performance/Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan**

Brandon presented the System Performance and Operations Status update.

- Battery lifecycle replacement is on schedule.
- Various tower repairs are occurring realigning the paths from North Calvert Cliffs to Bucktown uW and Grantsville to Big Savage uW and the antenna line will be replaced at Leonardtown ATG.
- Ongoing work is being done to test new firmware to eliminate the TRAK Issues that affected downtown Baltimore / MTA Subway Tunnels.
- The MOM (Manager of Managers) ATP was completed in February.
- MD FiRST/DoIT is currently obtaining quotes to do channel expansions in Howard, Anne Arundel and Harford Cells
- MD FiRST/DoIT is looking into hiring a contractual person dedicated to researching/investigating the interference issues to further address and resolve the issues.
- Brief review of Critical Connect / Smart Connect Pilot.
- The FCC has requirements for any signal boosters or BDAs. Any entity operating a BDA must have written permission from the FCC licensee. MD FiRST/DoIT developing a permission letter to grant permission for entities desiring to include MD FiRST frequencies in their BDAs.

### **Open Discussion/Good of the Order**

- Reminder that MD FiRST staff can help agencies revise codeplugs to account for recent / upcoming encryption changes: DNR is fully encrypted on dispatch channels. Worcester/OC law enforcement and specialty groups are fully encrypted. Harford County is planning on full encryption by May 2025. Talbot County is encrypting some of their channels and a plan was made to use the same national channel if MD FiRST has an outage.
- CISA is offering a COML (Communication Unit Leader) class in June in the NCR.
- Contact Mike Baltrotsky, Michael.Baltrotsky@montgomerycountymd.gov to receive the latest Region 20 Interoperability codeplug.
- Region 20 meeting, 10am-2pm, April 24, 2024 at MCOG headquarters to include Tabletops for new DC equipment. Contact Charley Bryson [charles.bryson@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.bryson@maryland.gov)
- MD FiRST is working on procuring “filtering kits” to help with tactical BDAs when operating in environments near FirstNet. Potentially will test these kits to help with interference hunting.
- James Hamilton initiated discussion on Worcester County piloting a mobile interference hunting solution called “Kraken SDR.” Tool can be implemented on tower sites or as a mobile solution using multiple antennas on a vehicle.

### **Closing/Adjournment**

#### **Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene June 13, 2024**

Moved – Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)

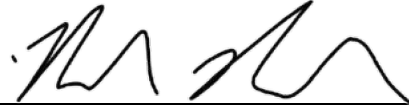
Second – Dave Christner (DNR)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

**Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:**  
(Signature & Date)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

2/3/2025

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

*Norman Farley*

02/03/2025

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