



**DATE:** March 7, 2024  
**TIME:** 11:32 – 12:12 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
- Shawnett (UMD)
- Steve Smith, Chief (Grantsville Fire, Garrett County)
- Major Doanne Reedy, MDTA

#### Board Support Staff in Attendance

- Pat King (DoIT/Chairman)
- Norm Fairly (DoIT)
- Brandon Renehan (DoIT)
- Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
- Curt Andrich (DoIT)

### Call to Order – 11:32 pm

#### Review Minutes from 9/12/2023– Pat King

**Proposed Motion:** The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the September 12, 2023, meeting.

Moved – Harold Taylor (Howard County)

Second – Dave Tyler (Talbot County)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

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

No comments

#### Questions/Discussion MD FIRST Operations Status Update – Patrick King

- MIEMSS and DGS are funding the remediation on the Parole tower.

- Some gaps were identified regarding the training and interoperability knowledge of the incident commanders and how the command posts use MD Law, MD TAC, the designated MD Talkgroups.
- Queen Anne’s Cty had a sensitive situation regarding a missing person. Fire could not talk to police because fire are not encrypted.
- Agencies should budget for replacement radios, encryption for Fire units, etc.

**Old Business**

- It was recommended to table the Recommendations/Positions paper until Maryland has a SWIC.
- This committee works on how to get the technology that exists better understood and used by the command centers and people in the field using the radios day-to-day. MD FiRST has provided the technology, it appears the culture of the operators, PSAPs, and Field Commanders are not trained or aware of how to use the technology effectively.
- It is recommended by this committee for the MD SWIC to work with the users in the field to improve overall interoperability and use of MD FiRST technology.

**ACTION**

Agencies should invite MD FiRST or the SWIC to attend county sheriff, PSAP, etc. meetings to present how to integrate interoperability into their daily workflow.

**New Business**

- Plan for required upgrades for future budgets. Look at your Radio contracts regarding SUAs. Make sure the correct number of SUAs are being received. It has been noticed that Motorola does not inform the customer regarding the SUAs.
- Bring incident commanders to upcoming System Users Group meetings.
- Bring your radio experts or MD FiRST to local Tabletop events to help inform PSAPS on how to use the technology.
- MPA may be available to help coordinate training with incident commanders in the future.

**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 June 13, 2024.**

Moved – Norm Farley (DoIT)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

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

Yea – All

Nay – 0

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

4/1/2024

---

**Chairman of System Users’  
Committee APPROVAL:**  
*(Signature & Date)*

3/31/2024

---