



**DATE:** September 1, 2022

**TIME:** 2:19 – 3:01 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
- Nathan Durman NRP/Vice Chair, System Managers’ Committee
- Phillip Via, Radio System Manager, Allegany County
- Seth Rhoades (Harford County EOC)
- Shannon Cotton, Sergeant, Towson University PD
- Steve Smith, Chief (Grantsville Fire, Garrett County)

#### ▪ Board Support Staff in Attendance

- Norm Farley
- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Pat King
- Charley Bryson
- Jennifer Zambito
- Curt Andrich

### Call to Order – 2:19 pm

#### Review Minutes from 6/9/2022– Pat King

**Proposed Motion:** The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the June 9, 2022, meeting.

Moved – Officer Butts

Second – Andrew Cumming

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

### Verification of Quorum

At least 5 entities are required (quorum) to vote on committee officers – in attendance are NRP, MDOT, Towson U, Howard County, Garrett County, Harford County, Frederick County, and Allegany County. This verifies for the record more than 5 member entities are represented.

### **Election of Chairperson – Norm Farley**

- One year term
- Open for Nominations – Pat King submitted his name for consideration, and asked Chief Norm Farley to conduct the election.
- Election following nominations

Nominations: Pat King and Andrew Cummings

Moved – Nate Durman

Second – Dave Larson

The vote was taken, and Pat King won.

### **Election of Vice-Chairperson – Pat King**

- One year term
- Open for Nominations –
- Election following nominations

Nominations: Andrew Cummings

Motion – Nate Durman

Second – John Butts

The vote was taken, and Andrew Cummings won

Yea – All

Nay – 0

### **Questions/Discussion MD FiRST Project Status Update – Patrick King**

Adding Northern VA counties as Users has no effect on system capacity. The system capacity is continuously monitored. NCR interoperability and MD FiRST are working very effectively and diligently together. This will be even more effective when our system is turned on in the NCR area. Montgomery and Prince George's County cells were built with extra capacity and more channels.

### **Questions/Discussion MD FiRST Operations Status Update – Patrick King**

The Antenna at Safety Drive was raised to the optimum height, this may not have completely solved the problem, it was well worth the investment versus building a new site with a cost around \$3M and 3 years to build. The coverage improvement program includes antenna adjustments, BDA's, and other improvements in addition to building new sites. This saves the state time and money and provides justification and data needed for approval of new sites.

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

The acronym for this committee is SUG (System Users Group) instead of SUC (System Users Committee).

After the Sykesville simulcast sub-site came on-line, an officer that could call from his driveway can no longer do this. It may be a directional change that caused this. The directional changes were made to eliminate interference with other antennas. We need the location to test and work to eliminate this or other coverage issues.

Gunpowder Falls State Park coverage issue has been reported, testing will begin soon. Until this is resolved, officers have been informed to switch over to the Harford County System.

An SOP for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party connect systems will be written with the input and expertise from this committee.

September 7 Motorola is hosting the Nex Gen APX System. Anyone can come and attend this event

It takes 50-53 weeks to get batteries from Motorola once batteries are ordered. Consolettes and 4500 radios are also back ordered.

### 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 December 1, 2022.**

Moved – Harold Taylor (Howard County)

Second – Seth Rhoades

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

**Chairman, System Users'**

**Committee APPROVAL:**

*(Signature & Date)*

*William Patrick King*

12/5/2022

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**Director of Board APPROVAL:**

*(Signature & Date)*

*Norman Farley*

Norman Farley (Dec 5, 2022 14:05 EST)

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Dec 5, 2022