

**New Hampshire
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting
February 14, 2020 9:00 AM
NHFA Classrooms 5 & 6**

I. FirstNet Press Announcement – Governor Sununu

**Ed Parkinson, FirstNet
Jim Bugel, AT&T**

II. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

III. Accepting Minutes from November 15th

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Representative Dan Eaton and seconded by Captain Feole. All voted in favor, with the exception of Carol Miller who abstained. The minutes are approved.

IV. New Hampshire Updates – John Stevens, SWIC/SPOC

John extended his thanks to the SIEC for all of their efforts on the committee. He then Introduced Ed Parkinson, Executive Director of FirstNet, who spoke about the roadmap being the blueprint for how FirstNet will move forward. He thanked the SIEC for their partnership.

John spoke about the upcoming state markers presentation that reflects the state's progress on governance, and policy. Mark Grubb from CISA will be here on March 26th to present, the SIEC is welcome to attend. The purpose of the presentation is to gain an understanding on where NH stands on interoperability, and governance. The COMU will be held on April 21-23, which had to be rescheduled from December due to inclement weather. We put in TA requests with CISA for another COML and COMT training, as well as LMR/LTE coverage testing. We have an upcoming scoping call to begin planning details. There are ongoing meetings regarding Mutualink and their capabilities to connect LMR and LTE. The Radio Reprogramming initiative has transitioned over to Grants Management. Working Group meetings are ongoing.

V. COML Certifications-Presentations

Congratulations to our newest COMLs Robert Farley, from the Fire Marshal's Office and Robert Erskine, from the Division of Emergency Services and Communications.

VI. FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Update – Denis Goulet, Commissioner, CIO, DoIT

Commissioner Goulet is the Vice President of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, and is the NASCIO representative on the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The committee continues to gather information. The Information provided at our SIEC meetings is the same information provided at PSAC meetings. They continue to hear that when public safety officials subscribe to the service on day one priority and preemption are working. He has been impressed by AT&T's NDR team's ability to bring in assets during emergency response. They are very responsive in keeping communications up and running. Coverage remains a top concern, NH's buildout is pretty aggressive compared to other parts of the country. Tom Andross asked for an explanation of the

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PSAC. Their role is to guide the future of FirstNet, and most of the membership comes from public safety, and technology organizations. Their feedback guides reinvestment and policy.

VII. Working Groups Status Updates

- **Radio Frequency Communications WG – Jon Goldman**

IFWG continues to monitor the existing matrices for ongoing changes. We've begun logging non matrix frequencies trying to capture those changes as they happen. We have recently stood up a separate shared folder to house the NHTOA statewide SOU matrix. The intent is to manage that matrix separately and on a need to know basis to try and maintain OPSEC from our end of the project.

There was a question regarding the frequencies for the drug task force, and the answer was that if someone from one of the drug task forces would be willing to meet with the WG then they could work on this.

- **Operations WG – George Feole**

The Operations Group will be working on a new issue, which was born out of a recent Executive Management Group Meeting discussion, sort of a de-confliction policy. Recently an ICS 205 was developed for the Democratic Presidential debate held in Goffstown. It appeared that nearly all channels in the interoperability zone, "Zone H" were committed for use during the event. The question was raised how do we avoid conflict in a case such as was presented, when other communities may need to utilize one of the committed channels or in fact, make it a practice to use a zone H channel operationally every day when employing a fire ground channel. The Operations WG will tackle that issue at their next meeting and develop some recommendations moving forward.

- **COML/COMT subcommittee**

- Two candidates passed the Com-L review board recently. Robert Erskine and Robert Farley. Congratulations to both.

- **Data Communications WG –Carol Miller**

The Working Group last met on December 9 at DOS in the 2nd floor conference room. This was our quarterly update with Owen Smith and the RAN Team. Also in attendance were FirstNet AT&T Rep Lisa Benincasa, and Ryan Clark.

On a nationwide basis FirstNet boasts of 1 million connections, 10,000 agencies, 100+ devices, and 100+ apps currently available to public safety personnel. Meeting and surpassing goals at almost 75% completion.

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The RAN team went through the status of the 48 new sites including GNWW (15 sites), and the acquired 12 sites from NEWN. 94 NH Towns with 1 tower, NEWN upgrades have not been turned up yet, and GNWW has roaming available on 15 towers. Nine FirstNet towers have been connected to the core, and a total of 13 by the end of the quarter. Total new builds for 2019 equals 8 new sites and 7 Business As Usual sites.

A deeper dive revealed problems at Magalloway, Holden Hill, Signal Mtn, Berlin, Cannon Mtn, 2 Kancamangas sites in the National Forest are at capacity or lacking infrastructure, power, have structural issues, and are in permitting, zoning, waiting for backhaul status, and lease delays. Many other sites are moving forward.

A decision regarding the COAMs is still yet to be determined. The thought is to wait and see what develops to take advantage of newer technology. There was mention of a SIM card technicality affecting the coverage and use for some NH FirstNet subscribers.

NH numbers are over 1,000 users made up of agencies and subscribers. There are 91 agencies online. NH State Police will be doing testing in this first quarter of 2020.

Looking for new members to join the Data Communications Work Group. If interested please let Alyson, John or myself know. Our next WG meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 1:00 PM right here at the Fire Academy. Following the AT&T update the working group will discuss electing a vice-chair and succession planning followed by an Apps sub-committee meeting.

Kevin from GNWW noted the 14 towers are both commercial and FirstNet AT&T band-14. They're not roaming. Carol asked about 15th tower, the answer was that they're waiting for permitting on Milan Hill, and a 16th in North Berlin.

- Apps Sub-committee – Art Durette
The apps committee continues to monitor development of apps that improve interoperability. Kodiak EPTT, Mutualink, FirstNetPTT (coming soon). As well as an ISSI interface for the state to connect in FirstNet.

A motion was made to approve the working group updates by Representative Eaton, and seconded by Carol Miller. All voted in favor. The updates are approved.

The next date for working group meetings is March 16th.

VIII. FirstNet Update – Gary McCarrarher, Region I Coordinator

Mike Varney is now the Director of Field Services for FirstNet, and sends his regards. The investment teams are internally working hard to reinvest funds based on public safety input. FirstNet has an SME discipline team who are in the process of developing training for fire fighters on how to utilize and

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embrace the LTE technology, they want to partner with the Fire Academy. This will help to fill the training void. They're working with John Stevens to put on another seminar this fall. Nationwide they're ahead of schedule in regard to building out the network. They're gaining customer feedback and using that as a driving force to guide investments. The GAO report is taken very seriously. Ed Parkinson will testify before congress regarding the report. John Stevens asked that FirstNet take the opportunity to reengage with SPOCs, FirstNet will give this consideration.

**IX. AT&T Presentation – Owen Smith, VP of External Affairs
Lisa Benincasa, FirstNet Principal Consultant**

Owen spoke about the NEWNs sites, band-14 will be completed by the middle of 2020. AT&T site acquisition is complete on new sites, ahead of schedule. They are forecasting 16 FirstNet sites this year. We will have 2 SatCOLTs in state, one is coming within the next 1-2 weeks. One will be stationed in New Hampton, and one will be stationed in Somersworth NH. Band-14 overlay has been implemented in over 100 cities/towns on at least one site in each town. The COAMs selections feature smaller options, such as suitcases, and devices that fit on the back of a truck. These options will be available in the spring or early summer.

Lisa spoke about the 127 agencies that are now FirstNet customers, which totals over 1,400 subscriptions. They continue to attend meetings and events. If anyone has any requests please let them know. Reach out to Lisa for the deployable for any event requests, and please remember to engage early if you have a request. Thanks to the SIEC for their partnership.

Carol Miller asked about the SIM card issue, black vs. orange. Owen said the issue should hopefully be cleared up by June. Robert Klein said that the issue is that black SIMs are unable to access roaming sites, testing is currently underway, this technology hurdle will be resolved in the May to June time frame.

Carol Miller mentioned that the Fire Rangers are testing FirstNet devices and having a bad experience. Lisa said there was mixed reviews as far as how the devices were used.

Jon Goldman asked if the NDR team has been engaged for TERT Rally? Yes.

New Business

X. ROUNDTABLE

- Thayer Paronto: Thanked directors and officials for coming to the meeting. The NH TERT Rally will be held on May 29th in Epping. The North Country Interop Consortium is currently in a fact-finding mission in regard to CAD.
- Jessica King – The AG's Office encourages everyone to please submit their Statement of Financial Interest forms in regard to RSA 15-A.
- Denis Goulet – The Department of Administrative Services is currently pursuing a mobile device contract for the state, the procurement is not fully representative of everything

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including FirstNet, DoIT is getting involved and has had a conversation with Commissioner Arlinghaus.

- Jon Goldman – NHEDA and APCO will be holding a joint conference on November 8-11th. NHEDA's Annual meeting will take place on April 3rd at the Grappone Center, and their training will take place at the NHFA.
- Dave Chase – Verizon 3G service is being shut down, DOT obtained band-14 capable modems to operate signs. FirstNet service has worked flawlessly. Kudos to the New England AT&T team for a recent Sonim demo.

XI. L3Harris XL Presentation – Don Griffis, L3Harris

The presentation focused on their converged LMR/LTE device, that also has a dual SIM and FirstNet PTT. L3Harris is active in trainings and sponsorships.

Carol Miller asked about the cost of the featured device? It depends on what you need. Significantly less than others on the market right now.

Arlene Crowell asked about how the audio is connected on backend? The answer was through an ISSI connection.

XII. Next Meeting Date

- May 8th, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the NHFA in classrooms 5 & 6

XIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Eaton and seconded by Chief Hackett. The meeting concluded at 11:56 AM.