

## **New Hampshire**

### **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting**

**May 8, 2020 9:00 AM**

**WebEx**

#### **I. Welcome and Introduction**

Members Present: Tom Andross, John Stevens, Paul Hatch, E. Douglas Hackett, Michael Sitar, Keith Rodenhiser, Scott Nichols, William Wood, Doug Aiken, Kurt Blomquist, Jon Goldman, Thayer Paronto, Heidi Murphy, Carol Miller, Jeff Ladieu, Richard Bailey Jr., Joe Sangermano, Deborah Pendergast, James Kowalik, Steve Kropper, Scott Valcourt, Art Durette, Arlene Crowell, Steve Shea, Rick Todd, George Feole.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

#### **II. Accepting Minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup>**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Captain Feole and seconded by Chief Goldman. Roll call vote in favor: Tom Andross, John Stevens, Paul Hatch, E. Douglas Hackett, Michael Sitar, Keith Rodenhiser, Scott Nichols, William Wood, Doug Aiken, Kurt Blomquist, Jon Goldman, Thayer Paronto, Heidi Murphy, Carol Miller, Jeff Ladieu, Richard Bailey Jr., Joe Sangermano, Deborah Pendergast, James Kowalik, Steve Kropper, Scott Valcourt, Art Durette, Arlene Crowell, Steve Shea, Rick Todd, George Feole.

The minutes are approved.

#### **• New Hampshire Updates – John Stevens, SWIC/SPOC**

Thank you to AT&T for helping to facilitate the meeting. Scheduling and re-scheduling has been the mantra for the office. Currently waiting on guidance on federal travel restrictions regarding TA's. Upcoming TAs include:

1. COMT – August 10-14, 2020
2. COMU – September 15-17, 2020
3. COML – October 5-8, 2020
4. LMR/LTE Drive Testing (planned for Cheshire, Sullivan and Grafton counties in the fall)

We held a FirstNet/AT&T RAN meeting in April, due to tower site issues alternative tower sites were selected for the NH buildout. We are planning on hosting a FirstNet Summit in the fall of this year, where we will provide input that will help guide the future of the buildout in NH for years 6-10.

FirstNet is looking to the future to plan where they will hold board meetings in 2021, and New Hampshire is among the places currently in consideration. Mutualink provided 400 licenses to NH at no cost, due to COVID-19, for edge devices installed at hospitals, dispatch centers, and acute care sites. Thank you to DESC, Art Durette and Bobby Esrskine have done a lot of work to facilitate this effort. We look to expand the footprint throughout the state in the future. NCSWIC/SAFECOM will hold a conference December 7-11 in Pasadena, California.

#### **III. Working Groups Status Updates**

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

## New Hampshire

### Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting

May 8, 2020 9:00 AM

#### WebEx

The IFWG Committee continues to monitor the LAWNET, FIRENET, and EMSNET matrices for changes. We continue to work towards updating the matrices when needed and are actively working with personnel from all disciplines statewide to manage access to the updated matrices. We have solidified a NH SOU matrix which is housed separately from the general matrices and the information is only provided to those with a bonified need for access. Any access to the SOU matrix would be given in coordination with the NHTOA or Captain Feole. We are also continuing to develop recommended interop banks similar to the H bank using UHF/700/800 interop channels. The process is ongoing, and has been hampered by our inability to have in person meetings. The IFWG is also recruiting for any new members. When the COVID19 pandemic has ended we will make a more concerted recruiting effort to retain and recruit additional members.

- **Operations WG – George Feole**

Discussion was had about the "deconfliction" topic and out of that discussion the idea of using WebEOC was discussed. The thought was that we could use WebEOC as a place where dispatch centers could access a thread and notify if/when they were using an interop channel. An example would be if Derry FD goes out and is using VFIRE21, the dispatcher could access the "RADIO INTEROP" thread in WebEOC and click a button or some mechanism to notify that it is in use. That way the Londonderry Dispatcher could log into the same thread and see VFIRE21 is in use so they could assign VFIRE22 if Londonderry FD needed an interop channel. Discussion about having "DAILY USAGE" and "PRE-PLANNED USAGE" tabs. This is all just a concept and we will further vet these ideas as we move forward.

We will reconstitute the H BANK USAGE request document that Director Doyle had previously drafted. It appears that the document has not been officially adopted by the SIEC. We will move that along as well.

- **COML/COMT subcommittee – Cecily McNair**

- ◆ COMT will be held on: August 10-14
    - ◆ COMU will be held on: September 15-17
    - ◆ COML will be held on: October 5-8

- **Data Communications WG –Carol Miller**

- Network is running extremely well despite increased demand
  - Band-14 overlay completed in 122 towns
  - New FirstNet Lines Added: AG's Office, Governor's Office, and DHHS
  - Nothing new to report on sites
  - 20 more sites forecasted for 2020
  - Two sites are already on air:
    - ◆ Middleton on air 2/21

## New Hampshire

### Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting

May 8, 2020 9:00 AM

WebEx

- ◆ West Chesterfield 4/1
- 25 additional towers forecasted for 2020 (including GNWW and NEWN integrations)
  - Tower Sites with Issues**
    1. Kancamagus Highway – Albany – Carroll County
    2. Rte 16 – Erroll – Coos County
    3. Rt 3/Canadian Border – Pittsburg – Coos County
    4. Magalloway Mtn – Pittsburg – Coos County
    5. Kancamagus Highway – Lincoln – Grafton County
    6. Franconia Notch/Flume – Lincoln – Grafton County
    7. Seacoast North Hampton – North Hampton – Rockingham County
  - **Other Opportunities in Various Cities**
    1. Wolfeboro (Carroll County)
    2. Shelburne (Coos County)
    3. Twin Mountain – Troop F Area (Coos County)
    4. Hanover – Dartmouth College (Grafton County)
    5. Grafton (Grafton County)
    6. Keene (Cheshire County)
    7. 9 multinode high power nodes placed strategically throughout North Hampton
  - AT&T requested that the SIEC consider and agree on alternative sites to be pursued in lieu of the tower sites with issues
  - SIEC Leadership met and considered their request for the benefit to move the AT&T FirstNet build forward
  - It was decided that the best way forward was to allow the alternative sites be used as long as the tower sites with issues were moved to the 6 – 10 year build plan
  - NH SWIC John Stevens wrote a letter with the consensus and further stated as long as the two Kancamagus and the Franconia sites were to be prioritized
- **Apps Sub-committee – Art Durette**
  - ◆ The COVID-19 crisis has been both a tragic burden on emergency services but also a moment for interoperable communications to rise to the challenge
  - ◆ LRMFA programmed NH National Guard's new Harris XL200 portables. They also facilitated standing up a Harris BEON server (Harris version of PTT APP) which enables the XL200 to talk on LTE
  - ◆ DESC personnel attended Harris training with the NHNG
  - ◆ DESC negotiated with Mutualink to deploy to facilities and surrounding agencies being stood up to deal with COVID-19. Deployment and training is underway. An interface between BEON and Mutualink is being pursued.
  - ◆ Numerous call centers were stood up to handle citizen inquiries regarding COVID-19 using the Cisco Jabber App
  - ◆ WebEx, ZOOM, GoToMeeting and others have been frequently used to keep people connected while maintaining social distancing

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### **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting**

**May 8, 2020 9:00 AM**

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- ◆ Video applications have been leveraged to give situational awareness to decision makers
- ◆ WebEOC is being used as the statewide central repository to coordinate mission tasks, logistics etc.
- ◆ New georedundant WAVE servers (Motorola PTT App) have been installed as part of the NHSP P25 project
- ◆ Remotely monitored propane gauges have been installed on several radio site.
- ◆ NHSP is in the process of re-writing its CAD/RMS to include integration of NHFG
- ◆ FirstNet announced a new PTT application, which currently only works on Samsung

A motion to approve the Working Group status updates was made by Chief Goldman, and seconded by Captain Feole. All voted in favor.

#### **IV. FirstNet Update – Gary McCarraher, Region I Coordinator**

The Public Safety Advocacy group has migrated to webinars as travel has been prohibited. If anyone is interested in a meeting via a webinar, please let Gary know. Investments on coverage capacity, deployables, and 5G have been discussed. Investments for the next year are going through the final internal review and are on track for a September announcement. A discipline based training program is in development for fire, EMS, and police. The fire program is just about finished with the content and FirstNet will work with the NHFA, and other facilities on the East Coast for a fall start if travel permits.

#### **V. AT&T Presentation – Owen Smith, VP of External Affairs**

##### **Lisa Benincasa, FirstNet Principal Consultant**

Owen: Network traffic is up 22 percent, and data usage is up over 400 percent. There were some issues with 7 of the original planned tower locations. In North Hampton AT&T will be installing C-RA, which is a series of smaller cells placed on poles. As for the other 6 sites mentioned in Carol Miller's report, alternatives have been selected. AT&T asks the committee to remove Wolfeboro as an alternative site, which is scheduled to come on in July of this year. Site acquisition is complete on that site. There are alternative sites proposed to select from in: Jaffrey, Milford, Hillsborough, Bedford, Contoocook, Franklin, Manchester.

Lisa: There are currently approximately 1,987 FirstNet subscribers, that number has almost doubled during the crisis. AT&T would like to bring a security specialist, specifically to consult on cybersecurity that may be needed for cities and towns.

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**New Business**

**VI. ROUNDTABLE**

- **P25 Update**

The NHSP is excited because they're coming to their final weeks on the project. The strategic goal throughout the project has been to increase interoperability across the state. The final milestone is the WAVE servers. Many thanks to DESC, the SWIC, Radio Maintenance and all of the hard work put in by everyone to accomplish this project. The LTE environment is very exciting, as they will be testing and demoing PTT devices with FirstNet across the state.

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

- *Tentative: June 26, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the NHFA Auditorium*
- August 14, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the NHFA in classrooms 5 & 6

**VIII. Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn by Carol Miller and seconded by Doug Hackett. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.