

New Hampshire  
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting  
February 12, 2021 9:00 AM  
WebEx

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Members Present: Tom Andross, John Stevens, Jennifer Harper, Paul Hatch, Doug Hackett, Mike Sitar, David Watters, Mark Proulx, Keith Rodenhiser, Bill Wood, Doug Aiken, Kurt Blomquist, Jon Goldman, Thayer Paronto, Heidi Murphy, David Chase, Carol Miller, Richard Bailey, Joe Sangermano, Deborah Pendergast, Jim Kowalik, Steve Kropper, Art Durette, Cecily McNair, Arlene Crowell, Steve Shea, Rick Todd, George Feole.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.

**II. Accepting Minutes from November 20<sup>th</sup>**

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Captain Feole and seconded by Chief Goldman.

Roll call vote in favor: Jennifer Harper, Doug Hackett, Mike Sitar, David Watters, Mark Proulx, Keith Rodenhiser, Doug Aiken, Kurt Blomquist, Jon Goldman, Thayer Paronto, Heidi Murphy, David Chase, Carol Miller, Richard Bailey, Joe Sangermano, Deborah Pendergast, Jim Kowalik, Steve Kropper, Art Durette, Cecily McNair, Arlene Crowell, Steve Shea, George Feole.

The minutes are approved.

**III. New Hampshire Updates – John Stevens, SWIC/SPOC**

The NHSP FirstNet / WAVE Demo is in phase 4, 40 FirstNet devices are currently deployed in Troop F, and we are gathering info on coverage. We've been able to get HPUE which is going into the field. We had 130 agencies sign up for radio reprogramming, to date only a handful have actually had their radios reprogrammed and submitted their invoices for reimbursement. The pandemic has slowed this project, but the grant expires in August 2022, so there is still sufficient time. We have an upcoming meeting with the NH Tactical Officers Association in regard to promoting interoperability, and discussing the possibility of COMLs being attached to each of these teams. In regard to the CISA technical assistance program, the COMU was set for May but will likely need to be rescheduled for the fall. The COMT is scheduled for July 19-23, and the COML is scheduled for September 13-17. We also have a drive testing scheduled for later this year to test coverage in Cheshire, Sullivan, and Grafton counties. Congratulations to Carol Miller on her retirement, and thank you for staying on as the interim Data Communications Working Group chair. The Mutualink expansions includes all 68 major dispatch centers, and entities such as colleges and universities, hospitals, the NHNG, and Civil Air Patrol. We are conducting training online, to date 116 individuals have signed up for the training. There is policy development occurring through DOS and the Operations Working Group. Mutualink's partnership with New Hampshire is unparalleled.

**IV. Mutualink Update – Mark Hatten, CEO/Chairman**

There are 148 installed endpoints installed throughout the state of New Hampshire. Thanks to John Stevens and Director Mark Doyle training is being conducted by George F. Battle and his

Mutualink team of operational trainers. It's a phased in approach with all involved stakeholders. Topics covered in each weekly round of training sessions include: setting up your device(s), Mutualink Edge IWS/Appliance IWS training, using Mutualink Edge @Teams for iOS and Android, and a functional exercise.

#### **V. SIEC Charter Amendment**

A proposal was made to amend page 11 of the SIEC charter to state, "The Working Groups may be composed of both SIEC and non-SIEC members for the purpose of providing subject matter expertise in a particular area. The Chair of the SIEC shall make appointments to the Working Groups."

The amendment will provide us with the flexibility to get working group members signed on, it will speed up the process. There was a question from Senator Watters asking if the RSA provided the authority to make appointments? Tom Andross answered that the working groups are intended to represent the volunteers who are not on the committee who wish to work to improve statewide interoperability. Senator Watters commented that the committee does have the authority. Chief Sitar added that just because you're a member representing an organization, doesn't mean that you're a SME and this will allow us to bring SMEs into the fold and gain their knowledge on the working groups. Dave Chase asked if the appointments are limited? Tom Andross answered that it would be non-limiting. Carol Miller moves to adopt the charter amendment, seconded by Mark Proulx. A vote will occur concurrently with the acceptance of the working groups updates

#### **VI. Working Groups Status Updates**

##### **○ Radio Frequency Communications WG – Jon Goldman**

- Continuing to monitor the Matrices
  - ◇ Granting and regranting permissions is becoming cumbersome, users are asking for permission when they have had it for over a year.
  - ◇ I do not believe users are frequenting the matrices, and only looking when getting to program their radios
- Multiple changes have been made to the matrices in the past month, it is great to see some activity.
- We have identified some conflicts with VTAC36, which was brought to our attention by DESC, Captain Feole is working on this with the NHTOA and will report back. Doug Aiken is also working on this issue on the backend researching licensing along with Jim Kowalik.
- Console ID's need to be revisited, and reminded to users. A local PD multi-selected NHSP Troop A by accident and was dispatching their fire channels over Troop A during a high risk incident. Due to the console ID not being programmed according to the standard, it took a bit of time for DESC to track the user down and figure out what happened. The SWIC will be drafting a letter to all stakeholders reminding them of this standard, and also use the opportunity to remind them the radio reprogramming grant is still available.
- It was discovered that Somersworth PD may be in the matrix with the wrong NAC. Captain Feole is going to see if he can determine what the right one is and report back.
- Salem Fire is scheduled to go P25 in March, and they state they are still a go for the cutover.

Advises the chairman of new member, Kyle Ball of Nashua Fire. During the last two SIEC meetings the Radio Frequencies Working Group has added members from Nashua.

○ **Operations WG – George Feole**

- **Interoperability Zone Deconfliction** at our last workgroup meeting, Thayer Paronto and Neil Cantin of NH DESC unveiled the WEB EOC Interop channel deconfliction page. The page is simple in design and provides users with the ability to see when other agencies may be using interop channels as well as the ability to quickly update a new record with channel usage for their agency if needed. The page is being fine-tuned based on recommendations of workgroup members. It is anticipated that the page will be widely available to WEB EOC users soon. Thayer extends his thanks Sean Goodwin, Neil Canton, and John Stevens.

- **COMU Subcommittee, Cecily McNair, our COMU Chair, reports;** a review board was held in December. As a result, the following certifications were granted.

- ◇ Keith Gilbert – COML certification
- ◇ John Marcel – COML certification
- ◇ Bobby Erskine – COMT and ITSL certifications

Congratulations to those folks as they progress through the certification process.

Cecily McNair extends her thanks to the Review Board.

- **New subcommittee established for Interop training opportunities;** a new subcommittee is recommended to operate under the Operations & Policy Workgroup. The subcommittee will be responsible for developing training recommendations for communication related matters. The vision is that any training either developed or recommended would be made available to communication practitioners throughout the state. We often talk about policy and practice as a regular course of our activities but seem to be missing the next step once we develop a policy or practice. That is, putting into practice, the new policy/practice. This committee would be responsible for bridging the gap between policy/practice and implementation at the end user level.

A potential funding source has been identified to assist with these training related costs. Each year, training monies are set aside as part of the State Homeland Security grants program. Often, these monies are unspent. It is our hope that this new committee will be able to make recommendations for communications training that will be funded by these grant funds.

We will discuss the idea with hopes of formalizing the committee by action of the Executive Management Group at the next meeting. Volunteers will be needed to staff this subcommittee so if anyone has an interest please let myself or John Stevens know. Fresh ideas are welcome.

- Data Communications WG –Carol Miller
  - Monthly meetings
    - ◇ Nov 12 workshop on years 6 – 12 buildout
    - ◇ Dec 8, 2020
    - ◇ Jan 12, 2021
    - ◇ Feb 3, 2021 AT&T RAN Update
  - Nov 12 workshop discussion
    - ◇ Coverage plan for years 6 –12
    - ◇ Important areas in each county and development of survey tool for county public safety with meetings to be scheduled to further drill down on expansion efforts.
    - ◇ Focus on roadways
    - ◇ Indoor coverage
  - AT&T progress with sites
    - ◇ 2020 14 FN sites and 2 BAU
    - ◇ 2021 5 FN sites and 4 BAU forecasted
    - ◇ Of 34 original sites in the 5 year agreement there are 16 remaining with 11 forecasted this year
    - ◇ Partner sites 16 GNWW and 11 NEWN sites are up and running
    - ◇ A few sites have been moved to accommodate logistics and will remain on the list for years 6-12 build
  - Numbers at a Glance
 

AT&T has experienced tremendous growth due to FirstNet

    - ◇ 3323 subs in NH (mix of credentialed and agency subscribed)
    - ◇ 312 Agency (including 2nd tiered) subscribed
    - ◇ State Police and DOT are currently running pilot projects
  - Geographic Locations
    - ◇ 152 towns with at least 1 site facility with band 14 overlay
    - ◇ At least 46 more towns are forecasted by the end of the 1st quarter of 2023
    - ◇ Resulting in 54 new wireless facilities
  - **Apps Subcommittee – Art Durette**
    - ◇ Mutualink is being deployed statewide
    - ◇ NHDOS Tactical Area Video Network
      - Phase I: Proof of Concept
      - Phase II: Covid Response Grant
      - Phase III: Video Interoperability with Multiple Video Management System (VMS)
    - ◇ Indoor Wireless Communications
 

Working with FirstNet and carriers to deploy existing technology and develop new improved systems to improve communications indoors. Z Axis now available on FirstNet to vertically locate responders.
    - ◇ Push to Talk
 

Several agencies are adopting applications to communicate push to talk on a smartphone with and without radio integration presenting new challenges for interoperability.

- ◇ Testing FirstNet High Power User Equipment (HPUE)
- ◇ Access for Radio Control Sites
- ◇ Open Source Video Conferencing Hardware  
Covid has had a revolutionary impact on the use of video/audio collaboration software and hardware. Some hardware manufacturers remain proprietary. Needs to work with all VTC software.
- ◇ NH SEOC Technology Upgrade  
Collaborating with FEMA and MIT

Dave Chase asked if there is a limitation of hardware for video sharing? Art answered that there are lots of limitations, such as hardware that is provided by one manufacture won't work with another vendor's software.

A motion to approve the working groups reports, and the charter amendment, was made by Mark Proulx and seconded by Chief Sitar.

Roll call vote in favor: Paul Hatch, Doug Hackett, Mike Sitar, David Watters, Mark Proulx, Keith Rodenhiser, Bill Wood, Doug Aiken, Kurt Blomquist, Jon Goldman, Thayer Paronto, Heidi Murphy, David Chase, Carol Miller, Richard Bailey, Joe Sangermano, Deborah Pendergast, Jim Kowalik, Steve Kropper, Art Durette, Cecily McNair, Arlene Crowell, Steve Shea, Rick Todd, George Feole.

The working group updates and charter amendment are approved.

**VII. FirstNet Update – Bruce Fitzgerald, Region I Coordinator**

Thanks to John Stevens and Art Durette for meeting with FirstNet Authority staff for interviews related to apps. John Stevens and Ed Parkinson had a conversation about planning a NH event to occur later this year. The FirstNet Board met Wednesday, the PSAC provided an update on telehealth and ICAM issues. The Advocacy Committee reported out on 20 focus groups, location based services and in building coverage. The Network and Tech Committee spoke about the 1.9M connections subscribed.

**VIII. AT&T Presentation – Lisa Benincasa, FirstNet Principal Consultant**

Continuing to conduct meetings adhering to COVID precautions. Available to do WebEx meetings as well, with Bruce Fitzgerald. Looking forward to doing events during this summer.

**IX. New Business**

- TERT Rally tentatively scheduled for May 21 in Concord
- Very tentative FALLCOMM scheduled for October 1.

**X. Next Meeting**

- May 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM

**XI. Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn by Doug Hackett and seconded by Thayer Paronto. The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.