

**New Hampshire
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
Meeting**

**New Hampshire Fire Academy
Classroom 5 & 6
May 6, 2016
9:00 AM**

- I. Welcome and Introduction**
- II. Meeting called to order @ 9:11 AM - Chairperson Ernie Petrin**
- III. Accepting Minutes from February 5, 2016 Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Dan Eaton and Carol Miller seconded. The minutes were approved.

- IV. SIEC Membership Discussion – Chairperson Ernie Petrin**

Commissioner appointed letters were handed out, and members have now been officially appointed to the committee.

- V. FirstNet Update – Mike Varney, Region I FirstNet Coordinator
Kyle Green, Contract Support**

Consultation and State Data

Public safety remains FirstNet's primary purpose. The RFP was not detail oriented but rather it was oriented as a statement of objectives. The RFP generated 400 questions in January; those questions were answered on the website. Based on vendor feedback, the deadline was extended to May 31 to submit a contract proposal. The timeline for an award to be made in November is still on track. The initial consultation meeting took place one year ago. State data was used in the RFP, however they will need additional information, and they anticipate updated data will be provided by the due date of September 30.

John Stevens explained that since our on-site consultation on June 9th, 2015, we have moved into phase II of the NTIA grant to generate an opportunity to work with an engineering consultant. Pete DeNutte and Sean Goodwin were have provided GIS information for a statewide approach to the FirstNet application. Scott Neil from Mission Critical Partners, MCP, has been impressed with the response from first responders to date. In comparison, contributions from NH have equated to twice the amount of data submitted as compared to the State of Michigan where MCP has conducted the same program. Over 200 responses were received from first responders all over the state. On May 13th, 2016 MCP will provide a draft white paper that will begin to showcase the NH story. By the end of June a finalized version will be ready, which will provide the footprint for a statewide buildout, and will be presented at the next SIEC meeting.

FirstNet/State Plans

The Middle Class Tax Relief requirements include a completed FirstNet RFP, as well as details of a buildout and funding level. Legislation will affect the plan and certainly the needs of the FCC and NTIA will play a role. FirstNet wants to ensure they're providing enough details for the state to consider. Information from the RFP will be critical for the state plan. The state plan will use an online portal. Two components will be featured. Public safety entities and agencies will be making a determination as whether or not to adopt. The second aspect will be the consideration of the governor in terms of whether to opt-in or opt-out. The type of content in consideration for the public safety entities will showcase details on how FirstNet will be built out here in New Hampshire, based on the input provided. The content regarding the Governor's decision will feature all tech specs and operational systems information as well as cost. Essentially introducing the services FirstNet will provide and individual agency decisions as to whether or not to purchase. The Governor will then have 90 days to make a decision as to whether to opt-in, opt-out, or choose to make no decision at all. A No-Decision essentially means that FirstNet will in fact be build-out in New Hampshire.

John Stevens asked whether all states will need to make a decision at the same time in regard to the individual state plans? The answer was that the final state plans will go out to all of the Governors at the same time, it is at that point that the 90 day decision clock begins. States will however, reserve the option to opt-out and build the RAN on their own and possibly receive some grant monies from NTIA to do so.

Once FirstNet awards the RFP this fall, they will return to provide additional information and gather information on priorities. The state will need to continue to collect data. After November, when an award has been made, task orders will be issued to start building a core network. The timeline will be set, and feedback will be necessary.

John Stevens asked about the economics, will there be a ballpark figure provided? Kyle Green answered that the cost and service plans should include a monthly cost. Costs could change over time. Will NH be charged differently, will there be individual state rates? Mike Varney answered that they're hoping they will all be the same, perhaps with minor deviations. The fact is that we won't know the official answer until they have a partner on board. Another question was asked; if there is a lesser number of agencies participating will that raise the cost structure? Mike Varney answered, that it could. Kyle Green added that it's a nationwide system and they're hoping costs will be shared. There will be a five year commitment that will involve milestones, and there will be penalties if they are not met. By 2017 the buildout must be started, and by 2022 it should be substantially built out.

Governor's Decision

Governor's decision will take the following into consideration:

Core Network: provided by First-Net

RAN: Tower Construction provided by FirstNet however, if the state opts-out, the State will be responsible to build the towers

Products/services: Individual Agencies will be billed monthly

If the State chooses to opt-out, there are certain requirements that have defined timelines. There is a 180 day clock for the State to put out their RFP, and award their own alternative plan.

The FCC needs to do a tech review. If the FCC approves, the plan moves on to the NTIA and if they disapprove you opt-back in, if you pass then the State may apply to NTIA for partial grant funding to build out the State RAN. The law states it has to meet security requirements and be cooperative with the FirstNet Network, meaning it has to ensure that it works with the nationwide system. There are undefined timelines in terms of the response to the NTIA grant timeline. With funding from the NTIA, a spectrum lease agreement is needed amongst NTIA and FirstNet. FirstNet is concerned about how to get things through quickly and the possibility that there will be a gap in the network which could cause a potential problem. Environmental compliance becomes the next step. If a state decided to declare they opt-out on day 1, FirstNet interprets that the 180 day timeline begins at that point. John Stevens explained why we put out an RFP early, because we felt 180 days was not enough time to successfully put out an RFP and we wanted to provide at least an alternative for the Governor to make an impactful and educated decision. Jim Kowalik asked what are the implications to the state and the nationwide network if New Hampshire opts-out? Kyle Green said it affects the spectrum and has ramifications for the system as whole. Mike Varney added that it delays the deployment time because a counter proposal is needed. A question was asked regarding the details of the NTIA spectrum lease draft, and if it has not been finalized because they don't know the solutions. It was also stated that if a state opts-out, the state will incur the costs associated with maintenance however, if you opt-in, FirstNet will incur those costs.

Planning for Adoption/Consultation Task Teams (CTT)

Direct feedback from the states has been provided. Quality of service and preemption will define network policies. A full packet will be provided with the white paper, and videos, etc., to ensure a level of understanding of LTE and LMR. A regional facilitated session will occur in mid-June amongst the New England states. John Stevens asked if personnel assigned need to be limited to 5 people per state? Mike Varney answered that it was limited to 5 because they didn't want to put another burden on the state, but if additional people are requested by a state than certainly. By the end of September they will gather the information to talk about at the next SPOC conference.

Chairperson Ernie Petron called for a break at 10:14 AM, the meeting re-convened at 10:26 AM.

Training needs will be considered with local user input. Training preferences will be considered in terms of online versus in-person, or a combination of both. Feedback is welcomed. Next steps, if there is a topic that you think needs to be addressed by a task team please let them know.

Rural areas are a challenge. The definition of rural, for FirstNet's purposes, is any municipality that has a population of less than 20,000. A question was asked regarding whether the 20,000 figure is applied across the country? The answer was yes. FirstNet will set milestones for their partner to meet. Penalties can incur if the milestones are not met. Task orders will be issued for states, once the vendor accepts then the clock starts. Year one must include the ability to offer some services. By the end of year two, 60% coverage must be provided in rural and urban areas. By year five, coverage needs to be at 100%. John Stevens asked if 100% coverage means the use of deployables. Mike Varney answered that towers will provide coverage in terms of fixed facilities. An explanation was requested regarding the timeline for the build-out and the

coverage for the minimal level of service. If the timelines are not met the penalties will be cash due, which will go into FirstNet's budget to be used for the network. Ernie Petrin asked who determined the sections of coverage, FirstNet or the state? Mike Varney answered that it was based on state feedback. Will it cover wilderness areas? Changes can be made for coverage. Dan Eaton asked what the plan was to discuss device use since devices will be dependent on coverage. The answer was that they need additional research to be conducted in order to determine what the devices will be. That conversation can be had in approximately one year. Once an awardee has been established it becomes a critical part of the state plan. Another question was asked as to whether or not the devices will be backwards compatible? Mike Varney answered that FirstNet asked the vendors to provide that ability as part of their solution and allowing for the use of personal devices, along with specific network devices. They anticipate a full suite of devices to include large rugged devices, etc. A question was asked in regard to slide 15, and the language about the possibility of non-band 14 coverage. The answer was there will be a backwards compatible component to operate in non-band 14 areas. This will be all LTE coverage with the ability to roam on to other networks.

Open Discussion – FirstNet

John Stevens asked for an explanation regarding the June 1 meeting at the Manchester Historical Association in Manchester from 4:00-8:00 PM, regarding the environment concerns. Mike Varney answered, that each state is hosting an open meeting to discuss both environmental and historical impact. The group works with NTIA.

VI. Working Groups Status Updates

Operations WG – Chief Mark Doyle

MCP crafted wording on a survey that got pushed out to various stakeholders which was fruitful in terms of data. At the Chief's Meeting Forum there was an update provided regarding the RFP, and they eager to learn more information. They are working to develop committee membership.

They have three goals:

- Work together on consistent messaging for the non-tech audience
- Work together to create a statewide channel radio
- Work together to identify statewide funding

John Stevens and Mike Varney will attend the New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management Conference on June 9th, 2016. They will maintain a FirstNet Booth and will present at a breakout work session

CommL Sub-Committee – Cecily McNair

On March 22-24, 27 candidates attended an intense 3 day Communications Leader course at the NH Fire Standards and Training Academy. The class was taught by John Johnson, and Chris Suter of Lafayette Group, a contractors for US Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications. During breaks students toured Mobile Command Posts that were brought in for the occasion. The course was filled with scenario based exercises that tested the student's skills. There are now 27 CommL trainees in NH, they will spend the next few months attending exercises and live events in order to complete all of the requirements listed in their task books. The next scheduled event is the NH Emergency Dispatcher Mobile Communications Rally to be held at the Burton Public Safety Training Academy, in Bethlehem, NH on May 18th, 2016. When

students have completed all of the requirements in their task books they may apply to the committee for a review. The committee will submit their names to the SWIC to be signed off as a Certified CommL.

Tom Andross had a question regarding clarification on the CommL task book sign offs. John Stevens added that the CommL Committee will sign off on task books prerequisites and requisites when they are met, it is only at that time that John will sign the Task Books as complete. Ernie Petron added that during an event, the supervisor or chief of the event will sign off on that individual task event. Bill asked about the brush fires event, can a supervisor sign off on the CommL task books? Ernie Petron answered, yes.

##Frequency Interoperability WG – Tom Andross

The work group meets regularly. On May 18th, 2016 the FIWG met in Bethlehem, NH and hosted the TERT Display at the Councilor Ray Burton Fire Training Facility. The FIWG continually updates the frequency matrix and makes adjustments as needed. The MOU was rewritten for distribution to frequency license holder agencies. A review of the frequency and licensing request for the SWIC regarding 700MHZ interoperability included submission to Region 19 RCC. A request was also made for the assignment of an ID for the Pease Air Guard digital radios. Work group members also attended the NHSP Consultations with the onboard Engineering Consultants from Mission Critical Partners (MCP).

The WG has been tasked from the SCIP workshop to develop the TICP, Tactical Interoperable C-Plan. A desired goal from the SCIP workshop, pertinent to the FIWG is to maintain and develop recommendations for equipment standards. Additionally, regarding statewide hailing, is to designate a statewide channel. We are working on determining the need.

During the March 16th meeting, we identified the need to pursue grant funding to be made available for the reprogramming of all VHF P25 capable radios. This will continue to be an issue as long as we're using LMR. The last time programming occurred was in 2010. An official letter drafted by Tom Andross was presented to the SIEC as a request for action. Carol Miller made the motion, and it was seconded. Ernie Petrin stated that priorities will need to be determined by the Grants Committee. A vote was called and it was unanimously approved.

VII. New Hampshire RFP Updates – John Stevens, SWIC/SPOC

FirstNet/Broadband WG – Carol Miller

There was an introduction of working group members. Committee objectives were explained regarding RFP 1 and RFP 2. We wanted to analyze the best options for statewide coverage, provide a proof of concept for 700MHZ, and pursue a public/private partnership. Why is NH proceeding with RFPs? The timeline was too short to make an educated decision and comprise a plan.

Commercial Vendor = RFP 2

81 questions were received from prospective vendors. All answers were posted to the website. 6 vendors submitted the 81 questions, with proposals due on February 19th, 2016. In the end, 5 vendors submitted proposals and 2 were asked to make an oral presentation before the WG. Three interview questions were given to guide the presentations.

- How to deploy proof of concept LMR, implantation schedule

- Design of deployment
- Amount of funding, business/financial model

Ernie Petron explained the need to enter into executive session because confidential information would be discussed, and the implications of 91-A. The FirstNet/Broadband WG was permitted to stay because they evaluated the proposals. Asst. AG Dianne Martin explained that the information provided in the proposals needs to remain private, thus the need for a private session.

Representative Dan Eaton made a motion for executive session at 11:16 AM, which was seconded by Chief Mark Doyle. A vote was called and it was unanimously approved.

VIII. Executive Session

Non-public session commenced @ 11:19 AM

IX. Public Session

Public session re-commenced @ 11:46 AM

X. Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Charter

John Stevens addressed the SIEC stating that the “Charter” needs to be reflective of the current committee. He acknowledged that the legislation which passed in June 2015 illustrated a change in the physical make-up of the Committee. Carol Miller asked if the change in the Charter required going back to the Legislature. John Stevens answered, no; the charter only needs to be amended to accurately show the current membership as designated by the Senate and the Commissioner of Safety..

Public comments

A question was asked regarding when a central informational source will be developed to post sub-committee meetings? Answer: The NH FirstNet webpage (nearing completed development) will post all the meetings, and events, and will also include social media.

Ernie Petrin requested that an updated list of who is on the committee be sent out to everyone.

XI. Next Meeting Date

July 29 @ 9:00 AM
 NH Fire Academy
 Classrooms 5 & 6

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Carol Miller and seconded by Rep. Dan Eaton @ 11:55 AM.