

Meeting Minutes
New England Region 19 700 MHz
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Kennebunkport Fire Department
32 North Street
Kennebunkport, ME 04046

Mr. Jerry Zarwanski of CT chaired the meeting. The meeting was opened at 10:10 AM. An agenda and minutes to the previous meeting were emailed to all committee members prior to the meeting and copies were also available for those attending the meeting.

Chairman Zarwanski noted that this meeting was originally scheduled for March 13th, but inclement weather forced a postponement to today's date. After a quick attendance check, Chairman Zarwanski advised attendees that a proper number of members and states were in attendance to create a quorum of committee members.

Members are allowed to call in to the meeting via a telephone conference bridge. Attendees participating by Conference Bridge:

Steve Mallory – ME
Steve Brown - CT
George Carbonell - CT
Lee Savary – NH

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the December 12, 2017 quarterly meeting in Putney, VT was available to attendees. Motion was raised to approve the minutes by Steve Brown, seconded by George Carbonell. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item 2: State Updates

Connecticut: DESPP Public Safety Data Network (PSDN) by Vice Chairman Steve Verbil.

- NextGen 911 system is fully operational and working well on the PSDN Network.
- Approximately 50 CT towns and municipalities are utilizing portions of the PSDN through a state governance approval process.

CT Statewide Next Gen 911:

- Next Gen 911 equipment installation and testing for the Text-to-911 feature is ongoing.

- It was noted that implementing Text-to-911 is much more difficult and time consuming than anticipated.
- Texting capability is now expected to be implemented sometime during 2018.

CT State Police P25 700/800 Radio System: (Mark Matson)

- CT P25 System expansion proceeding and more site installs are in process with full core implementation still planned for 2019.
- Coverage reliability tile testing complete for first half of state completed, full statewide testing expected by Summer 2018.
- Town of Stonington added to CSP Radio System, in depth tile coverage testing is in progress.

Massachusetts: MA State Police Statewide Radio System

- No Report presented at this time.

New Hampshire: Statewide P25 VHF system.

- Mr. John Stevens, NH SPOC and SWIC, was present to give a brief update.
- RFP to upgrade the legacy State Police P25 LMR radio and dispatch console infrastructure has been completed and further progress is expected soon.

Rhode Island: Statewide Radio System.

- Comments by Mr. Gil Woodside from RIEMA public office
- The Rhode Island HP Data system project is on-going.
- No upgrades to 700 MHz systems, a report on 800 MHz system to follow during 2nd half of this meeting.

Maine: Steve Mallory reported no significant changes to comment on at this time.

Vermont: No Report provided at this time.

Agenda Item 3: FCC Update

A. FCC 14-172 Regional Planning for 700 MHz and T-Band Replacement Channel Allocations:

- Region 8 Chairman waiting for FCC/Congress to decide what actions they may take related to T-Band frequencies in use or in place in the large cities.
- Region 8 does not plan to open a 700 MHz Reserve Channel Window or consider providing concurrence to adj state who allocated 700 MHz Reserve frequencies to applicants moving away from T-Band frequencies prior to the FCC/Congress decision.
- Chairman Zarwanski asked attendees for comments regarding opening a Region 19 700 MHz Window, knowing that Region 8 will not provide concurrences.
- Steve Verbil made a motion to not open a 700 MHz Reserve Channel window at this time. Seconded by George Carbonell.

- Mr. Verbil provided comments on the T-Band situation. He recommends not wasting applicant's time and engineering funds to request replacement frequencies as long as adj state concurrence was apparently not available.
- Chairman Zarwanski provided additional discussion of an alternative means of providing out-of-pool general use frequencies in the meantime.
- Discussion centered on the rules for allocation of frequencies contained in the Region 19 700 and 800 MHz frequency plans, especially if frequencies are allocated without regard to the county allocations originally decided.
- A vote on the motion to not open a window was taken and the motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of attendees.
- Additional discussion was held related to modifying the current plan to allow single entities to receive 700 MHz frequencies which are allocated by rule for countywide systems, including "Orphaned Channels".
- It was noted that that this proposed use would most likely cause the region to file a plan modification and a suggestion was made to wait for the FCC decision to take place.
- Region 19 discussion on these issues to be held at future meetings.

B. FIRSTNET. Region 1 FIRSTNET coordinator Mike Varney provided an update to attendees.

- An in-depth discussion on FIRSTNET (Band 14) LTE network build out by AT&T was held.
- Mr. Varney described AT&T's progress with testing devices, core development, RAN development, and user applications.
- It was noted that most AT&T milestones are ahead of schedule.
- AT&T is holding nationwide outreach meetings to present their plan offerings and their commitment to build out the FIRSTNET public safety LTE Band 14 nationwide system.
- Discussion among attendees centered on non-AT&T customer access to the Band 14 LTE FIRSTNET System. Access will be through AT&T Ran network for authorized users either via the Public Safety Core or the AT&T Customer Core.

Agenda Item 5: Applications and Engineering

A. Common Engineering Spreadsheet Format: (Recap by Chairman Zarwanski)

1. Regions 19, 8, and 30 continue to discuss and evaluate common engineering parameters for 700 and 800 MHz frequency use.
2. Applicants are now required to use the new CAPRADAP program and provide proper CSV format for application to be considered.
3. Programs accepted are: ATDI, Comstudy, and FreqEasy and certain color formats are used for each parameter.
4. An engineering guideline document will be forthcoming and distributed to NE and Eastern District members for comment and suggestions.

5. Once a consensus is achieved, the common engineering parameters and color parameters will be placed on the RPC19 web site.
- B. Technical Subcommittee.
1. The technical subcommittee continues to hold monthly conference calls on the first Thursday of each month at 8 AM.
 2. New and pending applications are reviewed and voted for acceptance by members, most reviews completed within 30 days.
 3. Since the monthly meeting date and time may be fluid, Chairman Zarwanski once again invited potential attendees to sign on as a member of the technical subcommittee in order to receive the proper meeting notifications.

Agenda Item 6: Region 19 Applications

- A. MASS State Police: John Ruggiero – MASP
- a. MSP application for 700 MHz frequencies still awaiting LOC from Suffolk County, NY.
 - b. MSP application must be filed on the CAPRADAP program to continue to be processed for adjacent region concurrence, etc

Agenda Item 7: Region 8 and 30 700 MHz Concurrence Applications

Chairman Zarwanski advised all adjacent region concurrences have been completed at this time.

Agenda Item 8: National Regional Planning Committee (NRPC)

- A. CAPRAD and CAPRADAP Program Use (Chairman Zarwanski)
- a. Both programs are now fully operational, but not all regions are utilizing them.
 - b. Goal is for all regions to make full use of the applications by implementing additional features CAPRAD and CAPRADAP.
 - c. New Features: CAPRAD. A calendar section and a document archive section for frequency allocations, application procedures, and plan documents have been added and are now functional.
 - d. New Features: CAPRADAP; New application review clock tool (30 days) has been added to help move applications through the system faster.
 - e. CAPRADAP webinars have been held with additional webinars to be announced by NRPC or APCO HQ.
- B. NRPC Eastern District Initiative.
- a. Chairman Zarwanski is NRPC Eastern Region Director.
 - b. NRPC is requesting all regions to create a best practices guide for 700/800 MHz application submittals and engineering procedures.
 - c. Goal is to speed up the approval process.

- d. An in-depth technical PowerPoint, approved by the NRPC committee, was provided.
- e. Applicants must pay particular attention to application accuracy and loading for large system (5 channel or more) applications.
- f. Paper/electronic copies of the ppt presentation will be available from Eastern District Director Zarwanski's office by request.
- g. The NRPC is providing additional CAPRAD and Engineering training webinars to members as funding permits. Some training will be available to attendees of the APCO Annual Conference in August 2018.

Agenda Item 9: 4.9 GHz

- a. Chairman Zarwanski noted latest FCC update regarding use of 4.9 GHz frequencies.
- b. Proposal to change bandwidth allocations to support new initiatives in the areas of drone and other airborne devices.
- c. Reminder regarding the potential for interference if users do not properly file the fixed use license applications.
- d. Entities wanting to install fixed transmitter 4.9 GHz point to point systems should review existing path licenses before deploying to prevent interference.
- e. Users should document all use of 4.9 GHz to protect their spectrum from future FCC proposals for use of the 4.9 GHz band frequencies.
- f. See FCC 6th report and order or most recent information data sheet (handout) for latest information.

Agenda Item 9: New Business

A. Next Meeting date and Location:

- a. The next meeting will be held June 12, 2018 in Cranston RI at the Rhode Island Emergency Operations Center.
- b. Directions will be found on the Region 19 web site. (www.ner700Mhz.org)
- c. Meeting dates and times for 2018 have been submitted to FCC for Rhode Island (June), Connecticut (September), and New Hampshire (December).

B. New Business – Announcements:

- a. No further comments or new business items were presented.

Old Business

Seeing no further comments or new business, Chairman Zarwanski asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Steve Verbil and seconded by Steve Brown. All members voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:50 AM.

Submitted - Jim Kowalik – Secretary