



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

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**National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Meeting  
by Teleconference  
August 7, 2013**

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) held a meeting by teleconference on August 7, 2013.

**Call to Order and Roll Call, Ralph Haller, Chair**

Ralph Haller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm EST on August 7, 2013. Following the roll call which established a quorum was present, he yielded the floor to Marilyn Ward, Executive Director.

**Follow-Up Topics from May Governing Board Meeting, Marilyn Ward, Executive Director  
Enhancing Coordination Role of Federal Liaison Members, Marilyn Ward**

Ms. Ward said NPSTC has been in discussions with federal groups including the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) on the topic of harmonizing the federal Broadband Statement of Requirements (SoR) with the existing 700 MHz Broadband SoR.

In the course of these discussions, the issue of formally adding a federal presence to NPSTC's public safety communications discussions has arisen. In the past, federal entities collaborated with state and local entities; for example, in the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) process. When NPSTC was formed, legal counsel said because NPSTC files Comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) federal entities could not be members of the organization.

Ms. Ward raised the question of whether or not NPSTC should create a more formal role between ECPC and NPSTC to encourage more engagement and exchange of information. The impetus for this proposed change is to establish a more formal line of communications between federal agencies and NPSTC. Bill Brownlow, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), said AASHTO has federal members appointed by their agencies as liaisons. Gregg Riddle, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), said he was concerned with what level of membership federal agencies would have. Their input is very valuable, but he would not be comfortable letting them vote on issues from a state and local public safety perspective.

Ms. Ward suggested inviting ECPC to become a liaison member of NPSTC with no voting authority but with a more formal relationship including a person appointed by ECPC to attend meetings. Jim Goldstein, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), agreed saying the formal involvement without the ability to vote would be a good thing. Mr. Riddle asked whether liaison members would be allowed to stay in Executive Session. Ms. Ward said under current rules they are, suggesting that the policy may need to be re-examined.

**Action:** Mr. Haller agreed this was the approach to take. Governing Board members agreed. The Support Office will move forward on this issue.

**Project 25 (P25) Membership Request, Marilyn Ward**

At NPSTC's May meeting, Jim Downes, Project 25 Steering Committee Chair, presented an invitation to NPSTC's Governing Board to become a member of the P25 Steering Committee. The Steering Committee had decided to expand the user membership in the group and invited a number of associations to become members. NPSTC was invited on May 10 to become a full voting member and to identify representatives to serve. The intention was to include member organizations of NPSTC who might not be able to participate due to travel restrictions imposed by their organizations. Additionally NPSTC would represent a much broader group of public safety constituents. Because the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the May meeting, the invitation was tabled until a quorum was present.

Paul Leary, National Association of State Foresters (NASF), said that individual groups should be approached rather than NPSTC and that some NPSTC organizations are already members. Doug Aiken, Vice Chair, NPSTC, said, as an umbrella organization, he did not see how NPSTC could speak for the individual voices of its organizations. Bob Speidel, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), said Chief Aiken and Chief Leary have raised valid points, agreeing that NPSTC's unusual structure may preclude membership.

John Powell, Chair, Interoperability Committee, said the invitation was to include NPSTC members which are not members of P25, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and IAFC, which are not currently members due to travel funding issues. The P25 Steering Committee wants to provide a broader platform of organizations. Mr. Riddle said NPSTC represents each of its member organizations and he does not see how NPSTC can narrowly focus its recommendations to the P25 Steering Committee.

**Motion and Vote:** Mr. Riddle moved to accept membership in the P25 Steering Committee; Aaron Kennard, National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), seconded the motion. The motion was defeated. The Governing Board will not accept the invitation.

**Emergency Alerting Requirements, Tom Sorley, Chair, Technology Committee**

At the May NPSTC meeting, Mr. Sorley reported the Technology Committee had received a request to initiate a Working Group to define emergency alerting requirements at the local level. There does not seem to be a collective set of requirements for public safety to alert the public. There is a lack of integration of systems like Code Red or Reverse 911. The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) and Commercial Mobile Alerts (CMAS), which are set to replace the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), don't completely meet local needs. The Working Group would develop a gap analysis between what systems are available and what needs are unmet.

Brian Daly, Alliance for Telecommunication Industry Solutions (ATIS), said the FCC is initiating a Working Group within the Communications Security, Reliability & Interoperability Council (CSRIC) to work on this issue. Chief Aiken said he is not opposed to adding the Working Group, but questioned if NPSTC can support this with its current limited resources. If other organizations are working on the issue, perhaps

NPSTC could monitor these other efforts. Mr. Sorley agreed the Technology Committee does not have enough resources currently because of the competing priorities of broadband. Ms. Ward said the issue would need to be monitored until the fall.

**Action:** Mr. Haller said NPSTC will table the effort currently and consider it at the next meeting.

### **Chapter 9 Task Group, Doug Aiken, Vice Chair, NPSTC**

Chief Aiken reported the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) seeks NPSTC participant involvement with Chapter 9 of the NFPA 1221, "Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems." There are eight current task group members. They are working on the 2015 revision, to be published in 2016. They are forming task groups tackling areas that need improvement. The Chapter 9 Task Group is responsible for the following topics concerning radio communications:

- The adoption of P25 Phase II requirements
- The adoption of TIA-603-D analog receiver performance requirements
- Feedback on Intrinsically Safe standards: TIA-3640 for hazardous atmospheres versus FM Global 3610:2010
- "Fixing" in-building amplification requirements: including but not limited to harmonizing 1221 requirements vs. anywhere else they appear, which codes are referenced; should signal levels, DAQ or BER be used; whose testing requirements apply 1221 definitions for "special structures" and "microwave."

The next meeting will be held at the Hilton Los Angeles on October 28-30. Steve Verbil is the Chair of the Committee. Volunteers do not need to be members of the task group to participate or offer feedback. Dave Buchanan, Chair, Spectrum Management Committee, said the BBWG is working to define public safety grade and could provide that information to the NFPA committee.

### **Social Media Policy, Barry Luke, Support Office**

Mr. Luke reported on NPSTC's revised social media policy to the Governing Board. The policy has been revised to strengthen the request that the Executive Director provide feedback on questionable content. The policy requires the staff to discuss postings with the Executive Director. The staff will also be sure to provide context on any posting to minimize material being misunderstood. The Executive Director will present social media updates at Governing Board meetings for review. The staff will compile a monthly report on use and outreach.

In July, 128,633 persons visited NPSTC's website. There are 2,106 members on NPSTC listservs. Twitter has 189 followers and Linked In has grown from 700 in February to 1,077 members.

**Motion and Vote:** Chief Leary moved to approve NPSTC's social media policy as revised. Mr. Brownlow seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

### **Interoperability Committee, John Powell, Chair**

### **Railroad White Paper, John Powell**

Mr. Powell reported the Committee has been coordinating with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Railroad Police Section on an Amtrak petition to the FCC, *Proposed Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC To Recognize Certain Railroad Police Agencies as Eligible to Operate on FCC Part 90 Public Safety Radio Interoperability Channels*. Copies have been provided to the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) and to the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC). The petition is being reviewed by the various required channels at IACP.

The Committee has completed a draft white paper on these issues. At IWCE, the Governing Board approved moving forward with the development of this position paper supporting railroad police access to public safety interoperability channels. Mr. Powell and Chief Harlin McEwen have been working with the railroad police section of the IACP on this paper.

One of the issues that has arisen in discussion is which railroads should be eligible. There are two Canadian railroads that operate in the U.S. that will be affected. The Committee is awaiting guidance from the IACP Railroad Section. Mr. Powell noted some of the railroads also have fire departments at their railroad yards. Mr. Powell forwarded the draft white paper to the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) and the IAFC for review. Mr. Riddle asked how Part 90 frequency coordination might be handled by the railroads. Mr. Powell said the footnotes reference the change affecting the interoperability channels eligibility. The Committee expects to report on the development of the petition following IACP's October annual conference

### **Border Issues Working Group, Chris Lombard, Vice Chair**

Lt. Lombard has joined the Border Issues Working Group, representing the western section of the country. Mr. Lombard attended a cross border meeting in June in Washington, D.C., and provided a highlight of that meeting. Representatives on both sides are working to streamline the process of working on the border. The last treaty between the nations was signed in 1952. There has been an effort on both sides to address interoperability issues as much possible via modifications, addendums, and letters. Agencies now can use portable and mobile radios on both sides of the border. Many jurisdictions on both sides of the border are finding that the best positions for repeaters may be on the other side of the border. They are trying to formalize partnerships and determine points of contact for information on either side of the border. Industry Canada (IC) has published a paper on the licensing process available on their website to learn about available spectrum and technical issues.

There has been discussion about the need to scan the border for available VHF/UHF frequencies. The FCC and IC are working with NPSTC and Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) on best practices and how to accomplish legally what has been previously done through informal work-arounds.

In Montana, a DHS grant funded Blue Freq/VLAW31 base stations at border crossings for Customs/Border Patrol access. Montana has received an FCC License to operate on BLUE with a waiver to allow all public safety access (currently restricted to law enforcement). Montana has updated their online mutual aid permit process to allow Canadian provinces to apply. In Canada, the Alberta and Saskatchewan provinces are working with Industry Canada to obtain licenses for BLUE. Canadian law

will not allow BLUE to be programmed into the radio without a license. Provinces bordering Montana are being encouraged to apply for a mutual aid permit.

There have also been discussions on data and cross border sharing as the FirstNet is built. Mr. Luke added that NPSTC had a follow-up call with the FCC's Brian Marengo who was very positive about the cross border conversations occurring over the last few years. Mr. Marengo feels confident that the issues that have been raised can be solved. Stu Overby, Vice Chair, Spectrum Management Committee, asked if the conversations were focused only on the northern border. Mr. Luke said primarily but that some of the solutions have applicability on the southern border.

#### **FCC Southern Border Issues Request, Marilyn Ward**

Ms. Ward reported the FCC has asked NPSTC's Spectrum Management Committee Chair Dave Buchanan to assume a more formal advisory role on the southern border.

Mr. Buchanan said Mexico had expressed the desire to adopt the Asian Pacific Plan for cellular operations in the 700 MHz band. Mexico would like to split the band into three different sections to enhance competition in a proposed auction. The U.S. has tried to dissuade them but Mexico is moving forward. This band plan will cause interference to Verizon and AT&T, and will impact FirstNet and the U.S. use of the narrowband 700 MHz segment. The FCC wants to form an advisory committee to assist the FCC in formulating what will be needed in treaty agreements with Mexico to protect the U.S. from interference. Mr. Buchanan will contact the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) to acquire their support as well.

**Motion and Vote:** Ms. Ward moved to appoint Mr. Buchanan as the FCC representative on their Southern Border Working Group, with a focus on interference issues in the 700 MHz band. Chief Leary seconded. Approved unanimously.

#### **Technology Committee, Tom Sorley, Chair**

Mr. Sorley said the Radio Programming Compatibility Requirements (PCR) Working Group will meet at APCO and will use the spreadsheet they have developed to program the various radios from different manufacturers. If successful, this can move the effort to the next step.

#### **Broadband Working Group (BBWG), Tom Sorley**

Mr. Sorley reported Pam Montanari will be the lead on the LTE Console Task Group, which has 40 members, and which will have their first call tomorrow. The BBWG has also kicked off the Public Safety Grade Task Group and is working in coordination with the APCO BBWG. Follow-on work for qualitative and quantitative requirements for the SoR is also planned for the BBWG.

In other business, Mr. Sorley said he was contacted by the FCC, which is standing up an advisory working group, seeking technical expertise about how Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) technologies might be used and how public safety currently uses COTS equipment. He asked about the process for accepting this role as a NPSTC representative and whether he or others asked to comment on similar topics need Governing Board approval to accept.

Mr. Haller suggested participating, but making it clear his views are private and that in order for NPSTC to state a position, it has to be voted on by the Governing Board. Ms. Ward said members have been asked to comment previously on issues of a similar nature. Several members were interviewed by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) for their input. Ms. Ward said in the past NPSTC representatives who participate in these types of efforts report back to NPSTC on the issues with updates. Mr. Buchanan said his work with the FCC on the border has not involved any positions particularly, but rather technical expertise.

**Action:** Ms. Ward said this discussion raises the larger issue of how to handle individual comment on behalf of NPSTC. Recently NPSTC received a request for a TV interview on the FirstNet. Mr. Haller agreed, suggesting a draft policy be developed for the next meeting.

### **Spectrum Management Committee, David Buchanan, Chair**

Mr. Buchanan said the Committee has completed FCC Comments and Reply Comments on the 700 MHz rulemaking, Comments and Reply Comments, and also Comments on 5.9 GHz. The FCC issued a Public Notice on receiver standards with Comments due in 2 days. NPSTC will file an ex parte on the issue because the Committee feels more discussions on the issue are needed.

### **4.9 GHz National Plan, David Buchanan**

The 4.9 GHz National Plan is progressing well. They are assembling comments and agreement on the issues prior to writing the report. Mr. Buchanan will meet at APCO with the 4.9 GHz Working Group with the intention to complete the report for Governing Board approval and submission to the FCC in September. Mr. Powell said he has talked with Steve Devine, Chair, Mission Critical Voice Task Group, and suggested that he, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Devine meet with 4.9 GHz manufacturers at APCO on equipment issues.

### **APCO-NPSTC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Marilyn Ward**

Ms. Ward said the Executive Committee has reviewed the final iteration of the draft MoU between NPSTC and APCO. Earlier Mr. Brownlow had suggested an edit to the MoU calling for a joint copyright of standards between APCO and NPSTC as opposed to original language that gave copyright to APCO. Mr. Powell said he did not think NPSTC as a federation of volunteer organizations can apply for a copyright. Mr. Sorley said when NPSTC provided the Common Channel Naming Standard, NPSTC provided its consensus input to the standards process. APCO should have the right as a Standards Development Organization (SDO) to claim a copyright. They are copyrighting the actual consensus standard. Mr. Riddle said this has become a big issue at APCO, which did not copyright standards in the past, but is now moving to copyright past, current, and future standards to protect them from misuse. In light of the discussion, Mr. Brownlow withdrew his suggestion.

**Motion and Vote:** Mr. Riddle moved to approve the APCO-NPSTC MoU; Chief Leary seconded. Approved with one opposition.

### **Future Meetings, Marilyn Ward**

Ms. Ward said the Governing Board originally had penciled in a meeting for September 10, but suggested that since much had been accomplished at this meeting, the meeting should be cancelled.

Mr. Haller agreed.

Mr. Brownlow moved to elevate the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) to a full voting member from its associate membership. Because this was not an agenda item with time for discussion, Mr. Haller suggested NPSTC table the discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Haller said this would be an important step that would require all or most of the Governing Board members to be present.

Mr. Riddle announced that this would be his last NPSTC meeting as the APCO representative, thanking the Governing Board for their friendship, camaraderie, and efforts on behalf of public safety.

**3:00 pm Adjourn**

Chief Leary moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.