

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)
Meeting by Teleconference
February 19, 2020 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Welcome and Opening, Doug Aiken, NPSTC Vice Chair. Mr. Aiken called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. ET. He thanked the attendees for taking the time to join the call. He expressed his appreciation to Highlands Consulting, NPSTC Support Staff, John Logan, Craig Allen, Harlin McEwen, Terry Hall, Dan Henderson, ARRL, and Charlie Sasser, NASTD for their continued support of NPSTC. Mr. Aiken announced that the NPSTC Governing Board had recently voted to form a not-for-profit organization called the NPSTC Foundation. The purpose of the foundation will be to support the ongoing efforts of NPSTC and the members who support those efforts. NPSTC has applied for recognition of exemption under Section 5013C of the IRS legal code. We hope to receive that recognition by the second quarter of 2020 and the Governing Board continues to seek funding to support necessary operations. Mr. Aiken introduced Ralph Haller and welcomed him back from an extended leave and turned the meeting over to him. Mr. Haller, NPSTC Chair, thanked everyone who continued to support NPSTC and himself during his absence and asked participants to send a record of their attendance to Attend@npstc.org.

Technology and Broadband Committee Update, Barry Fraser, Chair, and Michael Britt, Vice Chair. Mr. Fraser spoke to the work being done, to be summarized by him and others in the various working groups.

Public Safety Internet of Things (IoT) Working Group. Mr. Fraser reported that the Use Case report published in June 2019 has generated significant impact on work going on in many other organizations and has been referenced or acknowledged in a number of other reports.

Outreach Report: The group has completed an outreach report based on the Use Case report. That report has been completed and is currently in editing. The Outreach Report should be going to the Governing Board for approval by the end of February 2020.

Summary of Working Group Activities, Accomplishments and Recommendations for Future Work: The summary document has been distributed to the Governing Board. The group has made three recommendations for continued work for the group. There is significant contact in the Outreach Report that the group is recommending for future analysis. The three recommendations are 1) the development of a matrix of minimum functionality, parameters or standards for Public Safety; 2) development of a Best Practices document for governance for agencies who are going to share IoT systems and data; and 3) collaboration on how Public Safety can work better with smart cities and connected community initiatives. Mr. Fraser asked the Governing Board to look over the recommendations for comment or other recommendations. Mr. Haller called for a vote to tentatively approve the three areas of continued work while the recommendations are being finalized. Motion and Vote: Mr. Sasser moved to approve. Sheriff Fitzgerald seconded. Approved.

Mr. Fraser asked the board to approve moving the current Vice-Chair Dean Skidmore to a Co-Chair position to help manage the workload going forward. Motion and Vote: Sheriff Fitzgerald moved to approve. Mr. Comerford seconded. Approved.

LMR LTE Integration and Interoperability Working Group, Chris Kindelspire, Chair and Ryan Poltermann, Vice-Chair

Console Report Update. Mr. Kindelspire reported the group is continuing to work on its updated Console report which was one of the items identified in the larger report last year as needing further development. The group is reviewing a near final draft of the updated Console Report with an aim toward publishing the report in time for IWCE.

Future Work – After completion of the Console Report, the group will return to previous work on encryption. Future projected work includes a look at the relationship between non-government organizations and extended primary users and to whom they and public safety will share data.

TCCA Meeting Highlights, Chris Kindelspire, LMR LTE WG Chair: Mr. Kindelspire and Ryan Poltermann, LMR LTW WG Vice Chair attended the recent TCCA control room meeting in Berlin. The meeting was to go over some similar issues that have been discussed between NPSTC and TCCA. Mr. Poltermann advised that TCCA is working on a control room integration document and he will be assisting in that work also.

Broadband Emerging Technologies Working Group. Mr. Fraser reported that the group continues to meet. During the February meeting, Chris Kindelspire and Ryan Poltermann will be providing a more in-depth overview of the recent TCCA meeting. Mr. Fraser advised the Governing Board that the group Chair, Jim Stefano, has had to resign due to personal commitments. As an interim solution, Barry Fraser and Karen White are currently working as Co-Chairs until a new Chair can be identified. Mr. Fraser asked the Governing Board to approve the new leadership. Motion and Vote: John McIntosh moved to approve, Dan Henderson seconded. Approved.

FirstNet NPSBN Development

FirstNet, Paul Patrick, Board Member – Mr. Patrick expressed his gratitude for being able to present to the Governing Board. The FirstNet Authority has completed its Roadmap and is currently moving forward on the path identified. The Roadmap is available for download at FirstNet.gov. The FirstNet Board recently gave approval of areas for returning the first investments back into the network, specifying coverage and network enhancement as the primary initial focus, including deployables and preparing for 5G implementation for public safety. Mr. Patrick reported FirstNet now has over 1 million connections across the county by 10,000 public safety agencies, and he looks forward to working with NPSTC in the future.

FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Todd Early, Chair – Mr. Early thanked NPSTC and, in particular Doug Aiken, for their continued work and partnership with the PSAC. The PSAC held an in-person meeting in December 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to provide feedback to the FirstNet Authority on its Roadmap, which informs resources and network investment priorities to ensure they best meet the needs of first responders. The PSAC also heard from ATT FirstNet with its latest products

and offerings. The full PSAC will meet again in June. The PSAC intends to continue the webinar series it started in 2018, the most recent of which focused on the FirstNet Core.

Spectrum Management Committee Update, Don Root, Chair, and Charlie Sasser, Vice Chair – Mr. Root provided an overview of the issues on which the Spectrum Committee is working.

T-Band: Mr. Root reminded the group of a clause that requires the FCC to auction public safety spectrum in 2021 and to clear the band by 2023. NPSTC is continuing to monitor and contribute to the Public Safety Stakeholder Coalition that has been formed to encourage Congress to address this issue. Brandon Allen, IAFC, reported that a draft bill has been introduced in Congress to repeal the requirement and the Coalition is hoping to pass that legislation this year.

4.9 GHz– The FCC has released a NPRM claiming low public safety usage of the band. NPSTC addressed the FCC claim giving real public safety use cases as examples and made recommendations. Recent NPSTC Comments on UAS reiterated those recommendations by reminding the FCC that the NPSTC 4.9 Plan included UAS.

5.9 – DSRC (vehicle protocol) rules were adopted in 2003. FCC views current usage as light. FCC NPRM Proposes to Split the band among DSRC, Unlicensed WiFi, and Cellular Vehicle To X. NPSTC Has Supported Vehicular Safety Uses and to Date, has been Technology Neutral. Comments due March 9; Replies due April 6. Staff is evaluating a potential filing for either the comments or reply comments cycles.

6 GHz - FCC NPRM Proposes opening Band for unlicensed WiFi. The band Supports Critical Fixed Links for PS, CII, Carriers and Broadcasters. NPSTC Filings in 2018 Recommended Steps to Minimize Interference. The initial pleading cycle has been completed but there have been recent dueling ex parte filings. The group is monitoring those to determine actions moving forward.

Federal Partners Update

Federal Communications Commission (FCC), David Furth, Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Mr. Furth reported 2019 was a busy year for the FCC. The principle focus on the FCC public safety agenda in the last year has been on 911. A rulemaking was instituted which implemented 2 statutes, Kari's Law, which went into effect in February, and a portion of the Ray Baum Act which deals with 911 dispatchable locations last August. These rules are now in effect with deadlines for compliance in the next couple of years. 911 rules were consolidated into part 9 of 47CFR. The FCC has also been engaged in a long-standing rulemaking on wireless location accuracy with a specific concentration on the z axis standard for vertical access accuracy. In November 2019, the Commission adopted a standard of +/- 3 meters for vertical accuracy and keyed up a number of questions in a further notice with comments due February 21. The FCC also adopted an Order to speed up the conclusion of the 800 MHz rebanding process and have only 4 licenses who are actively engaged in the retuning of their system. They are all in the Mexican border area. FCC plans for 2020 include continuing work on vertical location, working with a number of other bureaus on 5G issues, and closing out the 800 MHz proceeding among other spectrum items referenced in the Spectrum Committee update. Mr. Furth reported that the FCC

Chairman has added his support in calling for Congress to repeal the T-Band legislation. Mr. Furth reported the FCC is continuing work on the 4.9, 5.9 and 6Gz issues and hopes to have significant progress on those in the next year. The FCC is moving its offices to a location near Union Station in DC in mid-June. Mr. Haller asked Mr. Furth to pass on our appreciation to the FCC Chairman for his support for the T-Band issue.

Interoperability Committee Update, John Lenihan, Chair, and Jason Matthews, Vice Chair

Chief Lenihan said the Interoperability Committee continues to meet every other month.

EMS Working Group, Kevin McGinnis, Chair. Mr. McGinnis thanked Barry Luke for his continued support to the Working Group. The group's recent work has been focused on EMS technologies. It expects to complete the work within the next 3 months. In addition, the group continues reviewing literature and articles that have come out in the previous month and providing presentations to the members on recent advances in EMS communications related technology.

NECP, John Lenihan. Mr. Lenihan reported that the National Emergency Communications Plan was published in September of 2019. The NPSTC Radio IO Best Practices Report was highlighted in the report for future reference.

Upcoming Meetings

There is no date for the next in-person meeting at this time. NPSTC will not be meeting at IWCE but is planning a teleconference meeting in May. Details will be announced as they are finalized.

Volunteer staff help wanted. Mr. Haller announced that Jackie Bayless has retired, and he thanked Dawn Ober for taking the minutes for this meeting. He advised membership that NPSTC is looking for volunteers to help with a number of staff duties.

Harlin McEwen Award: Marilyn Ward announced that Ralph Haller has been awarded the Harlin McEwen Award.

Adjourn.

John McIntosh moved to adjourn, Charlie Sasser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m. ET.