

**National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)  
Governing Board Meeting by Teleconference  
June 17, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m. ET**

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**Welcome and Opening, Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair**

Mr. Haller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. ET. Mr. Haller introduced new associate member PSBN Innovation Alliance.

**PSBN Innovation Alliance (PIA) Introduction, Anthony Odoardi, PIA Executive Director**

Mr. Odoardi and Phil Crnko noted the areas for collaboration between PIA and NPSTC around border interoperability, interference mitigation and other topics. PIA is working to continue the work of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), which is no longer operational. PIA is involved in LMR operations and the work around the broadband public safety network in Ontario, with other provinces in discussions to join. The group has secured \$20 billion in private/public partnership funds for the network, established a technology roadmap, and is in discussions with FirstNet on border and interoperability cooperation.

**NPSTC Foundation Update, Terry Hall, Chair**

Mr. Hall said the foundation's fundraising and donations are underway. He is having multiple conversations about opportunities on a weekly basis and sees a lot of opportunity on the horizon. The timing is difficult because of the pandemic, but he is optimistic. The website is up and capable of taking donations.

**Spectrum Management Committee Update, Don Root, Chair; Charlie Sasser, Vice Chair**

Mr. Root said NPSTC has completed four regulatory filings so far in 2021. The first was a letter requesting a lifting of the T-band freeze, two were comments on 4.9 GHz, and the fourth included comments on 9-1-1 fee diversion.

4.9 GHz: The FCC released a stay of its 2020 order that would have turned over 4.9 GHz management to states and allowed spectrum leasing to commercial carriers and others. The May 27, 2021, stay order places a hold on the leasing rules. The FCC will now reconsider its 2020 decision, and NPSTC is developing an ex parte filing to refresh the record with its recommendations for the band.

6 GHz: An FCC decision April 24, 2020, opened the band for unlicensed sharing. NPSTC is in a leadership role on a follow-up multi-stakeholder group discussing interference issues. As of June 7, 2021, the WiFi Alliance site lists 19 6E device models certified to date.

The Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) has a no-noise task force to address issues of in-building DAS and BDAs. The task force has four work groups: Seek First to Understand, State with the End in Mind, Disorder to Order, and Bet You Didn't Know. Mr. Root and Tom Presnak co-chair the Start with the End in Mind Work Group. The task force is developing a best practices document using NPSTC's 2007 "Best Practice for In-Building Communications" as a baseline document. There are about 70 task force

member specialists with a report presentation planned for November at the Safer Buildings/IWCE joint conference in Washington, D.C.

### **Technology and Broadband Committee Update, Corey Reynolds, Vice Chair**

Mr. Reynolds highlighted the committee's 2021 goals, including work within the three working groups, outline work for the new Cybersecurity Working Group, outline potential new products for board approval, and begin work on the technology sections of the next roadmap document.

Broadband Emerging Technologies Working Group: The group has had four presentations in 2021, and five more are planned through the rest of the year.

LMR LTE Integration and Interoperability Working Group: The board approved a motion allowing the working group to pursue the following topics in 2021: IWF key rotation, MCPTT issues, and ProSe standards and availability. The group has had four presentations so far during 2021.

Public Safety Internet of Things Working Group: The PSIoT working group outlined three work ideas including PSIoT collaboration with smart city initiatives, baseline for PSIoT device/cybersecurity functionality, and governance best practices. The group has had five presentations in 2021.

Cyber Security Working Group: Neil Horden, working group chair, outlined the mission and tasks for the new working group. The working group was approved by the governing board, and meeting times will be determined. The tasks include investigating and sharing information impacting public safety cybersecurity communications and bringing in experts to share experiences, developing documents and other relevant information. The group is looking for a vice chair and working group members.

### **Interoperability Committee Update, John Lenihan, Chair; Jason Matthews, Vice Chair**

Mr. Lenihan said the committee has completed three reviews for updates of best practice documents that were published in 2018, and one more is underway. Others will be conducted throughout 2021. DHS has been conducting webinars on the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). The Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG) will be disbanded at the end of July because of shifts in funding and focus. The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is out for review with comments back by June 29.

NASEMSO EMS Working Group: Kevin McGinnis, working group chair, said the group is working on an update to the 2016 EMS Telemedicine Report. A survey was conducted, and the working group plans to publish and distribute the results.

### **T-band Update, Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair**

Mr. Haller said that since the T-band spectrum has been returned to LMR licensees, several issues have come up with licensing of new and existing stations. The FCC released a list of TV stations, some of which are off the air. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is helping the FCC update the list and develop the protection criteria for DTV stations. A petition for rulemaking is expected in July.

### **FCC Update, David Furth, Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau**

Mr. Furth provided an update on recent public safety activity at the commission. The T-band legislation also included 9-1-1 fee diversion mandates. In February, the FCC adopted a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing rules to define the type of 9-1-1 fee expenditures that would be acceptable and

those that would be diversions. A draft report and order is on circulation and expected to be adopted by June 26. A 9-1-1 strike force also was formed to submit a report to Congress by Sept. 23.

The FCC gave the carriers consent decrees for not meeting the 9-1-1 indoor Z-axis accuracy requirements by the April 2021 deadline. The operators are required to fulfill their commitments. The commission is monitoring their activities under the consent decrees to ensure they meet their requirements by April 2022 and subsequent obligations and deadlines.

One 4.9 GHz issue the FCC is getting questions on is whether the stay has an impact on the licensing freeze. The freeze remains in effect, but the FCC is looking at options.

800 MHz rebanding is finally over. The FCC terminated the proceeding in April, and June 16, some additional spectrum was released, with applications available to be filed by mid-August.

Umair Javed, acting chief counsel at Office of FCC Acting Chair Jessica Rosenworcel, said public safety communications is important to the chairwoman. Every 2021 open meeting agenda has had a public safety item, including June's item on the emergency alerting system (EAS). He also reiterated that the FCC put a stay on the 4.9 GHz rules. Mr. Javed was thanked by Chairman Haller for his transparency and openness to the public safety community.

#### **Award Program, Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair**

The Chairman's Award was given to Kevin McGinnis, former FirstNet board member and NSPTC volunteer for 18 years. The NPSTC Leadership Award was presented to Don Root. Michael Wilhelm, who has had a more than 25-year career at the FCC, was awarded the DJ Atkinson Award. The Richard DeMello Award was presented to Jim Goldstein. Ray Lehr received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dawn Ober received the Officers Special Award.

#### **Governing Board Support Update, Marilyn Ward, Executive Director**

Ms. Ward said Don Root will chair the NPSTC panel during APCO this year. NPSTC has not yet applied to attend IWCE, but it is being considered. Under new business, the Global Public Safety Communications (GPSC) Office under the Department of Defense's Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) has asked NSPTC to become a liaison organization. Marcus Anderson and Scott Glazer representing GPSC provided an introduction and offered recommendations for how the groups can work together and complement each other's work.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. ET.