

As one of your Board of Director representatives for the Western Region I had the opportunity to attend the Public Safety Broadband Summit in Washington D.C. on 5/14-5/15. As I was there representing the Chapters in the Western Region I took the opportunity to take some notes and wanted to share them with you, and perhaps they will provide some information to you so you can answer questions from within your own Chapters.

On 5/8 the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced recruitment for the board of directors of the First Responder network Authority (FirstNet). This board will be responsible for making strategic decisions regarding FirstNet's operations. It will be composed of 15 individuals: secretary of Homeland Security, the attorney general and the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are permanent members. The secretary of commerce (John Bryson) will select the remaining 12 members. Each board member must have expertise in at least one of the following areas: public safety, technical, network and financial. In addition, three board members must represent the collective interests of states, localities, tribes and territories; three board members must have served as public-safety professionals; and the board should reflect geographical and regional diversity as well as rural and urban representation. Those interested in membership on the FirstNet board must submit by May 25.

Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

He announced a plan to solicit comments about the planned national, interoperable wireless broadband network for law enforcement and first responders through an RFI that was being released. Once published (expected this week) comments will be due in 30 days (expected around June 15). This RFI is looking to assist NTIA decide how to distribute the \$135 million in grants to state, local and tribal governments that will cover the planning of the nationwide network, called FirstNet. Specifically, the RFI will seek information on the data the states should compile for purposes of the consultation with FirstNet. It asks how states can collect information on existing infrastructure, such as towers and backhaul networks, which could be made available to FirstNet or to private industry bidding to build and operate the network.

He discussed the need to ensure that no decisions are made now, whether by NTIA, the FCC or others, that would reduce the flexibility the FirstNet board will need. Due to the limited funds set aside for this network he discussed that NTIA had partially suspended \$380 million in Recovery Act grants related to public safety communications. They have two key goals; keeping the grant money in the states and communities that received the funding and ensuring the grant dollars are spent on equipment that will be incorporated into the FirstNet network.

Strickling also stressed the need for FirstNet to operate on a break-even basis. Federal funding to establish the network is capped at \$7 billion. Participating law enforcement entities will have to pay user fees to FirstNet. States are permitted to opt out, but they have to clear a few hurdles, including demonstrating interoperability with FirstNet. FirstNet is set to be up by August 20, 2012. Goal is for the highest degree of efficiency.

I've included several documents for your reference:

1. NTIA posting of request for FirstNet Board Members in Federal Register
2. Keynote remarks of Assistant Secretary Strickling
3. NTIA posting of RFI in Federal Register

Jeff Cohen - APCO Chief Counsel reviewed several key points of the legislation.

- \$7 billion allocated to build, gives FCC authority to Auction spectrum.
- FCC will issue FirstNet a new license for the Dblock and broadband spectrum currently held by the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST).
- Purpose is the building, deployment and operation of a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. Network will be built on open standards
- Opt-Out process by state is available

Chris Essid - Director US Dept of Homeland Security - Office of Emergency Communications

- Statewide plans need to incorporate broadband - does it include nationwide network
- Statewide governance body - does it include broadband
- Are the state CIO's and CTO's included?
- Statewide coordinator needs to incorporate broadband

Jennifer Mariner - FCC

- Tband - will be gone 9 years from Feb 2012
- Funds from auction can be used for re-allocation costs

Coordinating with Department of Commerce to support Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC).
Currently eligible under DHS grants - though the overall grant dollars have been reduced.

Panel Group of Commercial Providers - key points:

- Non redundant backhaul
- Don't assume they will have generators at every site (AT&T)
- IP Middleware will be needed (like: Netmotion)
- Public Safety grade network (Verizon)
- Minimize costs by utilizing partnerships
- Multiband use being launched 'Network Vision LTE' (Sprint/Nextel)
- Flexibility to partners and roaming (T-Mobile)
- Understanding how the partnership works from the start
- Think about opportunities for smaller carriers - diversity (US Cellular)
- Network priority through something similar to GETS. Not a pre-emptive system.
- Compatibility to 3G band will be more important than to 4G.
- Currently none of the carriers are interoperable.

Things to work on in the mean time while waiting for FirstNet:

- Governance
- LMR Technology -vs.- Broadband Technology
- Public and Private Partnerships
- Minimize impact to FirstNet deployment
 - Technical
 - Business Model
 - Mission

Provide information to FirstNet for their information and response. Your decision to Opt in or Opt out should be based on their response and rate charges. Don't decide before you go through the process.

90% of Public Safety is locally managed.

Broadband needs consistent heights on all tower sites.

This is **NOT** providing a solution for LMR. This will provide transport for data.

State of Minnesota information on their Broadband process is available at:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/programs/armer/pages/studies-reports.aspx>

Andy Seybold Panel Discussion

Mission Critical Voice

Voice over LTE (VoLTE)

Ability to talk device to device
NPSTC is beginning to look into pushing direct mode into LTE standard

Laura Pettus - NTIA Funding available:

Today - borrowing authority for:

\$135 million grant program - 20% match

\$ 2 billion

2017 - \$100 million expected available for Public Safety Research & Development

State Governmental Body Coordinator - Single office/person

8/22/12:

- define eligible costs
- scope of eligible activities
- prioritize grants - rural/urban

Email questions to: sligp@ntiadoc.gov

- Need to reach auction proceeds (based on priorities) of \$27.6 billion before \$115 million in 911 grants with NHTSA.
- Backhaul of NG911 through FirstNet.

I've included slide show that covers in-depth Laura's presentation - which I highly recommend reviewing to bring you up to speed.

I hope that you find some of this information useful and you can answer your chapter members' questions.
Have a great weekend~

Peggy Fouts
Western Region BoD Representative
pfouts@gh911.org