

Interoperable Communications Committee (ICC)  
December 6, 2011  
RIEMA Headquarters  
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

J. David Smith, SRU  
Scott Lessard, NK Fire  
Chris Mahoney, Newport Fire Department  
Jeff Stevens, DOH  
Paul LaFlamme, RIPTA  
Paul Budzenski, RI EMA  
Brian Glancy, RISP Ret  
Joe Raulinaitis, FDA Public Affairs  
Sidney Wordell, Little Compton PD Chief  
Jonathan Montey, Narragansett Tribal Police  
Gina Caruolo, RI EMA  
Ron Provost, Motorola Solutions  
Brian Swann, Motorola Solutions  
Jim Swanberg, RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority  
Kevin Hoisington, North Providence Communications  
Ralph Nahigian, North Providence  
Dawn Lewis, HARI  
Thomas Crotty, RISP  
Edward Johnson, Acting Executive Director  
Mike Walsh, RIEMA

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*J. David Smith* of SRU called the meeting at 9:03 am.

- I. Request and approval of last meetings' minutes.  
November 17, 2011 minutes were sent out. They are approved. An e-mail will go out with minutes from October 20 & November 1, 2011 meetings and they will be reviewed and vote will occur at next meeting.  
There is a Quorum for this meeting.
- II. Presentation on LTE Convergence by Motorola – Mr. Douglas Onhaizer  
LTE is Long Term Evolution  
LTE will be eventually converging with existing systems. Douglas was invited to come in to increase the ICC's knowledge of such technology and how it may affect the future of ICC. Two-Way and RISSCON/ VHF is important and stable and may eventually co-exist with LTE.  
Douglas explained Motorola's vision and how LTE is a standards based 4G technology. LTE is rolling out nationwide as it enables more multi media applications. While HPD is 96K, LTE jumps to 4 meg. It has more bandwidth,

more capabilities for web EOC, maps, and pictometry. Coverage can range between 2-80 square miles.

Intention is for Public Safety to get as much block allocation as possible. There are bills in Senate and House to support this. Some vendors have purchased some. Bill also suggests that the narrowband be given back.

NEMA supports this and the funding mechanism has to be clearly defined. The money will come from somewhere and often it comes from other programs.

Bandclass 14 is public safety

Bandclass 13 is Verizon

Bandclass 12 is ATT.

FCC wants entire nation on Bandclass 14 with capabilities to roam into Bandclass 13 & 12.

Good scenario for RI is to have LTE for 2-5 sites with core roam to Verizon everywhere else in state. LMR (mobile radio).

LTE site costs \$150-300 thousand average.

They would minimize costs by using existing towers.

LTE sites can overlap for redundancy.

Value added for Public Safety

1. Core main network area
2. Access in field RAN (Radio Access Network area)
3. Devices that can access RAN

International Standard Body:

3GPP is governing body for LTE

Ericsson was chosen by Motorola to provide the portion of the core equipment in radio access area. They are #1 in LTE worldwide, better than #2 & #3 combined.

Prioritizing Data can enhance performance

Higher command can have special settings

There can be an emergency button

Motorola supports their devices and are environmentally resilient.

They have teamed up with Verizon for Bandclass 14&13.

There are overall financial benefits.

Packages can be cost effective. Rural: Verizon roaming, Urban: Site, Site sharing with other states.

Sid Wordell asked what the Nationwide target area is. Progression is due to funds Douglas said. IE: NJ has \$39 million in funds available now.

Douglas recommends starting on the FOCC waiver now so that when funds become available it will be seamless.

- III. Discussion regards ICC Charter, and the Quorum Issue  
Draft of ICC charter was sent around in hard copy.  
Dave asked the committee members to review it and for it to be revised, discussed and adopted in January at the meeting.  
A lot of the charter emulates the statute.  
Brian Glancy- Quorum is in conflict with the statute.  
Dave- this has to be resolved. Quorum as written in the law is how it is and needs to be accepted. Charter was developed and a different number came up. The ICC challenge is to attend the meetings and make Quorum while giving members a reason to want to be here.
- IV. Discussion of the Progress and Status of SOP's  
Dave:  
SOP = Standard Operating Procedure  
Many ICC members are on the SOP committee. SOP's are essential parts of every plan and response and is how the system is used.  
Many members have an understanding of the systems and how they are used. SOP's may or may not be universal statewide.  
Dave wants to reconstitute SOP committee to see what is being done now and where does the ICC need to go? Goal: instance of transparency. All of ICC knows what is going on statewide. There are talented people in ICC and at RIEMA that could essentially assist in the revising of the SOP's.  
Brian G said that he believes they were pretty much done by Chief Dillon and Chief Taylor.  
Gina did a re-write on them too.  
They need to be found physically and electronically and be brought back to the ICC table.  
Ralph- The challenge is in the Implementation  
He gave an example of officers using channels without SOP's.  
Paul- we need to communicate to resolve it.  
Dave- sometimes commanders do not push the information down to the users and may not be savvy with SOP's. ICC may want to give them SOP's and make sure there is compliance from top down. Takes time to learn shared system protocol. Goal look at SOP's, train to the SOP's, and adopted, accepted and used in the field.  
Gina- SOP's should be on the agenda of every agency training.  
Brian- State Police has an electronic list of users as they certify all the dispatchers.  
Sid – Recommended that the Fire chiefs and Police Chiefs share their meeting minutes with each other. He clarifies that State Police gives dispatchers RILETS certification.  
Needs to be central depository that checks availability of channels. Who listens to them and authorizes them? Everyone hears everything. This is a primary piece. The ICC should have a running list of 800 users so that as more departments come on, the capability is known.

Chris- Problems that the Fire Marshals are having is that the same 20-30 people show up at the meetings every week. There are towns that are not showing up on long-term basis. They are not getting the information.

Sid – Those who show for Police Chiefs meeting depends on the issue. The minutes and agenda does go out to all chiefs so they do get the information. We do not know if the proper person in communications is getting the information.

Jeff- Approach this as a marketing campaign. Grassroots.  
The new users list can get out with SOP's on regular basis. Dispatcher gets it, Chief gets it. Have it be known. Hit person by person, (Sid) we each send these out to everyone on our e-mail list, make corrections (Such as what Ralph brought up) and talk.

Dave- share the success stories too.

Chris- Fire Departments are slow to change

Dave- Key to protect ourselves and follow through. Use situations as teaching tools.

V. Strategic Planning Issues (Continued)

Dave- Consolidate list of who is on the system to see what is needed (training, site development etc.). Please take responsibility and bring in ideas and strategies.

Dave- Funding is a national challenge and needs to be discussed at all meetings.

Ed Johnson – Said the Executive Director would be hired hopefully by the first of the year. He is engaged in Emergency Management. He likes it and is still learning as well. Ed is grateful for all that, the ICC has done.

Jeff- he requested the Engineering and costs for channel upgrades. This is important to have before the new grant cycle so that informed decisions can be made.

Dave- Many grants are gone or cut. The EMPG seems level funded. Have to depend on vendors sometimes to be in DC so that operations can be sustained. ICC has to identify where next funds come from.

Ralph asked about the 911 surcharge money. The surcharge supports the interoperable radio system, pays for 911 and there is money left over. There was a brief discussion about if the money could be recouped.

- VI. Discussion of Location of New Sites (Continued)  
RT 44 corridor (Gloucester and Burrillville).  
Ron- the site coverage reps came back. Not sure if agreement have been made between Mike and site owners. Dave wants these to be put on next agenda and invite Tom Kalis to offer his impression to move this forward.  
Paul L- Charlestown police department there was an unexpected issues and results for mobiles. Took 2 days to autotune. Ron thinks SK has mobile issues related to how this was installed. Dave wants to know how this could be down for so long and if anyone checked the antenna. Ron- Mike and Matt White were supposed to sit to go over a different plan. Paul – worked to 7:00 last night to figure this out. Dave wants it figured out ASAP.  
Re: Site relocation, waiting for Purchase Order for URI. He asked Ed to meet those needs. If URI is repaired then it helps the South.  
Ron- says mobiles act like portables that are dropped a lot. They fail 7 tests on autotune. He thinks the mobiles may have been installed incorrectly and fried the antenna.
- (Dawn Lewis left and offered that the Hospital Association has several redundant communications. What is ICC going to do in the future meetings regarding not just focusing on RISCO. She also RI Hospital Trauma Center being addressed as single hospital).  
Dave wants other platforms at these meetings, to not just talk about 800 and for it to be fair and equitable.  
Jeff- reminded them of the VHF system at the State Police that is available. ICC needs redundancy.  
Tom Crotty- Want to merge DEM system with State Police
- VII. Updates for Sites under Construction, NK, Middletown, and EP  
Ron Provost- Middletown has new antenna and is really close to completion.  
NK Fiber funding has been put in.  
EP Building is scheduled for 12/21 while the site is being readied.  
Frank- Cable is ready to go.  
Dave called Bruce Bilobeau regarding the antennas being hung in Middletown.
- VIII. Update on the Status of Rebanding for North and Providence Systems.  
Dave asked why rebanding has been pushed off until Spring because of weather. He wants construction to occur regardless of weather. If there is rebanding available now, do it. Motorola and Frequency issues can be worked through and scheduling can occur. Needs to be done ASAP.  
Jeff offered that a motion be made.  
Dave made the motion ICC move to reband North and Providence ASAP, Jeff and Ralph seconded the motion. All ICC members were in favor. Motion was passed.

IX. New User Report

Dave- Need list of Users on the system.

It is really important to know who on the area is on the same system. It allows various agencies to work together. It has been asked for two years.

Brian put it on the agenda because of system overload concerns.

The committee needs to be told who is on the system, especially for strategic planning concerns.

Jeff- regarding the allocation of funds, is this the most appropriate way to spend the funds?

Dave- B bank and C bank should be the same.

Ralph- what groups are being used? What subscribers and groups are being used?

Dave- it comes down to communication and courtesy before it turns on.

Sid- Should last stop turn on is identified to the group?

Jeff- report when funds are allocated, and before person is turned on.

Brian- and what zone they are on

Dave- Ed oversees the technicians. The ICC's intention is to be better informed to make better decisions. Ed- This is driven by the strategic plan.

Once the report exists it is easy to add/ subtract

X Agency Reports

Tom Crotty- replace Chopmist and Doorley (Exeter) towers. They are over 50 years old. It is a funding issue. Dave- Those add value to the ICC.

Newer smaller tower towards Portsmouth, Newer Bigger tower pointing towards Chopmist.

Gina- Status Quo

Closure of facilities due to costs. Money is saved by posts or wings being closed. The plan is to close and lock doors. There is no plan to sell it.

Brian- None

Joe Raulinaitis- None

Paul (RIPTA)-Inspecting design drawings this week, make a formal schedule and approve the design within week or so.

Ron- Wants to be involved with rebanding and to be called into the meetings.

Mike is primary contact and Ron wants to be part of these meetings.

Dave insisted that Ron and Brian are invited.

Chris- Newport Fire and Police have new chiefs.

Waiting for Middletown and NK to come on.

Jim Swanberg

Purchased new portable radio, renovations in building. Vendor worked on the bridge, barge flipped. A firm from NJ came and lifted it, flipped it and moved it. Hopefully it will be moved over the next few days.

Chief Montey

RT 1 tower to see if that may help the corridor.

Jeff- Office of Drinking and Water Quality purchased a couple more radios and Health used them. DW will purchase their own to be managed by Health.

Ralph- success story of 2 fires at same time. Communication worked really well. Providence, Johnston, Pawtucket and Smithfield. He introduced his IT guy Kevin.

Scott- NK Paul and Mike added Narragansett and SK fire ground channels.

Paul B. None

Ed- None

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment 10:58 am  
Next meeting Thursday December 15, 2011