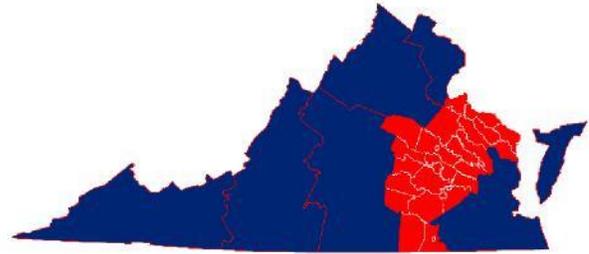


RPAC-I Region 1 Meeting

Friday, April 7th, 2018

1000 hours

Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center



Minutes

Attendees:

Charles Smith, Hanover, Chair

Marty McLain, DHS

Amanda Davis, OEMS

Sam Burnette, OEMS

Katie Moody, RRPDC

Jada Smith, RRPDC

Denice Crowder, Dinwiddie

David Warriner, retired

Kent Emerson, Amelia

Rich Troshak, Chesterfield

Ranna Cope, Amelia

Allan Evans, Dept. of Military Affairs

I. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He welcomed and thanked all for attending and pointed out the handouts available at the front of the room. Introductions were made.

II. Minutes

The Chair invited a motion to approve the February 2, 2017 minutes. Motion to approve by Rich Troshak and seconded by Denice Crowder. All approved.

III. VAPSBN Workshops Update

- The Chair noted that he had attended the FirstNet workshop in Charlottesville back on February 22, 2018. He shared some of the following items presented by consultants to the Commonwealth.
 - Presentations primarily covered fundamentals of the network concepts
 - How we evaluate coverage, as we select a provider for our data coverage
 - Cost-models – in order to guestimate data usage and voice utilization on your current fleet of LTE devices, and making a cost-informed decision on making decisions about your services
- Bagby has thumb-drives at her office of these presentations that are available if anyone needs to reference back to them – full of all the excel spreadsheets and documents that were covered in the workshops.
- There was nothing ‘mind-blowing’ covered in the workshops regarding FirstNet.

IV. VDEM Grant Workshops

- Amanda Davis from OEMS noted that the upcoming VDEM grant workshops in May will be your basic grant workshop covering the premise for Homeland Security grants this year. VDEM is the state administrative entity for Virginia – R-PACs, as localities, can apply for grants. Workshops are useful to attend and very informative, and will give you an idea if you would like to apply for the grant.
- The Chair noted that the SIEC will be the peer-review committee for any communications projects. If anyone has projects – please forward to the Chair so he can review the Scope with you and present them to the SIEC.

V. LTE- Topics we want AT&T to cover

- Our lack of fluency in LTE creates a deficiency to make informed decisions. We have asked a couple different SME's to attend one of our meetings and raise our understanding of LTE's. Marty had a contact to do so, but AT&T (as a partner for FirstNet) has committed to doing an LTE fundamentals workshop at our June meeting.
- What questions do we have or what can we capture to ask AT&T to ask/challenge?
 - Denise: Main concern is coverage. Second concern are the tower sites themselves – plan for backup, are generators secure, if the power goes down? Would like to know if the system is reliable.
 - Kent: Exactly what towers are supported by AT&T, and what type of support does that tower have? How is it secure? Battery backup and auxiliary power? Specific questions – AT&T should know that we have these questions in advance of this meeting, or otherwise they will “have to get back you.”
 - Policy for towers, etc, that they are willing to share. Don't need to know the specifics of each tower site, but the policies.
 - Questions for reliability?
 - Pricing – how this will work with different devices? Strategy that other public safety agencies can use going forward. This is a huge advantage for migrating to a LTE solution.
 - Another important aspect to consider – we will need a tech to come in that knows what is going on, as in the case with Verizon – good honest answers as to what it's going on. Engineering level of support and technical understanding of things will be important. Intent of presentation is to get away from sales, and have more technical explanation of the network to assist with our understanding and concern with what we're getting.
 - Would like them to discuss in more detail the preemption or priority if something were to occur?
 - We are migrating to a consumer-grade service – we need to understand what are getting today, what we can expect in the future, and how we can improve the product in the future.
- Reality of cost of First Net in all counties/localities – basically commercial grade coverage with some increased reliability. LTE will not replace LMR.
- FirstNet will give us data functionality with much higher speed and broader coverage, but also interoperability.
- The Chair noted that he would pass along comments to AT&T and would make effort to make sure that the presentation would be not a sales presentation, but more of a technical one where our questions and details could be addressed.

VI. Roundtable

Marty: If you are in a public safety organization, you should ensure all your mobile devices are registered to be eligible for WPS.

Amanda: Just completed spring cycle of RSAF. Next grant cycle will start August 1st, with deadline of September 15th. RSAF also funds for all types of communications, but must be EMS-related – EMD or CAD upgrade. Please contact her if you would like any more information.

Katie: Just started the EM Planner position in March, have replaced Kathy Robins position. Will also be keeping minutes.

Denise: Dinwiddie has two major building projects going on at this time – hope to move into EMS building by May 15. The Human Services building may be ready in November. Radio project will be held until moved into the new building.

Rich: Working on Capital Region Radio Project – making some good progress, lots of cooperation from the jurisdictions.