



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2023, COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES
MEETING IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and its Committees. The meeting took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, via WebEx and in person at 8:30 AM MDT in Broomfield, Colorado. An audio recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: www.FirstNet.gov.

INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Richard Carrizzo provided remarks expressing gratitude for the selection to the FirstNet Authority Board and shared a personal story on connection to 9/11 and reiterated commitment to the mission of the FirstNet Authority.

Chair Carrizzo welcomed all who joined the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting in person in Broomfield, Colorado, and virtually via WebEx.

During the meeting, the Board approved the February 15, 2023, Combined Board and Committees Meeting minutes, heard updates from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Advocacy Committee, Programs and Future Planning Committee, and Finance and Investment Committee, and heard closing remarks from Board Chair Richard Carrizzo and FirstNet Authority CEO Joe Wassel.

Roll Call

Richard Carrizzo (“Chair”), Billy Bob Brown, Jr., Robert Brown¹, Brian Crawford, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Renee Gordon, Kristin Graziano, Billy Hewes, Peter Koutoujian², Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir, Jocelyn Moore, and Paul Patrick were in attendance. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees meeting.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting, Board Secretary Janell Smith provided Board members with the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not need to recuse themselves from participation in

¹ Robert Brown participated virtually.

² Peter Koutoujian participated virtually.

any portion of the meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Carrizzo requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023, Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Kristin Graziano made the motion. Sylvia Moir seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the February 15, 2023, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes to be available to the public at the end of the meeting.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

PSAC Update

PSAC (Public Safety Advisory Committee) Chair Chris Lombard reviewed highlights from the last quarter and PSAC meeting. Recently, the webinar series highlighted the FirstNet Authority's experimental engagement program where the PSAC viewed mobile field kits and heard plans for bringing them to summer stakeholder engagements. The PSAC's Tribal Working Group (TWG) continues to meet monthly and is looking forward to planning a meeting in Washington, DC.

Additionally, the PSAC is completing the 2023-2025 membership reappointment process with six new members: Ferdinand Milanes from American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Deputy Chief Keith Kelly from International Chief of Police (IACP), Cathy Clark from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Sheriff Ray Scifres from the National Association of Counties, Mike Lynch from National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors NATOA, and Michael Jacobson from SEARCH.

Also, the PSAC is planning its first in-person meeting of the year June 2023 at the 5x5 Public Safety Innovation Summit and is also continuing to meet with the FirstNet Authority engagement teams to receive updates.

Advocacy Committee Update

Sylvia Moir provided Advocacy Committee updates and shared that, in the second quarter of 2023, the team continued to meet with stakeholders and gather feedback on the network and advancement of the FirstNet experience. The team participated in 426 public safety engagements and reached more than 11,000 stakeholders through these engagements and collected more than 400 feedback items that included operational needs and current challenges. Last quarter, in conjunction with the Public Safety Communication Research Division, the team facilitated five tours for 35 visitors to the Boulder FirstNet Lab and Public Safety Immersive Test Center.

Also, Sylvia Moir shared highlights of the Market Engagement Office (MEO). During the Bataan Memorial Death March, which had approximately 5000 participants, the MEO staff provided technical support to the U.S. Army Installation Management Command for FirstNet integration. March of 2023 in Reno, Nevada, MEO staff participated in the International Association of Fire Chiefs Wildland Urban Interface Conference. With more than 200 Fire

Officers in attendance, this was the largest conference of the nation dedicated to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) related issues.

FirstNet Authority participated in the 2023 IWCE Expo. Chair Carrizzo co-presented tips to maximize the use of the FirstNet network during incidents and MEO staff facilitated panels for public safety stakeholders covering topics ranging from wildfire and all hazards response to aviation and maritime operational requirements to the connected responder.

Sylvia Moir discussed the June 2023 5x5 Public Safety Innovation Summit that will be co-hosted by the FirstNet Authority and National Institute of Standards and Technology's Public Safety Communications Research Division in San Deigo, California. The summit will include seven tracks such as mission critical services, network services and coverage, and open innovation and commercialization. This Summit brings public safety across all the disciplines and levels of government, industry, and academia together in the same space to advance public safety communications technology.

Moir also announced the opening of the nomination period for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award. This award was established in 2017 and recognizes the spirit of service, commitment, and dedication that's a proud tradition among public safety. The nomination period will end on May 24, 2023, and the recipient will be recognized at the upcoming 5x5 summit in San Diego, California.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore shared that, in March 2023, the Programs and Future Planning Committee had its briefing where they shared several updates from the staff. The committee received updates on the FirstNet network status and a detailed overview of task order for radio access network Band 14 and Final Operational Capacity (FOC), internal dashboards on team coverage, and future planning.

Committee Chair Moore shared that there is still much work to be done after FOC to fully realize the potential of FirstNet. The team looks forward to growing the network beyond the contractually required Band 14 coverage.

Internal dashboards were shared with the committee that provided an overview of FirstNet Authority team coverage. The visualization helped the team to determine where they can go in terms of build out and contractual accountability.

The committee also discussed future planning. The update included an overview of the upcoming 2023 roadmap, including implementation as well as efforts related to ongoing collaboration with the committee, the FirstNet Authority team, and AT&T as we enter the next phase of the FirstNet network evolution and coverage expansion.

Committee Chair Moore shared that the adoption and usage of the FirstNet network services by our nation's first responders continues to grow at a tremendous pace. Some key metrics from the FirstNet network growth announced over this last quarter include more than 590 FirstNet ready devices available to be used by public safety on the FirstNet Network, along with more than 200

unique public safety applications in the FirstNet catalog for those devices. We have added approximately 300,000 more FirstNet device connections since we met last quarter in Austin, for a total of more than 4.7 million device connections on the FirstNet network.

We now have more than 25,000 public safety agencies and organizations across the nation using FirstNet for their mission critical communications.

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Committee Chair Brian Crawford noted that the FirstNet Authority continues to maintain sound financials and presented operational budget execution for the first six months of fiscal year 2023 ending March 31, 2023. The FirstNet Authority's cumulative \$39.3 million of obligations is within the boundaries of the Authority's operations budget forecast and the CFAO and budget team expect that this trend will continue throughout the fiscal year.

Committee Chair Crawford also shared that the First Responder Network Authority's independent auditors Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, PA for the 10th consecutive year provided an unmodified opinion of the First Responder Network Authority's Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Statements. The auditors found no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and no management level findings.

Closing Remarks

CEO Joe Wassel shared celebratory remarks to new Board Chair Carrizzo and former Board Chair Steve Benjamin, who is now in a position at the White House. Wassel expressed that he is looking forward to working with Chris Lombard from the PSAC and offered thanks to Lisa Casias for her leadership and welcoming him into the FirstNet Authority. CEO Wassel shared that he has 34 years of experience with the Department of Defense (DOD) and that the DOD is the largest public safety entity under one governance structure.

Joe Wassel expressed gratitude for being chosen as CEO and for the progress the FirstNet Authority has made over the last five years, including completion of the initial build-out of the Network just a few weeks before. Joe Wassel shared that with a great network comes great responsibility.

Board Adjourned

Chair Rich Carrizzo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Patrick made the motion, Warren Mickens seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.