

ConnectME Authority

Friday, May 27, 2016

Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of ConnectME Authority members and staff

- Dick Thompson, Acting Chair, Greg McNeal, Bruce Williamson, Denise Garland, Sue Woods.
- Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy, David Maxwell

2. FirstNet Project – Update

The FirstNet team provided a status update for the FirstNet project, phase one which is administered by the ConnectME Authority.

The FirstNet team is:

- Lisa Leahy, Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- David Maxwell, Program Director
- Tilson contracted support: Elissa Tracey and David McCarron
- Tilson sub-contractor James W. Sewall (Daisy Mueller and Clarence Young)

The primary focus in this phase has been data collection and education and outreach to user community.

Current and Upcoming Events:

- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) public meeting held May 24, 2016 – conducted by national FirstNet staff.
- Governance body meeting held May 25, 2016 – national FirstNet representatives in attendance.
- Bids in response to RFP due May 31, 2016, evaluation through fall with award expected by end of calendar year.
- Bids for single national vendor due to FirstNet on May 31st.
- FirstNetME continues education and outreach activities and assembly of additional data for submittal in September 2016.
- FirstNetME team members will participate in topic-specific Consultation Task Team events (e.g. Quality Service, Priority, and Preemption) to provide state level and state-wide needs.
- Executive Consultation in Maine to occur in fall 2016 – preparation for release of a draft state plan for review – prior to delivery of Maine plan to the Governor (envisioned spring to summer of 2017) and 90-day decision making window to remain in the project or to “Opt Out.”

There were a number of questions from the Authority members: have user (first responders) equipment costs been determined and who provides the funds (federal, state or local authorities); who pays for the final system and how is it funded; is participation at the

local level voluntary; if states opt out, what will be available to local users, at what cost; what will be the Authority's role a year from now.

The Authority members asked that members of the federal FirstNet team attend the next meeting to provide the answers to these and other questions the Governor's office may have.

The June Authority meeting will be cancelled and the July date will be adjusted to ensure most Authority members are available for the FirstNet presentation.

3. Mapping and Data Gathering Project –Next Steps

An RFP will be issued to obtain the next phase of a mapping and data gathering project. The Authority believes that current and up to date availability data is important for the ongoing measure of how the state is progressing. Recognizing that the federal grant funds are no longer available, internal Authority funds will have to be used. Other funding sources will be explored, as well as some form of user fees for the products delivered, such as multi-layer maps.

4. ConnectME Authority Rule, Chapter 101

Rule waivers versus rule making, discussion. Advice from the Attorney General's office favors a rulemaking instead of rule waivers. A revised rule is much more transparent and available to the public. A first draft of a revised rule will be provided by the next meeting. Changes will include those required by recent statutory changes, such as deletion of the challenge process and adding the planning grant process. Based on the discussion, language will be included that requires infrastructure grant applicants to certify and document that they have contacted incumbent providers in the grant area, to ensure the area is unserved with no overlap from existing providers. Summaries of applications will be posted quickly, with full applications (non-confidential information) made available to existing providers on request.

5. Executive Director Report

- Financial Report
- Audit contract with Macpage, LLC approved.
- Fund administrator contract extension with RolkaLoube approved.

6. Public Comment

- Ben Sanborn, TAM. Re: revised rule should be specific and objective.
- John Lawrence, Waldoboro. Discussed public safety issues and FirstNet.
- Sarah David, FairPoint, asked about the availability of grant applications.