

FirstNet Board Meeting
March 10, 2014
NYC Police Headquarters, One Police Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10038

>> The chairman is prepared to start the meeting. Is the technical crew all ready to go?

Okay. Let me welcome all of you on the webcast to our first Governance and Personnel (Committee) meeting. I'd like you to know that we are now at 1 Police Plaza in New York City and here at the invitation of police Commissioner Bratton and assistant chief Dowd. Chuck, thank you for having us. We look forward to a tour that you'll be conducting tomorrow afternoon. You know the New York Police Department is doing a lot of very innovative things, and we'll get a chance to see those tomorrow afternoon on a tour. Thank you very much.

Mr. Secretary, would you call the roll.

- >> Teri Takai
- >> Chief Dowd
- >> Present.
- >> Tim Bryan
- >> Here.
- >> Barry couldn't be here with us today.
- >> Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Each of you has a copy of the minutes before you. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes? If not, may I have a proposal for their approval.

- >> So moved.
- >> Second.
- >> Move and a second. All in favor? All opposed? Motion passes.

Mr. Secretary, I think it's customary that we make a copy of those minutes available to the public. Would you make sure that's done?

- >> I'll make sure we do that.
- >> Thank you very much. I'd like to call on you as secretary to give us some background as to the technical aspects of the meeting and how we will proceed.
- >> Good afternoon, everyone. I wanted to just take a moment to explain a few things about how the meeting is going to be conducted this afternoon. As the notice that went out with the board material indicated, a lot of the material that's going to be discussed by the committees today will involve legal matters, procurement matters, including some procurement strategy matters as well.

So during the time that we are talking about those sensitive matters the board is going to close the meeting to the public. Each time a committee meeting is closed it will be subject to a majority vote of the committee members. There will be a notice that will go up on the screen during webcast that will indicate to the public that the meeting is closed. And following the closed discussion, we will resume the public part of the meeting, the chair will give a description of some of the activities that took place during the closed session, and we will move to close the meeting at that point. There will be some additional information on this as well and I'd like to ask if our general manager may be able to share some additional information.

- >> Okay.
- >> Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to provide a little more context as to why some portions of our meetings over the next two days will be in closed session.

We have been working for the past 90 days to develop a collaborative, very comprehensive roadmap for deploying FirstNet. As we will discuss in the committee meetings and full board meeting tomorrow, we've reached an important stage in FirstNet's development. This is an exciting stage that I know management and the board, public safety have all been looking forward to for some time now. We are solidifying our program roadmap which includes a specific procurement and negotiating strategies that help us maximize the value we can deliver to public safety.

Although we're excited to have reached this point it requires that for these two days, some closed door debate in order to afford the board and management are the appropriate time to discuss information that's been provided to us in confidence and to discuss the costs and benefits of certain strategies on behalf of public safety.

We will also be discussing some attorney-client privileged matters. The good news is that we've reached this milestone and that at the end of the board meeting tomorrow we plan to discuss the factors we were deliberating in closed sessions.

We'll put as much of this discussion as prudent within our statutory requirements. Most importantly, however, in the months that follow we plan on seeking a robust public comment and additional debate in several ways, including certain notice and comment processes and draft requests for proposals. We believe that getting to these important discussions and the requests for proposals is critical to the success of FirstNet. I'd like to thank the public safety and vendor communities for their support. Specific to the Governance Committee Mr. Chairman, we're going to be discussing today the hiring ramp for employees and contracted support. Those items are not only personnel related but procurement sensitive. And I suggest we move to close the session in order to have those conversations.

>> Thank you, Bill, before we move into those matters, there's sort of an administrative issue that I want to cover with the committee.

As you know, for the first year, year and a half or so, we had a board and we didn't have a management team. And it turned out that the board basically was both. It was management and the board. But we've matured now and we are fast putting together the management team and as a result of that at our last meeting we adopted a board structure. This committee being a part of that board structure. The question that we have been discussing since that committee structure went into place is should that affect our meeting schedule.

If you look at the history, we've had 13 board meetings in five quarters. And the question becomes now that we are assuming a more traditional responsibility, should we take a look at that and assume that the board committee chairs between meetings will have a lot of interaction with management and that we should maybe reduce the board meetings. And at least my point of view is we should. We should reduce our meetings into once a quarter. If we have a board meeting we'll have a board meeting when we need to have a board meeting. On the other hand, consistent with our new structure, we want the committee chairs and the committees to work in their areas of expertise with management between board meetings and have committee chairs report out at board meetings.

So that's kind of where I've come out. But I'm uncomfortable simply going with my point of view. And I want to get any different point of view that any of the board members may have.

>> Mr. Chairman, I concur with that point of view. I think that since we have now gone into a regular board process, that having the board as a total board meet less frequently, and much of the work should be done during the committee process.

>> Right.

>> It would allow us to function more like a normal board. And I certainly concur with your view.

>> Thank you.

>> I do as well, I think you hit on the main point, which is a board can never predict when items come up that need board attention and board approval. And as long as all the board members realize that they're committed to sort of collecting themselves up on relatively short notice, I think it's a great idea.

>> Chuck?

>> Absolutely in full concurrence. I like the fact that you pointed out if something comes up we can have a meeting and even as the committees have their meetings, that other members of the board can also participate in that. It's a very open and transparent process. I approve of that.

>> Teri?

>> (Off mic)

>> Okay. Well, thank you. All right. Well, that was an easy agenda item.

We don't have many of those. Well, we're now prepared to go into closed session. And as the secretary pointed out we have to have an affirmative vote to go into closed session. May I have that motion?

>> Moved.

>> Second.

>> All in favor? Oppose? Motion carries. We'll now go into closed session and just let me say to the webcast audience that we will come back on and we'll give you a summary of the discussions that we've had in the closed session. So I can't give you any estimate of how long this might be. I would say 30 to 40 minutes and we should be back on. Again, thank you for attending.

(Closed session)

>> We're back in public session. Let me take just a second here and inform the public of the kind of things we just talked about. We talked in some detail about a personnel plan and the rate at which we must bring employees on our payroll in order to meet our objectives, reviewed the parameters of our planning framework to make sure that it was doable and consistent with our legal obligations and the way that we operate inside a government entity, as a government entity. I think that the result of that puts us in a really good position that over the next three to six months you're going to see a significant augmentation of FirstNet staff and with that a lot of progress made on RFPs and other things that I know that so many of you are interested in.

So with that, each of the committee members has a resolution. I would ask you to, if you haven't read that resolution, to do so and let me ask you to read the operating part of the resolution before I take a vote.

>> Now therefore be it resolved that based on its review of those portions of the program roadmap within its subject matter responsibilities, the Governance and Personnel committee hereby recommends to the board that the board authorize management to take such reasonable actions as are necessary to achieve the fiscal year 2014 milestones contained in the program roadmap.

>> Discussion? Motion?

>> So made.

>> Second.

>> All in favor? All opposed? Motion carries. Meeting adjourned. Thank you for attending.

>>

Can we take a vote to adjourn, Mr. Chairman?

>> I guess we have to have a vote to adjourn.

>> I vote to adjourn the meeting

>> Second.

>> All in favor? Meeting adjourned.

>> Thank you.

(Closed session)

>> Good afternoon, and my name is Craig Farrill chairman of FirstNet planning committee. Mr. Secretary, would you please call the roll for the committee.

>> Craig

>> Here

>> Ed Reynolds

>> Here.

>> Kevin McGinnis. Barry not available today

>> We have a quorum.

>> Okay. So earlier we've distributed the meeting minutes to each of committee members. Did you all receive those minutes? All right. Any discussion?

>> There was one correction.

>> Okay.

>> Very good. Was that just grammatical?

>> Yes, listed as being present who wasn't present.

>> All right. So since we don't need to have a discussion I'll take a motion to accept the minutes. I hear a motion. You have to be second --

>> Second.

>> The minutes are accepted. We need to take a vote? Okay? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Okay. All right. The minutes of the meeting are accepted. And Mr. Secretary if you would please make those available publicly later, that would be appreciated.

Okay. This afternoon I'd like to take a few minutes to give you all some information on what's happening in the technology area here at FirstNet. And I'd like to turn it over to Bill to introduce Jeff Bratcher.

>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. This afternoon we're going to share with the committee the activities and plans consistent with the roadmap for fiscal year 2014. I wanted to have an opportunity publicly to introduce Jeff Bratcher and thank him for his service to FirstNet. He's been a tremendous addition to our staff. Many of the public know that he comes from the PSCR organization. He joined us about four months ago and has been intimately involved in our work around all of the technology planning, done an outstanding job and just happy to have him share with you the progress of where we are from a technical planning perspective.

>> Thank you, Jeff.

>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to talk to you today and give you some public updates on what the technical focus has been at FirstNet since the last public meeting. First I'd like to lead off with our technical Headquarter office base. We now have the keys to the building in Boulder and GSA is working on getting it staff ready. We were allowed access last week to install phones and internet access. It also possesses a nice technical laboratory space and warehouse space. The office space internally will accommodate upwards of 80 staff that we look to bring on board. Excited to have that open and start moving into that. Brief staffing update. FirstNet CTO has been selected but not yet on board. Hope to have that happen over the next four to six weeks. Federal technical hiring is in progress. Focused on senior electronics and computer engineers that have direct LTE architecture experience.

Contractor support, awards are beginning to be made on our existing blanket purchase agreement contract and that's been configured as a competition among three service disabled veteran owned businesses and those are starting to happen now and will progress over the next several weeks as we get through that process.

Some of the other updates from our labs that are working on our behalf and working with FirstNet. The public safety communications research program, my predecessor organization, there's three main areas that they're focused on. The standards, official standards representation for FirstNet within the three GPP standards bodies. They're actually focused on those features that we know are critical to our public safety users namely direct mode and group communications and how that will move forward in the standards environment of LTE and 3GPP. Critical efforts of our longer term goals and some of the features that we know our users will require. Another aspect is our modeling. We have a team that's been focused on spectrum capacity modeling. The ramifications on large scale incidents on the spectrum usage and what that looks like for public safety users. We also have a testing and evaluation activity that's kicked off more recently which is focused at the PSCR labs that will be doing quality of service, priority, test, development, and execution with vendors participating. This is again another critical service differentiation for FirstNet and is key for our public safety users to have that, especially in any type of spectrum sharing environment we may enter into. We also have support that's recently been provided by the Idaho National Labs. They provided an initial cyber security analysis for FirstNet and we're going to be leveraging that into our roadmap as we further refine that.

The next topic is BTOP engagement: We're engaged with the BTOPs, have key learning conditions that have been signed for LA and New Mexico. New Jersey and Adams County are in progress and moving along. Another item is that Lance Johnson is leading the spectrum relocation of the incumbent 700 megahertz users. Existing public safety narrow band systems in our allocation that will have to be moved off so that we can use the spectrum for broad band. We've been providing technical input as he gears up that activity into our roadmap. Things I'd like to talk about next are some of the key program roadmap technology items that we leveraged into the roadmap. This really leverages previous work done over the last year with our RFIs and responses we received from those. We've had direct meetings and market

research with the senior staff of FirstNet developing this further. We've also addressed and put into the roadmap the requirements that public safety actually created themselves going back five to six years. This includes broadband working group launch requirements, definition of public safety grade, the public safety quality of service and local control. What that means to them for a broadband network in a local control environment. As well as the FCC technical advisory committee on that by legislation we have to put into our proposals. The long term evolution technology is going to enable new approaches for wireless deployment, mobility and security, our network design corner stones. The network design must follow the way public safety works and we will augment their existing land mobile radio systems initially.

Security and control requirements will dictate FirstNet deployment of a cyber network that meets our security and access needs for our users. And a key factor is we have excess capacity and it's valuable today and may have more value in the future as the demand increases and new entrance emerge. Biggest challenge is the 60/40 problem. 318 million Americans are served by public safety across 50 states, six territories, and 566 recognized tribal nations. 3.8 million square miles of total geography. 92 percent of that is considered wilderness. So how do we cover that key rural and wilderness component for our public safety users. You can't always plan where the events will happen as seen in California, you have wildfires where there is no coverage. We'll be focusing a lot of technical developments on how we cover those rural and wilderness environments for our systems. We've looked at a range of traditional cellular based solutions down to a mobile coms based solution. Some of the key ones are dense cellular design, using 35,000 sites. This was leveraging a lot of the modeling efforts done over the last year for a 35,000 site deployment. A middle option with 24,000 sites leveraging more of that mobile capabilities and the rural and hybrid approach with 14,000 sites of very thin network with a much more heavily reliance on mobile coms. Those are the three areas we looked at in the roadmap as we're developing that over the last three months. As mentioned, the rural and wilderness environments create very unique challenges but also brings potential for new types of transportable systems so they can bring the network with them for those events that occur in areas where it doesn't make sense to have a site around the clock. There are efforts across several programs that we're fortunate to be able to leverage. DHS Science and Technology, so extending the ranges of these sites considered the high risk sites and how we can leverage that. The high powered devices, that's a standard that has been approved moving forward. So the higher power mobile devices are in that path.

There's other federal entities currently that are going to be proposing initiatives to provide funding for applied research and development and providing these broad band capabilities via manned and unmanned vehicles for different types of scenarios where there's no existing infrastructure and where existing infrastructure has been compromised. Key takeaways for the technical perspective within the modeling are the expenditures. The amount of sites that will be deployed. What it will take to harden those sites to be public safety grade. The deployables approach for the rural and wilderness environments, at the heart of that is or nationwide core methodology and how we'll deploy an evolved packet core. Network operation centers the application platforms and then replacement, how do we roll that into keeping the network refreshed over time. As far as the operational expenditures, back haul is the largest component of overall network cost. Connecting the cellular sites back to the core and transport among the core and different data repositories that public safety will need to do their day to day jobs. The site lease, maintenance, power, satellite subscriptions and user support are also key elements of the operational expenditures. We've got a lot more details that I would request we discuss in closed session moving forward on how we modeled a lot of this into the roadmap. With that I'll stop.

>> A couple questions for you. I understand there was an R and D roadmap session last fall. Could you say a little bit about what was learned at that session?

>> Sure. The R and D workshop held at PSCR really brought together industry, and public safety, to focus on what's our ten years, what's the future ten years for public safety communications not just specific to whether it's narrow band or broadband -- some of the key elements we saw coming out of that discussion were focused around the data intelligence on the back end. How do you get intelligence from all this data being collected and available for them to use more in real time or leading up to the events that they're focused on. It was a fantastic workshop that helped develop a lot of the key priorities that I would suggest the technology committee at FirstNet take as an input for some of those longer term initiatives that will need to be rolled into the network going forward.

>> In fact I want to say we were very encouraged by that work. It's excellent and thankful for the people who spent two and a half days putting that together. So we do plan to partner with PSCR as a technology committee at FirstNet make sure we gather as much that as we can. I understand there's a follow up meeting in the plans. Is that firm now?

>> I won't speak for Derrick but I'll find out. I don't know if that's firm yet. I think they were trying to roll it into the next board meeting but there is a follow up definitely for that.

>> Thank you very much. All right. We have a request to go to the closed session.

>> Move to go to closed session

>> Second.

>> All right. Let's do so. All in favor? Aye. Kevin, did you ever return? Not out there. Okay. Very good. Let's go to closed session.

>> Just for the public that may have not been involved in the last meeting, we're going to be talking about a lot of things that are going to require us to follow the procedure outlined in the statute where we seek a vote to close the meeting for legal and other and procurement matters and things like that. We anticipate we'll be in session for quite some time and while we're in session there will be something on the screen indicating that we're out of session. We will return with a summary of what happened and then move into the next meeting. Thank you.

(Closed session)

>> Welcome back. Just to give you a little bit of feedback here, this is the FirstNet Technology and Planning Committee meeting. During our closed session we reviewed a number of aspects of the program roadmap from many of financial assumptions that go into the equipment and services that we're looking at, the performance criteria, network arrangements. We discussed a wide range of methods to achieve reliability, resilience in the network. A number of technology issues which generally are procurement sensitive so we've worked through those questions this afternoon. Also a number of legal matters, interpretations of the law, particularly surrounding interoperability and how we as FirstNet will work effectively with the state networks. A number of questions and answers with the management team here.

So we've come to the point where we are prepared to take a vote on the resolutions. I'm going to ask the secretary to read the relevant portion of the resolution for us.

>> Now therefore be resolved that its review of the portions of the program roadmap within its subject matter responsibilities, the technology and planning committee hereby recommends to the board that the board authorize management to take such reasonable actions as are necessary to achieve the fiscal year 2014 milestones contained in the program roadmap.

>> Okay. Do I have a motion --

>> Adoption of the resolution.

>> I second that motion.

>> All right. I have a motion and a second. All in favor? Aye. All right. Kevin, are you out there? Okay. All right. We also had one other matter that we wanted to discuss and that was we've had several discussions about the possibility of changing the name of the committee from the Technology and Planning Committee to just the Technology Committee. The feeling of several of the members was that planning was something that was done by all of the committees and it was somewhat confusing to have planning appear in our name and not in the names of others. And our general focus is on technology of all types to support the operations of the FirstNet. So I'd like to see if there's a motion to make a recommendation to the board tomorrow to go ahead and change the committee name to just straight the Technology Committee. Do I have a motion?

>> I move we make a recommendation to the full board to change the name of this committee to the Technology Committee.

>> Second.

>> All right. All in favor? Thank you very much.

All opposed or none left.

Mr. Secretary, I think we're prepared to adjourn the meeting. Is there any other business?

>> Seeing none, is there a motion to adjourn?
>> I move we adjourn
>> Second.
>> All right. Thank you very much for your attendance today, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

(Meeting adjourned)

(Closed session)

>> Thank you Lieutenant. Please thank Ms. Takai for all her time today.
>> Will do.

>> Welcome to the FirstNet Outreach Committee meeting. It's my pleasure as the chair to call the meeting to order. Mr. Secretary, will you please call the roll.
>> Jeff Johnson
>> Here
>> Sue Swenson, Chuck Dowd. He's here. Paul Fitzgerald. Kevin McGinnis. Teri could not be with us. Suzanne Spalding. We have a quorum.
>> We have a quorum. Each member of the committee, your book contains the minutes from our last meeting. Do we have any discussion on the minutes before the chair calls for a motion? Seeing no requested action, chair will entertain a motion to approve the minutes.
>> So moved
>> And a second. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed same sign? Let the record reflect no no votes.

Thank you for getting this all set up for today and I'd like to extend heart felt appreciation to our staff who have really brought us a long ways in terms of planning for our outreach efforts. And I think demonstrative of it is our ability to announce the FirstNet.gov website is up as of right now. And I just want to compliment the team, staff, consultants, board members. It's got a really clean look and it is a great portal for people to get information and to stay current.

And so I'm just very proud of the work you did. Thank you. I think all of us would have liked to have it sooner, but I think this is as quickly as it could have been done.
>> A lot of thanks to the team. It was worked on by a small group of folks who worked hard to make it happen and we're quite pleased with the results and we look forward to leveraging that to get more information out.
>> Mr. Chairman would you mind stating for the webcast viewers the url?
>> FirstNet.gov.
>> Just wanted to make sure people got it.
>> We'll throw that in occasionally.

So let me begin by stating we've been focused on hiring our outreach and consultation staff and finalizing our consultation plan. At this time I'd like to turn it over to TJ Kennedy to provide a report on actions to date.

>> Appreciate the Chair turning the time over. I want to talk about a couple updates on staffing. Five key directors are now in place for the Government Affairs, Outreach Communications State Plans, and State Consultation, and Communications. What's great about that is we now have a core part of the leadership team in place to bring on other key staff and to be able to take what was initially plans being designed, and start working towards more implementation. That's really a great time for us to be able to continue to move forward and shows the progress that we're making.

We've focused on building that leadership team and trying to take the significant planning and turn it into key needs we have for human resources, writing key job descriptions working on the hiring process as well as continuing planning.

Some specific names I think are important for everybody to know that are part of the FirstNet team, David Buchanan, also Amanda Hilliard, and Rich Reed. I don't necessarily apologize, but they are wonderful resource and I'm glad to have them join our team. Cory Ray joining as Director of Communications and also joining us is Ryan Oremland, who came from DHS, as deputy director of communications.

Key resource that is will make the team successful going forward

>> Our loss is the nation's gain and our commitment to this project is such that we're really glad to see good people on board with it.

>> Okay. Thank you. (Laughter).

I think they may be threatening not to steal too many more. I understand that. We've also been participating in a lot of outreach efforts. We had a great meeting with the National League of Cities yesterday. They're a nationwide gathering in DC. We also just finished an outreach for regions 1 through 5 along with the SLIGP Office from NTIA to give more information on what's happening across the eastern states and actually starting later on tomorrow we'll have our meetings in Phoenix with the western region so we'll be meeting with our team over the next couple days. We're glad to continue outreach efforts. The monthly calls we've been having with the state points of contacts have been very informative to them as well as the quarterly webinars we've put together to continue to push good information out to everybody. Now that we have our new website up it gives a greater opportunity to put even more information out there.

One of the things I wanted to go over today and we have of a slide for the preliminary consultation state plan process, for the folks in the room on the back, if we can make that slide published, that would be great, and put that online. I wanted to walk through the work the state consultation team has been doing to get ready and bring everybody up to date on the state consultation plan. Although this is preliminary, this shows some of the great work being done to get the key definition of where we're going.

This document is the currently proposed process for the FirstNet consultation and state plan development process. Provides the path from initial consultation to delivery of a state plan which you can see on the far right of the diagram. With details about key steps. The process flow, and the roles and responsibilities for FirstNet as well as the states. It shows a schedule for the process, including technical and operational tracks and dependencies that may impact the process. This interactive process should give states multiple opportunities to enhance and improve draft state plans. For some background on what we did to work through this, we broke down four major phases that happened prior to getting to a state plan. In December we released the four phase consultation process at our last board meeting. Since that time we've been working a number of the key details that get below that. So just for refresher the initial consultation, preliminary design review, intermediate design review and final plan review. What you can see across the top of this going from left to right. It also provides additional details on each phase showing dependencies on the state consultation process.

As far as the schedule dating back to the FirstNet regional workshops that Jeff Johnson and others held last year, states have been asking for a schedule to better understand the process to plan accordingly. Although specific dates and timelines aren't shown, the chart displays activities that will occur throughout the FirstNet consultation process. This will help states understand the necessary steps to develop a state plan and how states plan their phase one and for the future phase two activities.

As far as roles and responsibilities, states have asked for defined roles. This process flow should show both FirstNet lanes and technical and user requirements and business case as well as consultation lane. Color coded with a legend in the lower right showing the responsible party for each activity. As we go through this, FirstNet will make the consultation process both iterative and interactive. As shown, there will be several meetings, many of which will be face-to-face between FirstNet teams and states to ensure open lines of communication and good face-to-face discussion. This will provide multiple opportunities for each state to show its draft plan and work through different steps as it evolves and it's refined. Leading into each major meeting, materials will be provided in advance for states to circulate and review. Additionally upon completion of each meeting, states will be provided guidance on next steps and be able

to review any new materials added to the draft state plan. The state plan will continue to grow with each meeting.

As far as technical and operational tracts, FirstNet has divided the process to cover technical and operational business information in separate tracks. Key technical considerations such as RAN and core design coverage, site selection, partnerships, will be addressed in the technical track. Additionally topics such as potential users, adoption assumptions, security considerations, priority and training will also be addressed during the operational and business tracks. As far as stakeholder input being critical to inform this process, FirstNet recognizes several key stakeholder groups that will provide valuable input throughout the process are critical to the success of the program. Public Safety Advisory Committee is a critical resource that will be leveraged fully as we move forward. Tribal and federal inputs are also unique users that be given careful consideration to inform the plans.

NTIA and the funds that it provides to states to actively participate in the process are also partners. Thus close alignment with the partners is critical to ensure a successful consultation process. Key public safety organizational inputs and standards groups are also important to this process and we are looking at the launch requirements and APCO hardening requirements and we are also looking at how do we incorporate those in the process and make sure we leverage all the hard work that's been done. As far as the legislative requirements FirstNet has thoroughly reviewed the law to ensure all components required in the law for the consultation process are part of this process you see here today. These components are called out as separate tasks, topics of discussion for meetings and appropriate milestones that need to happen during the process. In addition to what's required by the law FirstNet is addressing additional components of the nationwide buildout that would be included in the state plan presented to each state. The entire process culminates with creation of a state plan that we've worked on together allowing each state to make an informed opt-in/ opt-out decision. This will be an iterative process with emphasis on frequent open communications with FirstNet, states and the stakeholder groups as well as public safety agencies across the country.

>> Excellent. Any questions or discussion?

>> Yes. Great, great roadmap here. I think it's probably helpful to know what's coming. One of the things I noticed on here, it says 'send initial consultation checklist'. That's one of the first things that's done. Can you give kind of a sense of what's on that checklist and what a state would have to be ready to do at the first meeting? I'm just not that familiar with the --

>> Sure. We briefed some of the draft elements in the checklist at our meeting two weeks ago. What do they have in place for governance process, how are they communicating with stakeholders, how did they get information out to make sure rural stakeholders as well as police, fire, and different disciplines have active participation and just elements like that as far as where they're at. Some of them whether or not they've completed a coverage workshop, just trying to get an assessment of where each state is at. Everybody's in a slightly different place. Those are the kind of things that were on the checklist. That list will have two elements, a top part that will be in the more mandatory category and bottom part which will be recommended.

>> Great. Thank you.

>> Anything further? Well, you can sure tell that we're starting to get staff on board because the quality of the work, the clarity, the detail, it's really reflected in what you're putting out here. I think most importantly I think it tells our partners, our states, industry that's waiting for us to paint a picture, starts to paint that picture. Do we know whether this will be up on the website?

>> I believe this will be up no later than tomorrow.

>> Thank you. Anything further or from the phones? Yes, sir?

>> So let me thank staff. You say outreach is a pretty general word but it means a lot and it's in my travels in the industry and thinking about the amount of travel as a new director, I was saying everywhere I go I see FirstNet presenting. Pretty much anything to do with public safety or public policy, and being that we've not got up to full staff yet I thank staff because that's a lot of travel. You're making an impact from the feedback we're getting from the industry is very positive. Congratulations. Thank you for that great work.

>> Appreciate the feedback.

>> Thank you. Kevin, do you have anything?

>> No, sir.

>> All right. Thank you. Especially being Outreach Committee, our goal is to put as much business as we can in the view of the interested parties of FirstNet. That being said, however, there's some business that must be done out of the public view. We'll make that as short and concise as possible for those watching today. But Mr. Secretary, will you please outline the procedures.

>> This is the procedure that was outlined for some of the other committees. We're going to be taking a vote of the committee to close the session down to talk about some legal matters, some procurement sensitive matters. And as the chair has indicated, we're going to make that as brief as possible and only cover those things outlined in the statute that allow us to close our meeting. After that, the meeting will be brought back into session. Those of you that are watching the webcast will be able to see on the screen that we're in closed session and we'll open up as soon as we can.

>> Thank you. With that explanation the Chair would entertain a motion to close the meeting.

>> So moved

>> We have a motion. We have a second. Discussion on the motion? All those in favor of the motion say aye. Opposed? Same sign. Any listed abstentions? At this time I'd like AV staff to close the meeting and give us the high sign when we've done that.

(Closed session)

>> We should be back online. I want to thank everybody viewing us from a distance for your patience as we work through our homework here. We reviewed the procurement legal issues surrounding our FirstNet Program Roadmap that relate to the charter of the outreach committee. Including certain procurement requirements related to our ability -- reliability, resiliency and the need to keep our costs as low as possible for public safety. Through our procurement strategy, and discussed the procurement requirements related to the technology and some other legal considerations.

At this time the chair would entertain a motion on a resolution. This would be listed as Resolution 1, Outreach Committee resolution, and Mr. Secretary, if you would be willing to read the operative phrase of that resolution.

>> Now therefore be it resolved based on its review of those portions of the Program Roadmap, within its subject matter responsibilities, the Outreach Committee hereby recommends to the Board that the Board authorize management to take such reasonable actions that are necessary to achieve the fiscal year 2014 milestones contained in the Program Roadmap.

>> Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

>> Mr. Chairman, so moved

>> We have a motion and a second. Do we have a discussion on the motion? All those in favor of the motion say aye. Opposed? Are there any abstentions? I'd also like to note that at the culmination -- from the committee's perspective, at the culmination of tomorrow's Board meeting, we would like to encourage the staff and the Board to further strengthen our work products by adding dates and points of accountability that make sense to the general public to any document that's reasonable to include that in, and so I think we'll communicate that to the Chairman, and staff is here to hear it. So I think that's an important perspective from the Outreach Committee.

Any other matters to come before the Outreach Committee before we adjourn? Hearing none the Chair would entertain a motion to adjourn?

>> So moved

>> Second.

>> Discussion on the motion? All those in favor of adjournment say aye. Opposed same sign. Any abstentions? Motion carries, thank you. We can go ahead and close the AV.

(Closed session)

>> Chairman thank you for scheduling me right between the last committee meeting and people's dinner. Call the roll please.

>>

>> We've got a quorum. First order of business for the Finance Committee will be to have a look at the minutes of our last Finance Committee meeting. They're in the binder. Are there any questions on the minutes? Sam moved to approve the minutes. Sue seconded it. Any discussion? All in favor of approving the minutes? Any abstentions? Okay. The minutes are approved.

Uzoma, you're going to hopefully, after Randy tells us about the mechanics of this committee meeting, they're similar to the mechanics of the last one.

>> I'm happy to be here. What I'd like to do first is give an overview of what I plan to discuss with the committee today. There's three main areas. The first is to give a sense of the process we've gone through in looking at the roadmap from a financial modeling standpoint. The second thing I'd like to discuss is an update on financial management issues within FirstNet and my office, and third I'd like to talk about our work going forward. The first topic is the roadmap. What we've been doing there. What we've been doing is a detailed modeling of revenues, costs, and the net resources that would be available to FirstNet under a wide range of scenarios. We've been looking at different technical solutions and what that means in a variety of network densities from a traditional cellular density like this to one more based on vehicle-based systems or mobile communications. Second we've been looking at different kinds of market conditions, things that would affect user fees or costs, things that might affect value of excess capacity. And third we've looked at different approaches to handling covered leasing agreements or partnerships, different kinds of partnership models and looked at all of those different kinds of scenarios in all the different kinds of combinations. And looked at sensitivities, both we looked at base cases which we view as our expected situation but also optimistic and pessimistic situations. A lot of different scenarios we've been looking at. It's been an excellent team effort both my team which is relatively small but also the entire leadership team drawing on everybody's experience and it's been really a very good experience.

Our goal in doing this is to develop approaches that offer the most value for public safety while still being financially sustainable.

So that's the north star that's guiding us.

We've been testing the viability of our business model, trying to surface risks by doing this and see which things create a lot of sensitivity and also opportunities, which kinds of -- which important elements we have a lot of control over or maybe some control over. So your investment in them or the way we handle them or structural things can affect our outcomes.

So to talk a little bit more about the revenue side, the types of things we've looked at, first our user fees. We've looked very carefully at the composition of the different public safety segments. We've built this up from looking at police, fire, EMS and then some of the less traditional kinds of users whether it's hospital emergency rooms or National Guard, transportation authorities, -- trying to get a handle of the full universe of potential users out there. We've considered different usage scenarios for the different types of segments because they have different patterns of usage, numbers of devices to the extent they're mobile based, centered on a fire truck as opposed to on a beat cop. We've looked at the number of devices, looked at tethering of devices that might key off a primary device and different kind of data use.

And we have thought about the different kinds of pricing that might apply in those different scenarios.

We've had the benefit of tremendous expertise in this area both from TJ who brings a tremendous background in this and his team which now leverages people from emergency communications at DHS who've joined us. We have a lot of data going into that as well.

We have thought about pricing and market pricing to get a sense of what people are facing. And we've also recognized the pricing could change over time in part due to suggestions we've received through some of our earlier review with Finance Committee and other Board members to say make sure you consider that issue. A second major component of our available resources is to negotiate the government funding. So we've taken a close look at auction revenues and our expectation about those and the timing of those auction revenues. That's actually something we feel very confident about.

There's a lot that's scheduled to be auctioned, with that spectrum being able to support FirstNet so we think we're in very good situation there.

Finally we've looked at the value of excess capacity and we've looked at market transactions there and other kinds of indicators to give us a sense of what kinds of market value we might get there and also thought very carefully about the cost synergies from a partnership. Not just pure value of the spectrum but also kind of by working with the partner, can we save on our investment because in an alternative scenario we would both be buying separate but if we only the need one piece of equipment or service can we share. We've gone through that in great detail particularly with Bill and other members of the technical team, thinking about how that might be split.

On a cost side, we thought of course about both capital and operating expenses. When we thought about capital we looked at the radio access network, equipment there at the cell sites which is a big driver of capital costs. We looked at hardening costs and costs of the core, the network core, network operating centers, deployables and mobile communication systems. In all of this I think it's very important, one of our big assumptions has been we've been recapitalizing the network every year. Our assumption is we're leaving a brand new network in every year of operation. So at the end of ten years we're not leaving something that's ten years old and not new, -- rather we've been replenishing that. That's an important cost consideration. On the operating side we've looked at back-haul. We've looked at site leases, maintenance, power, the user support and the program management, central offices that we would need.

I guess I would say, in almost all of these cases different kinds of technologies and so on.

In terms of our process we started with the work that was done over the past year. So we built on the work of the prior -- consulting team that we worked on for a little over a year. We vetted these things with other experts, the cost elements in particular but also the user side, the revenue issues. We reviewed work the FCC has done, their cost model, we've looked at -- we had an independent cost review done by the Department of Commerce when we went through a review exercise within the department this past summer. We've been looking at market research, which is hugely important because you could do all the modeling in the world and the real test of this is ultimately going to be in the real world, and so through our market research we're also gaining some important vetting of our assumptions.

And, finally, we've iterated in part because of things we've heard. Through market research and requests from Board members to look at different types of scenarios. And put together a risk register. So that gives an overview of the kinds of things we've been looking at in terms of the roadmap.

>> You started out by saying that we've looked at a lot of different models. Since I've been working with you I'm familiar with this. I think it's important to mention that we're looking at coverage as the key factor. So when we look at models, it's going to be different than what maybe others had, because our mandate is coverage. So we have urban and rural and we need to have a same priority for rural as we do for urban. That's what makes this unique, and that's something that we have to take into consideration that others might not. I know you know that, but --

>> It's a very important thing. And even in our -- when I say a more traditional cellular network, we actually complement that with a type of mobile communication solution so we're paying attention to very rural areas and even wilderness areas with satellite. In fact all the scenarios have a satellite component. So I'll switch gears and talk about some of the financial management things we're working on.

So we're developing a detailed spend plan for 2014 for the remainder of the fiscal year and we'll give a preview of our thinking on that later this afternoon. We'd anticipate providing a final piece of work in about two weeks after we've gotten some impact from a midcourse checking of our thinking. The second thing we're working on is we're working with NTIA to take on increasing responsibility for our own budget execution. Up to this point NTIA has handled all of our budget execution and the accounting types of issues that go with that. We've brought aboard great staff with a lot of experience in budget execution and they are now being trained by NTIA in NTIA processes and we expect that handoff to occur over a period of weeks. It's a core belief of NTIA and of the FirstNet that everything be done on a highly accurate basis and these are not things that -- certification is not something that's done lightly. We have very good people that are doing that. That brings me to the staffing, where I've got to say I am so

pleased with the outstanding staff that we've recruited and you folks have had a chance to meet some of them. I've got two deputies. Dave Socolof for financial management with an excellent history in the department, also worked at OMB so he's got a good perspective thereto, and then John Quinlan who's been helping me with financial modeling. He worked with us at OMB at lead analyst for telecommunications and been just a really integral part of what we've been doing. People who have worked with those folks know how much fun they are. And also Ron Dabrowski is an adjunct member of the team in our Office of Acquisition Management, brings a wealth of experience as a seasoned executive in the procurement area. I want to go to a level below that to give you a sense. We've hired a budget director Alice who's come from Treasury where she was a budget director for two offices which had a very -- their responsibility was sound financial management. She was the director for that. A very good person in that area. Not only that, she helped establish some of those offices. So she was interested in being in a start-up organization. She understands the excitement that this is not a business as usual kind of environment. She's been doing a great job. We've brought aboard Matt a former director of corporate development in the industry. Knows the sector well. We brought a very bright accountant aboard who has major experience as well as telecommunications experience and government experience. That's really a great thing to have there. We're bringing aboard a very bright modeling economist to supplement our spreadsheet type of work. We've got an analyst who's done work with venture capital as a consultant. We've got quite a good team. We've been able to recruit extremely well. And these people, it's not just these kind of qualifications, but it's that they work well together, they have got judgment, it's a very nice situation. I couldn't be happier. Our ability to recruit has been outstanding. The other thing that we're doing is on the compliance side and I'm really fortunate to have as my suite mate our Chief Counsel, Stuart. We're working hard to establish what I think is just an outstanding compliance framework which Stuart brings from his corporate experience and it's just been wonderful. I thought we in government had a good framework and Stuart's standards are extremely high looking at the largest companies in the world, kind of models that we ought to be following. And that's -- he suggested establishing a compliance committee which consists of leadership team, including Frank Freeman or so we really have people dealing day to day with everything. All kinds of procurements. Big issues. And we've discussed policies and different kinds of compliance policies. And finally, training, which we saw a little bit of this morning, that's a central part of a good compliance program. So Stuart, anything you --

>> I think you summarized it well. We're going to implement a compliance program that will take into account the fact that we function a little bit like a corporation, a little bit like a federal agency, and a little bit like a startup. So we have to contend with all three of those environments and we're going to try to stand up an organization that can meet that test.

>> Great. Going forward, what we see over the next few months for us, first we're going to be refining the roadmap and doing additional work on it, look at additional scenarios, additional kinds of business models. Second, at some point you hope we'll pivot to the RFP process and then eventually the evaluation of what comes in from that process, and then finally we'll be developing a 2015 budget which I anticipate presenting to the Board in the June -- for the June meeting.

>> Well, much of what you produce is discussed in executive session and in closed session. But Randy in a short period of time, what you and the management team have turned out has been fantastic.

The modeling, the analysis, the 250-page version, the 14-page version, which synthesizes the 252 pages. My hat is off to you and your team. In all the meetings we conducted at part of the finance committee in looking at these materials, we were uniformly impressed. Not just the amount of time but with relatively small staff that you have. So it's a shame really to some degree that the public can't see as much of this as we can, but I'm sure I speak for the Finance Committee in thanking you for your hard work

>> As you know, Tim, I work a lot with the finance committee and with Randy and John in particular, particularly through this roadmap process, and having worked with a lot of financial people in my career. Very impressed with the quality of your work and the quality of your staff. So I appreciate your responsiveness, timeliness, accuracy of the work. It just makes our job as Board members much, much easier because I know I can depend on the quality. So thank you to you and all your staff.

>> Thank you.

>> Having said all those nice words about this work product that you produced, Uzoma, you have a few words for us

>> For those who may have just joined us, we're now going to be taking a vote to move into closed session. That is a provision that comes out of the statute that allows us to do so. Particularly when

there's financial matters that are being discussed which will be discussed as well as legal and procurement issues. So the Chair will call for a vote, we'll close the session, turn off the AV for a moment and then we'll reconvene for the public session when we're done.

>> So having heard from Uzoma, I would entertain a motion. All in favor? Any opposed or abstentions? Hearing none, we will close the meeting. Thank you.

(Closed session)

>> Okay. Well, good evening, folks. We're back in the webcast, and I'll give you a short report of what we talked about while we were in closed session. As expected, we talked a lot about the financial modeling and the roadmap that Randy, Bill, and Stuart have presented to us. We considered all sorts of aspects related thereto, the risks, opportunities, all of the categories that Randy was kind enough to discuss with us in the public session.

And I think our goal is similar to the other committees, to consider a resolution that would support the management team in executing against this roadmap and then just to give you a sneak preview of tomorrow that will go to the Board, the Board will consider that resolution or the resolutions of all the committees in passing its own resolution to support the management team in these activities who will then work with the Finance Committee as we did earlier in this fiscal year to lay out a budget memo and prioritizations and work streams and the dollars associated with those work streams. So that's what we talked about in the committee during the closed session. Any other comments from any committee members? We have a resolution to pass on our own here. And it's in our binders. And Uzoma if you would be kind enough to read the language of this resolution.

>> This language may be familiar for folks who have been with us. Now therefore be it resolved that based on its review of those portions of the Program Roadmap within its subject matter responsibilities, the Finance Committee hereby recommends to the Board that the Board authorize management to take such reasonable actions as are necessary to achieve the fiscal year 2014 milestones contained in the Program Roadmap.

>> Thank you, Uzoma.

>> I move we adopt.

>> Second.

>> Ed moves, Sue seconds. Any discussion? All in favor of the resolution say aye. Any abstentions or nays? The resolution passes. And now for the last official act of the day I'll entertain a motion to adjourn

>> I move we adjourn

>> I second that.

>> A lot of -- I'm going to guess we have all ayes but can we vote on that please? And no abstentions or nays. Okay. We're going to close Finance Committee. Thanks, everybody, very much for your time and attention during this long day. I appreciate it.

(Adjourned)