

NTIA Meeting
December 17, 2013

>> Okay, operator, we are convened here in Denver. Are we on? Great. Good morning. Sam, the lines are open, the webcast is on, would you like to open the Board Meeting this morning?

>> Yes. Hello, everyone this, is Sam Ginn, attend Thanksgiving meeting by telephone because of a sinus problem. I will be attending the meeting by phone. I'd like to start out by saying that I've ask Sue to chair this meeting.

In addition, I have appointed Sue as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors because a couple of important things that we need to get done over the next three to six months. We need to define our relationships with NTIA and other Federal Departments a lot better than they have been defined in the past. And secondly, the fundamental planning, overarching planning of the complex network needs oversight and work and I have asked Sue to take on that responsibility. Sue, good luck on all that and thank you for sitting in my chair for this meeting. I'm here if I can help in any way.

>> Excuse me, (inaudible) joined.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Thank you, Sam. Glad that you are feeling better, sorry you are not here today. The public will also notice we have some Board members missing from being here, we have quite a few board members on the phone. I'll ask Secretary to take role and make sure who we are -- there are travel issues and some is weather on the East Coast, we have people being challenged by the weather. Will you take role, please.

>> Barry Boniface. Tim Bryan. Chuck Dowd.

>> Here.

>> Greg Farrill, Paul Fitzgerald. Sam Ginn.

>> Here.

>> Jeff Johnson.

>> Here.

>> Kevin McGinnis. Ed Reynolds. Sue Swenson.

>> Here.

>> Teri Takai.

>> Here.

>> Wellington Webb.

>> Here.

>> Ron Davis.

>> Here.

>> Brian Deed.

>> Here.

>> Suzanne Spaulding.

>> Madam chair, we have a quorum.

>> Thank you very much. Before we get started this morning, we have a special guest here, we're delighted to be here in Denver, as you know one Board Member former mayor of Denver, Wellington Webb, appreciate your hospitality, what we really appreciate in particular is the delightful weather that you have afforded us during our visit. I think I heard on the news this morning we were compete /W-G Invega Sustenna for a high temperature. So thank you for that. I want to turn the floor over to you, Mayor, introduce the special guest this morning.

>> Thank you very much, it's a real pleasure for the Board to be here in Denver, extremely happy about that. We have special guests, Fire Chief for the City and County of Denver. Denver is a city in the county same geographic boundary, as well as school district, as well. And his name is Eric Tate, I've known Eric for a long time. I did not have the pleasure of appointing him, the new mayor -- previous mayor appointed him fire chief. He wanted to make brief remarks, I'd like Eric to come up at this time.

>> Right down here. Right there.

>> First of all, welcome. I want to update the FirstNet board where we are in Colorado. One thing I'm excited to tell you, we have our governance board up and running and as of last week I'm care of the FirstNet board of governance. Nice thing, we took some guidance from you and made sure our governing board is basically check list of every stake holder that we're going to see touching FirstNet. We have cities, we have counties, we have police, fire, EMS, we have the tribal and rural representative on our Board. We also very deep in the Slip P process, we are finalizing hiring of state wide broadband coordinator and outreach coordinator. So while we're well down that road, what we want to share is what we see as huge opportunity for FirstNet to have early successes in the state of Colorado and primarily because of infrastructure that already exists here. As most of you are aware, Adams County is a B-Top project, a system virtually ready to go, flip the switch and can operate today. The nice thing about that, it actually ties into some towers in the city and county of Denver. As you know, that is significant challenge in that. Those towers in Denver are tied into our fiber system. Denver is a hub for fiber, basically for entire country. Seeing FirstNet will have significant operations here in Boulder, we believe we have a system that is ready to turn on with scalability fairly simple. We can cover a large percentage of the population in Colorado. We think in a rapid format. We think with Boulder operation they can actually monitor that and we can all start learning from early successes, but we're sure we will hit the challenges. Because we have the significant fiber infrastructure here, Adams County project, Boulder, closely work with us, we think success, because of some of the unique challenges of Colorado, it helps address some challenges we'll see throughout the nation and why we have a dense metro area we have significant rural populations, significant geo graphical challenge with the mountains and Colorado being a home rural state, so municipality home ruled, we will see the challenge of working through the governance issues. We like to see this opportunity, though, if we can get it right here and get early successes in Colorado and the metro area, we think that will set the stage and model for rolling throughout the rest of the country,

What we want to express to you guys, we're up and running and really looking to partner with FirstNet and I think we're well situated to bring our successes to the program.

>> Sue Swenson: I appreciate you being here today. Great to meet you briefly last night. We agree with you about the benefit of early successes and look forward to working with you. Is there anybody else who would like to ask the Chief any questions this morning or make any comments?

>> I'd just like to thank you as fellow fire chief, thank you for your leadership. And evolving our profession into being more technologically advanced and embracing what technology will bring to public safety as a whole. I want to personally thank you for your leadership, your presence here today says a lot.

>> Thank you.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Go ahead.

>> Chief, I'd just like to say, both a pleasure to meet you last night, to dig deeper into the work you are doing with your Committee. I really believe that what you are doing in terms of aligning Colorado is one of the models that we'll be following to help us as we move forward. It was a pleasure to work with the ad com team and to understand their process and the way they approach this process and we see a lot of benefit from that. Thank you and the team for pulling all that together with us.

>> Thank you.

>> Yes.

>> This is chuck.

>> Go ahead, chuck.

>> Thank you. I just want to -- just comment and the importance of involvement of Chief Executives like Chief is if is gratifying to me personally and I know to those of us in public safety that have involved with this effort for the last five or six years to see the transition from folks looking at it quizzically like what were we talking about to the kind of conversation or comments that Chief (inaudible) just made. That is what is happening. What we think like Chief Tate and others in public safety, they get this now, they get the importance. That is not where they were six years ago. Thanks for that, very gratifying to see that level of understanding of this and the understanding of the importance of it. So thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Again thanks for being here and we look forward to working with you.

>> Thank you very much.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Before we get into the business of the meeting, I wanted to officially welcome two new board members. We had meetings yesterday, this is our first board meeting to my right, Barry Boniface, glad to have you on the board and to my right, Ron Davis, glad to have you on the board, Ron. Thank you for your contributions thus far, appreciate it. First order of business, approval of the minutes. I think you all have copies of the minutes from several meetings and want to open up for any questions or comments about the minutes and if none, I'd like to entertain motion to approve them.

>> I'll move motion to approve the minutes as written.

>> Second.

>> Second. All in favor?

>> Aye.

>> Opposed, same sign. Then approved. Thank you very much.

For those of you who observed our committee meetings yesterday, you realize that we've been evolving over the last several months into a committee structure, our Chairman put that in place several months ago and we appointed Commit Chairs and members of those committees who would best serve in each of the respective committees, four committees, Governance and Personnel, Finance, Audit and Budget, technology and Planning. We did quite a work over the last several months and met yesterday to talk about the charter and specific duties of those committees.

So we have a resolution here to approve the different charters of the Committees, but what we would first like to do, ask each of the Chairs to read out briefly the outcome from yesterday's meetings, particularly for those people who didn't attend the Committee Meeting. Chuck, you are on the phone, could you give us quick read out of the Governance and Personnel committee?

>> Chuck Dowd: So, Sue, you want me to list the members of the Board on the committee?

>> Sue Swenson: You tell us whatever you want to tell us, Chuck.

>> Chuck Dowd: So on the Governance and Personnel Committee, we have Mr. Sam Ginn, the Chair of the committee, we have Teri Takai, mayor Wellington Webb, Tim Bryan and Barry Boniface.

And regarding the Charter for the Governance and Personnel Committee, we're going to have six board responsibilities as delineated in the document, including those for those that weren't available yesterday, recommend Board governance and procedure, this Board make informed decisions in best interest. Coordinate management --

>> Sue Swenson: Chuck, could you get closer, you are cut nothing and out, we're having trouble hearing you.

>> Is that better, Sue?

>> Much better.

>> Chuck Dowd: I apologize.

>> Thanks for coming out of your cave.

>> Chuck Dowd: Sorry. Yeah, just going back, the committee duties and responsibilities, the core responsibilities for the committee as they are delineated in the charter, again, recommend to the Board policies and procedures to assist the board to make core decisions, in FirstNet's best interest, coordinate,

management and committee chairs to ensure that board briefings, committee meetings are organized, clear transparent and adhere to our governance procedures.

Oversee policy and procedure for compliance with applicable Federal requirements; seek diversity in the management team for FirstNet; review and approve compensation of performance early process for the general manager and his direct reports; and one of the other duties we have actually been perfecting for some time specifically is and that is to review perspective candidates for the Board, general Manager and direct reports to the General Manager and to make recommendations on those to the Board.

That kind of it in a nutshell. I think I'll leave it there, obviously the document is available for review by anybody that wants to see it, it is a public document and so available, I believe on the FirstNet website.

>> Sue Swenson: Yeah, we'll be posting those today. Thank you, Chuck. Tim Bryan, how about the finance committee?

>> Tim Bryan: Okay, Sue, Finance Committee met yesterday, Finance Committee members are Tim, Sam, Ed Reynolds, Brian Meredith, Jeff Johnson and yourself, Sue. So our Committee yesterday talked about our charter, that will be displayed obviously, but as the Finance Committee is fairly aptly named, discussing things like budgets, long-term financing, partnering strategy, variety of financial matters that might come before FirstNet. Yesterday we took a presentation from the management team on Lease for ad com in New Jersey, you will see our handy work there and further down the agenda. Phil and Randy and Dave gave us financial review, much along the lines of how we do it and we'll look at it internally.

We closed the meeting to discuss procurement sensitive and to make issues, as well. So that's a read out on what we did, I think most of the Board was here yesterday and heard that.

>> Sue Swenson: Right. Good.

>> That is what we accomplished.

>> Thank you, Mr. Johnson, outreach.

>> Thank you, madam chair, it is Outreach Committee, Mr. Davis to my right, Suzanne Spaulding, who is on the phone, Teri Takai, Sue Swenson, (inaudible) and Chief McGinnis and Dowd, along with myself. The Outreach Committee in short, our job is to create the bridge between the view of the Board of directors and the staff, as it relates to outreach and consultation, creating vision there that reflects the Board, aiding staff in terms of what we see and contributing to that effort, as well as creating visibility in FirstNet and creating a communications portal that is robust in both directions.

Essentially there are four primary areas of responsibility to oversee management outreach plans and that is all aspects, to review and approve regional outreach structure, to review management proposed network policy regarding user, coverage, preemption, priority, etcetera, and review management primary material communications plan. So we look forward to this assignment. We are excited about -- excited about the team that we're developing and putting together, we're really excited about the engagement of the P-Sack and the engagement of public safety at the state, territory and common wealth level. We're excited to do our work, thank you, Madam Chair and Mr. Chairman.

>> Great. Thank you, Jeff. Craig, technology and planning.

>> Thank you, Sue. We had an excellent meeting yesterday, as well, and our Committee is Barry Boniface, to my left here, Suzanne Spaulding, who is on the phone with us today, Kevin McGinnis and also Ed Reynolds, who was absent yesterday. We discussed one of (inaudible) yesterday, went over the agenda, sorry, went over the charter and talked about the roles that we will play and I direct these in two different areas for those listening out there. We do have an oversight role to work with management on the network and technology strategy, longer term road map for the organization, but we also serve as consultant support for both the board and the management team and the mix of backgrounds that come together on this group, I'm excited to work with each of the members. We are most at the beginning working on network and technology strategies for the mid to longer term. So you can read that as a two to five years out bill in the team are busy and focused on current things and we want to work with their group focused on the future. At the same time, have a focus on current technology decisions with suppliers partners, with directions on technology, particularly as we look at private/public partnerships and supplier selection.

So those are two of the key things that we'll be doing between the Board and also the management team. Then we intend to work with Tim and the Finance Committee to support the technology dimensions of financial plans and key business relationships that we put together here at FirstNet. Also to work with Jeff and the outreach committee on the technical aspects of outreach, with 56 states and territories and 60,000 agencies we have a large job to do at FirstNet to make sure that our technology decisions and our technology strategies fit with the future and provide a cost effective, yet high performance public safety environment for our user community out there.

And the last area is kind of a fun one. This has to do with actually promoting innovation and promoting collaboration between innovators in the public safety space. Over the past six months we've seen a lot of great innovations in software, hardware, suppliers bringing great implication services, products to market, to assist first responders in public safety and we'd like to promote that here at FirstNet. One of the things we'll be doing on technology committee is recognizing individual contributions, small organizations, start-ups, universities, suppliers, of all different kinds. Hardware, software, mobile devices and we want to promote those types of new devices in the public safety community and also to recognize hard-working public safety employees who come up with great innovations and those things can be put into this network that we're building and shared with the rest of the public safety users around the country. So we're excited about what is coming up and this was our first public meeting, we plan to have our future public meetings in concert with the Board and so we look forward to speaking with you more at that time. Thank you.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Thank you, Craig. All the board members I believe have received the charters and substantially the same form as was circulated. You have received copies of those based on yesterday's discussion. Like to open it up for any further comments, consideration of the charters and if there are none, then would like the Secretary to read resolution to adopt the Charter. Secretary, would you read the operative part?

>> Whereas August 13, 2013, Chairman Ginn, named initial members of four Board Committees, whereas committee structure will help advance the efforts of FirstNet and provide guidance and over site to the management team. Now therefore be it resolved the FirstNet board hereby approves charters of the Governance and Personnel, Finance, Outreach and Technology and Planning Committees.

>> Sue Swenson: And do I have a motion to approve? Thank you, Teri.

>> Second.

>> Thank you, Wellington Webb. Those in favor? Opposed same sign? We have charters. I just want to thank everybody for the hard work on that. Just one comment about the charter and we really did discuss this yesterday, is that this obviously is not a static organization or a static project, so the charters that you see today, we will review those on a periodic basis and consider whether or not those need to be modified as most peep dole with charters. This will guide us for the next foreseeable period and adjust them as necessary. Another order of business is to take a look at our bylaws, things have changed since the bylaws were originally put together and so we've taken a look at those in consideration of the charter and other changes and new chief counsel, Stuart Kupinsky, welcome, to the FirstNet management team. If you could give us update on the bylaws we'd appreciate it.

>> Stuart Kupinsky: Certainly, thank you. The primary changes in the bylaws are simple conforming amendment to allow for the charters to control the primary substance of what the committee will be doing and so the duties listed in each of the charters will form the basis for Committee duties going forward and the bylaws simply point to those charters and in some respect incorporate those duties by reference into the bylaws. There were some other minor amendments to the bylaws that, for example, paved the way for unanimous written consent in a form that was a little bit more amenable to the ministerial process, if you will, no other substantive change to the bylaws.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Any questions from any of the Board Members on the change? We have a resolution, Pam, did you have something? No, you looked like you were getting ready --

>> Getting ready to make the motion.

>> Great. Thank you. So we have a resolution to consider, so --

>> Whereas December 17, 2013, the FirstNet Board adopted charter of the Governance and Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Outreach Committee and Planning and Technology and Planning Committee, whereas FirstNet board determined it will not utilize execute every committee whereas FirstNet board seeks other clarification to bylaws, now therefore be it resolved the FirstNet board hereby modified bylaws and they will be attached to this resolution.

>> Sue Swenson: Mr. --

>> All right, I guess I'm ready now, I will make the motion to approve the resolution.

>> Thank you.

>> Second.

>> Craig, thank you very much. And all those in favor?

>> Aye.

>> All those opposed, same sign? Resolution passed.

The next order of business is personally very exciting for me, having spent good portion of this year working on the B-Top negotiations as we heard from our guests this morning. So what I'd like, Bill, if you wouldn't mind take a couple minutes to let us know where we are on couple projects that potentially the Board is going to consider adopting today.

>> Thank you, Madam Chairman, we are happy this morning to put in front of the Board the management's recommendation to move forward and approve two additional B-Tops. One would be Adam's County and one would be New Jersey. The Adams County project has some significant benefits relative to our proximity to PSCR, ability to utilize a real life realtime network to test additional features and functionality and the New Jersey B-Top project will enable us to look very closely at the ability to utilize deployables to provide service and recover service and that will be a very important part of our operational capability as we move forward. So we are very pleased to recommend both of those.

In addition, Madam Chairman, we would ask the Board consider approving the extension of Harris County, their agreement with us until February 24th, which is consistent with the FCC stay that has been extended for them, as well.

So those are the items in front of the Board from our perspective relative to B-Top.

>> Great. Just a couple comments, just for clarification. Bill is reporting out on the negotiations, but I want to thank T.J. Kennedy, who is very involved in the last several months and several members of the NTIA staff who have been working with T.J. to make that happen. I want to thank the jurisdictions who continue to work with us to find a way to make these happen. So very much appreciate that work and we're excited about what is going to happen with those, thank you very much. Also, just point of clarification that T.J. recused himself from one of the transactions as I want to make sure the public is aware he was not involved in that particular negotiation, in case there are any questions about that.

Resolution for consideration, Mr. Secretary, would you -- let's do read them separately and let's approve them separately if we could, thank you.

>> Secretary: I'll keep this brief. This is resolution 48, I'm sorry, what resolution is this? 49 actually. And now therefore be it resolved FirstNet board hereby approves the Spectrum Management Lease agreement with the Adams County Communication Center Inc., b-top recipient and authorizes General Manager to execute the agreement on FirstNet behalf.

>> Sue, I'd like to move that one.

>> I thought you might want to, Mayor.

>> It came to me out of the blue.

>> I know. People would be disappointed had you not made that motion. Do I have a second? Jeff, thank you very much. Those in favor? All those opposed, same sign? Resolution passed. Very good.

>> Resolution 50. Now therefore be it resolved that the FirstNet board hereby approves the Spectrum Management Lease agreement with the State of New Jersey b-Top public safety recipient and authorize General Manager to execute the agreement on FirstNet behalf.

>> So I'm looking for a motion.

>> You know what, my neighbor next door to New York, I will make it, Sue.

>> Very good, Chad, thank you, I was hoping you would make that.

>> I'll second.

>> Teri, thank you very much. All those in favor? All those opposed? Same sign? Resolution passed. And then -- Harris county.

>> Sue?

>> Yeah.

>> This is Chuck.

>> Yes.

>> If I could make a comment on that and a motion.

>> Absolutely.

>> Again, I am very pleased at the progress we are making with this, I know a lot of hard work went into it, especially on your part, thank you for that. You know, I can't stress the enough the importance of the early adoption early adopters and the lessons we need to learn from those early adoptions. I think the more of those we can do, the more effective we will learn, how things will shake out FirstNet and that kind of progress creates very positive reaction and buzz in such public safety communities. Thank you for the hard work this.

>> Sue Swenson: I appreciate this, T.J. and I are partners in crime on this one. I'd like to say we have very dedicated people on the FirstNet team working closely with the b-Top folks and I can tell you, very excited about seeing something happen with this. They are on the ground with the folks working with them already and you know I would hope that we would be able to bring some of those learnings and the progress of those projects back to the Board and keep the Board informed of what is happening on the projects, that is very important for all of us.

Would you like to read the last --

>> Now therefore be it resolved that the FirstNet board hereby agrees to extend period for negotiations on an agreement with the state of Texas through February 24, 2014. Authorize T.J. Kennedy to continue such negotiations on FirstNet behalf.

>> Sue Swenson: Who lives closest to Texas? Craig? Did you want to make a motion?

>> Yes, I move we approve this resolution.

>> Great. Thank you. A second please?

>> Second.

>> Teri Takai, thank you very much. All those in favor? All those opposed? Same sign. Great. That resolution has passed. Onward with Harris County. Very good.

As you know, we -- we're still in transition, but we're approaching that year. We've been in existence for little over a year now. It only makes sense we would continue the transition of the Board duties and being involved, as I was and Jeff was involved in management responsibilities to actually complete that

transition. As you know, Craig Farrill, took on the challenging task of being General Manager for FirstNet early on and has appreciation for the challenges that our General Manager has today. So really appreciate everything you did in that role, Craig, and also as your rule, acting CTO, in the process of finding full-time CTO, want to take this opportunity to thank you very, very much for what you did over the past year. I know you are going to continue to contribute just as much as you did before, if not more, we want to take this opportunity as Board to thank you for that contribution and we have a resolution that I want to give the Board an opportunity to make any comments they would like.

Jeff?

>> Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. I had the pleasure of working with Craig in both his general manager role and then in our regional outreach meetings and Craig, I just want to say to you, you are the ultimate professional. You gained the trust of public safety through your candor, your confidence and your vision. And I couldn't possibly have higher accolades for someone I work with and I do miss working with you on a regular basis and you certainly brought credit to yourself, your family and to this initiative. Thanks for your work.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Sam, I'm sure you have a comment or two since you work pretty closely with Craig over this period of time.

>> Yes. I just echo what Jeff has said. You know, I don't think that most of us realize that when we were created we had a Board of Directors and nothing else. We didn't have any employees, we had no directives, we had nothing and so we have had to build this organization from the ground up and got it (inaudible) passed by Congress. It is not the most simple law that ever made its way through the legislative process, but anyway, I think the issue is going to be on (inaudible), this Board accepted the management responsibilities for the last year. We built up the work, did the best we could, everything wasn't -- a lot of things could have been a lot better, but we had evolved the organization now where we have a senior management team coming into place from my perspective, highly tech -- highly qualified people. They are motivated to meet the mission, by FirstNet. Craig, along with Sue and Jeff and many others, worked many, many hours to get us to this point and as Chair, I say thank you all for that. I think we are in a good place now. We are in a position to really grow this organization in a way that it meets responsibilities of our budgets and our customers, public safety, I feel really good right now about where we are and I think we will have a good 2014-2015. We will learn a lot, but we are on the right track. Craig, has been key to that and Craig, thank you, my friend, you have done great work.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Thank you, Sam. We have resolution, would you read the resolution, please?

>> Whereas on December 11, 2012, the FirstNet board adopted resolution to designate its member Craig Farrell, to serve as FirstNet acting chief technical officer, Craig Farrell, served in acting management capacity with great diligent, skill and enthusiasm. Craig now serves as Chair of FirstNet technology and planning committee, whereas FirstNet general manager will assume the responsibility of acting chief technical officer until such time as permanent chief technical officer is hired. Now therefore be it resolved the FirstNet board hereby expands formal appreciation to Craig for the extraordinary service and dedication as FirstNet acting chief technical officer.

>> Sue Swenson: Motion?

>> So moved.

>> Thank you, Wellington Webb.

>> Second.

>> Thank you, Teri Takai. All those in favor? All those opposed, same sign? Motion passed. (Applause)

>> Sue Swenson: Okay. Mayor, have you an update on the special committee, I understand.

>> I do.

>> Sue Swenson: Yes.

>> Mayor: Well, at the last meeting we said that in the conversations with Sam and I that since then, since we now at different place in time with the charters for these committees, that the work special review committee should be folded into governance and personnel and that's an appropriate place for it and also since the second part of our charge was dealing with procurement and ethics and inspector general is reviewing that, it makes more sense he has both the responsibility, the staffing and the capability of doing that without us seeking additional staff, additional personnel to do it and probably appropriate place to have it done and so that would conclude our work, which we concluded with report on the first part of the review that showed that there were no violations and we've made that report couple of months ago.

>> Sue Swenson: Okay. Great. Anyone on the Board have questions about Mayor Webb's report? Great. Thank you for that update and look forward to more information from the governance committee as appropriate. Great. Bill, time for update from you, I know you have been busy with your team over the last several months, I'm sure interested in what you have been up to.

>> Great, thank you, Madam Chairman. Let me just speak a little bit to some of our recent activities. First of all, with the support of the PSCR and NIST, R&D conference on Boulder on November 14 and 15 that provided great platform for continuing outreach to industry. It was very well attended. And really, really a valuable session.

We had our second house oversight hearing on November 21, Mr. Ginn testified. We had a lot of support for my staff and the NTIA team in preparing that and Mr. Ginn did an excellent job in testifying on our behalf.

We also held just last week a very productive p-sack exchange in Brunswick, Georgia, and Chairman Mccuen, and the P-Sack continue to work diligently with us to continue to establish a broader outreach for our messaging and information sharing and we are very, very pleased with the progress in the PSC as you heard board member Johnson mention just a little while ago.

I'd like to touch on the key focus areas that I think are relevant for the Board to understand our progress in those and first and foremost is really the hiring of the senior leadership team.

That has been priority one for me and trying to get that team onboard. I'm very pleased to say that as of today, five of the eight senior leader positions are in place. You have met Stuart Kupinsky, our general counsel, pleased to have Stuart with us. Stuart Kupinsky comes with background of industry and government. He worked with the FCC. We're just pleased to have him onboard and his con/TREUB uses already.

In addition, across the table from me, we have our chief administrative officer, Frank Freeman. Frank, this is day two and I'm glad you came back. (Laughter) And Frank comes to us with 25 years experience

from the United States Air Force. So very pleased to have Frank. He's going to be focused on all of the administrative issues around HR, and facilities and help us with policies and procedures and bring all those things to the table that are very important to us. So Frank and Stuart Kupinsky, welcome, glad to have you both here with us.

>> Sue Swenson: I understand other members of your team are really glad that Frank is here.

>> There are a few.

Let me just mention the three remaining positions and where we are in progress. CIO position, we've selected that candidate, the personnel committee has supported that recommendation and we have an offer pending, so we hope to have that announcement very, very soon. And then as you mentioned, Madam Chairman, the CTO posting has closed and the panel has been convened and we are hoping to have the finalists in front of the Board in early January, for approval in that position. So you know, that will take us to seven of the eight positions and we will hold on the eighth position temporarily, because it is more operational in nature and we don't want to go forward and as that resource until we're really in a position operationally where we need to bring that expertise on board.

I'd also like to mention to my right and I'd like to give a special thanks to Lawrence Strickling of NTIA, for his support in making this happen very, very quickly. We are very pleased to have Jeff Bratcher with us. Jeff joined as Department CTO, and he is going to take on day to day responsibilities in support of what the board has just initiated in support of me, which is to take on the CTO role on top of the General Manager role. Jeff will be working closely with me to help manage that transition and continue our progress on the technical side.

So Jeff, welcome. We are continuing to develop our technical strategies and our schedules with regard to our plans. I am happy to say and confident that we are starting to reach some very creative options and very efficient options to be considered, along with all of the work that's already been done and we'll be working very closely in the next 90 days to try and sharpen that focus and bring clarity to not only our technical strategies but overall business planning strategy.

We have released RFI for applications that went out around the Thanksgiving timeframe and the focus there is to really help us get some information on the security and identity management aspects that will be important for not only our applications, but the development of our core network. Obviously security and identity management will be a very fundamental part of the layers of protection that we'll need to build into this network. We're looking forward in early January to start to receive the responses back on that RFI.

As we discussed just a few moments ago, the Board has voted and has now approved the leases for ad com, and New Jersey, we're very pleased that takes us to a place where four of the seven B-Tops that were initially identified have been successfully negotiated to agreement with us. Again, I want to just mention that Larry Strickling and NTIA in general made the right choice in slowing down the B-Tops and giving us the opportunity to work to develop synergies with them and to make sure they fit into the picture of what we're doing and we are as Chief Dowd mentioned, really looking forward to now the lessons and learnings from these early movers.

The OEC and I want to acknowledge admiral Hewitt, and his staff, have done outstanding job of continuing the coverage workshops with the States. They have completed 20 coverage workshops and continue their momentum as they move forward and that is no small task. These are extremely professional sessions, very detailed and very, very valuable. The admiral and his staff were with us at the

P-Sack and shared more about the work we have been doing and it's really heartening to see that work continue. It is a great element of our outreach with the states and T.J. will talk more about outreach a little later on in this session, but I'll tell you, it is very valuable building block for us with the states as we move forward in the state planning effort. I'd like to just touch on financial performance. We went in detail with the finance committee yesterday, but from a fiscal year 13 perspective, we ended well below our plan for both outlays and obligations and the trend in fiscal year 15 is exactly the same. We are well under plan and continuing to manage the financial side of the equation very well.

Lastly, we have selected locations and will be seeking Board approval today to enter into lease agreements for our headquarters facility in Reston, Virginia and also our technical facility in -- here in Boulder, Colorado. So that concludes my report unless there are any questions for me or my staff.

>> Sue Swenson: Any questions for Bill? Were we going to have T.J. give us an update on Outreach and that sort of thing? I know you've been busy T.J..

>> Sue, I would like to say that if you remember, I think it might have been nine months ago when we initially started talking about office locations for our corporate headquarters that I think initially Tim and I were two of those that were probably most outspoken in terms of having Washington, D.C. presence and I just really pleased that Board and Bill, you and your staff understand how important it is to have dc presence, not only to work with commerce and NTIA, but also with the other stake holders because our authorizing environment come from congressional legislation. I'm pleased to see where we are at this point in time.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Absolutely. T.J., ready to give us an update on your world?

>> T.J. Kennedy: I am. Couple quick updates here and want to go over what we've been doing with public safety advisory and Outreach and kind of jump into a little bit of where we're going with state Outreach and consultation and being sure that we're working with all of the public safety agencies who are key stake holders, as well as local and state government as part of our planning process.

On the slides that we have today, these are the same slides I went over with public safety advisory committee last week in Brunswick, Georgia, when we had regular p-Sack meeting and updates to the switch and the specs, state wide interoperability coordinator and state point of contacts. One of the key things I think you'll see, the involvement both in the legislation, as well as practical standpoint has us working closely with state and local public safety agencies, tribal public safety, as well as looking at the issues around rural and metropolitan issues related to coverage and capabilities of FirstNet in the future. All these things come together as part of the state plan as we move forward as well as looking at Federal input issues related to law enforcement and public safety at the Federal level in other key stake holders.

As far as the consultation process, one thing we'll make sure we continue to do in the consultation process is that it is very active. Two-way conversation and not a single event, this is not a one-day consultation and we're done in a particular state or location, it's really a two-way back and forth with our stake holders in the state to be able to help make sure we're both listening and sharing and communicating to build that plan together so that when it comes time to present a state plan, plan worked on for significant period of time and there has been lots of conversations about all the elements of the plan. We also want to be able to continue to provide information on regular update basis to the state and that is part of our staffing discussions that we started to have to make sure we have the right people in place to do outreach and consultation and they are spread across the country so closer to the key constituents they need to be.

As we move forward through the planning process, we tried to break this up and simplify it in five major areas. First of all, initial consultation, will also be aligned with the slick p phase 1 grants awarded and it is very important to note the funding for the slick p grant will assist grants and agencies to be able to participate in the FirstNet planning process and be able to be at the table as part of the discussions. Later on in the slick p phase two part of the process we will work with the state to look at assets and what can be brought to the table to help facilitate a more effective rollout as well as cost effective rollout and as well as speed to implementation by leveraging what is there and making sure we leverage previous grants that have been awarded, as well as infrastructure that is in place to assist FirstNet in building world class public safety system for our key first responders. We'll be working through the state ram design, ity rative process with the FirstNet team and each state to be able to walk through and show what kind of coverage elements or part of the planning process and also to work with them on overall operational plan for the state as it moves forward and eventually culminate into a state plan after the process is completed.

When we look at initial consultation, one thing that we're working on right now is being able to define process in roles and responsibilities, one thing we heard from the state. We've been out to talk to them, they want more guidance from us on roles and responsibilities throughout the state and you heard from Chief Tate this morning, great example, they are setting up their process to mirror ours, getting the right people at the table and putting in governance process to make that effective state wide consultation and that is really what we're trying to do, make sure we have open communication, sharing the best practices as we hear those from states in our discussions with them. And making sure everybody will have access to the same type of information. We're also working to leverage the good work of admiral Hewitt, and communication at DHS they have done with early coverage study with state and working with information available to states from the process to leverage that as a first step in what we're doing from the FirstNet consultation process. We also want to be able to validate assumptions, whereabouts users, coverage goals, whether about geography, with them as we move forward. One thing that the state coverage workshops also produce is very nice initial work corps for each state that gives them pretty terrific information. I think most states have been pleased with the amount of data publicly available as well had as what can be brought together through the discussions with key stake holders in the state as far as what public safety users they have, where are they located, what is the typical key areas the state where a lot of calls for public safety services come in. I think that is important as we look forward to building broadband system that is important to know where the public safety services are needed and really likely to use those services and make sure we can meet those needs as we go forward.

As far as getting ready for consultation, states start to prepare we're going to be putting together a number of key element asks we talk through early versions of a check list and we'll cover highlighted elements of that to help states get prepared and understand what key stake holders need to be at the table from public safety, as well as local government and to include tribal entities and others as part of the overall process. As we move forward through this, we want to by looking at check list make sure there is open communication much like you heard from the Chief this morning here in Colorado. We want to make sure they have open e-mail exchanges and ways to disseminate information to stake holders throughout the state, that they are able to identify all of the key possible stake holders and be able to make sure those who have input are able to bring that input into the process early ask often because this process will iterate over time and really build relationships across the state as far as key public safety stake holders getting input and being able to provide that to the FirstNet team and two-way fashion create end result which is something that will benefit first responders in each and every state and territory.

As far as a few things the outreach team is doing, the outreach team is extremely small still, but has been guided very well by Jeff Johnson before my arrival and after and also they have been able to put together a number of key things I think will help share more information more quickly. We have a series of outreach calls right now set up for the state point of contacts and those have begun and by the end of

December, we should have reached the state point of contacts for a regular monthly update call that is coming from the FirstNet outreach team N. In addition to that, setting up quarterly webinar and Bill and I will be covering a swath of issues and updates so all the state point of contacts have access to FirstNet leadership in two-way conversation and can ask questions and this is in addition to a lot of the key conferences and other things that we attend on a regular basis to be able to share information and updates on FirstNet.

We're also updating our website there has been terrific progress made on the website to pull together a number of new features that will make it easier to gain access to information, will be able to put a lot of slides and other details on there that states will be able to utilize in statewide discussions and also be able to have people opt into e-mail blasts or discussion for new press releases or information coming from FirstNet so push and pull of information that will be coming out and make it easy for peep toll access all the data on FirstNet as we move forward through the process. So that website is looking very good and we're pushing forward to get that up as soon as we can.

>> Sue Swenson: T.J., you have been working for a while, do you have any TA on that?

>> We ran into a few snags in the process, hoping by January we'll be able to get that up and running.

>> Sue Swenson: It would be a great tool and appreciate all the work that people are doing on that, it is a great tool for FirstNet.

>> In addition to all the work done with states and public safety agencies, we've been pushing forward with outreach to tribal community, Kevin McGinnis, board member with lead for that, held great meet nothing November, brought in a number of tribal associations and updated them on all things FirstNet and provided material to them and lined up key speaking opportunities to stake holders in the tribal community going forward, as well as trying to provide information to states to make sure they are aware of all the issues surrounding that and making sure we have a communication plan to be able to push information out and I think that has been terrific improvement.

As you heard earlier from Bill and from Jeff, that the P-Sack meeting was effective last week and have outreach team member, Vicki Lee on the PSC and she's a regular point of contact to provide information to chief McCuen, and provide regular updates and improved I think the communication and the information flow also I think the input we're receiving from all the key stake holders on the PSC has been valuable to FirstNet and look forward to continuing that great effort.

We've also been trying to plan forward a number of national association meetings and right now actually building the 2014 calendar for events, we attended 100 events in 2013 and we believe far exceed that in 2014 and trying to strategically see what else we can attend and leverage our resources across the country to be at as many events as possible to give updates on FirstNet.

Just to give more data on what happened in some of the key meetings going forward for consultation and how we plan to leverage some of the work done by OEC with the FirstNet team in the past is looking at key different objectives for coverage with the states and this is just a quick example up here on the slides. We want to be able to look at all sorts of information for how public safety might utilize the system going forward and also have access to coverage issues whether related to in building, rural coverage issues, whether it's vehicle or hand-held coverage and all the different elements that will come into that for the average public safety user. We also plan to lay this out in a format we can give GIS information from the states and provide maps back to them to make this iterative process with the technical team so

we end up with good expectations for what the FirstNet coverage will be in the future and I continuing is important we set reasonable expectation and realistic expectation for what that will be.

Also be parallel effort that will be reaching out to Federal agencies to make sure their needs are looked at, as well and Federal users, we have Federal agencies that have come to the table with ability to expand FirstNet and key needs they may have, whether relates to forest fire fighting in the west or Federal law enforcement and other key elements that come into that. We opened up a number of discussion with ECPC, at Federal level, emergency communication group that brings together Federal agencies, we plan to be attending each meeting as they occur and have key staff at the Federal level that are assigned to support the ECPC to keep that open communication to Federal agency much like we are doing at the state level.

One other task that is important for us to identify potential users and started this conversation with the PSC.

When we think of first responders we think of our police, fire, emergency medical services personnel. There is also a lot of secondary responders that support public safety on a regular basis. The Board has been open to the broad definition that is both in the legislation, as well as how this is applied. We want to make sure we work with the public safety community to identify and designate what is a public safety user and who else will be using FirstNet as we go forward. We started that discussion with the public safety advisory committee and look to continue that discussion on who should be on the network from a potential user perspective and also allows us to help our business modeling when we look at business model of who will be users on the system, very important to make sure we have that as inclusive as possible.

There has been a lot of questions about asset identification and how are we going to go about that process, there is still a the lot of details to be flushed out on here. One thing we tried to do, work with public safety community to start trying to lay groundwork for how will this be done in slick P phase two, not a tomorrow exercise, this is down the road. One of the things we've looked at, we don't want to go to states and just say, provide a list of all assets that might be helpful to FirstNet because it will be a very large process and might maybe identifying a lot of buildings or back haul or key real estate that may not be utilized in the process if we don't define our needs. We are focused on defining needs so that we can go out to the states phase 2 of the process for state consultation and be direct about the assets most valuable for coverage in the states and really make a difference in the business model for how to be able to get more coverage in the state based upon bringing assets to the table from the local level, state willful and Federal level that will facilitate the FirstNet mission. That is really our key and I think starting to put meat on this to be able to put together a plan that will come forward with request to states that will give us the feedback and data that will make very effective discussion.

When we look at the state ran process, obviously when we get into laying out a radio access network for state we're well beyond the phases I've just talked about, both consultation and asset identification. So once again, this is further down the road, but will be getting into a design review process with the state to be able to review what are the plans for the FirstNet plan for each and every state and territory. One of the things I think is important and we've started to discuss this with the state point of contacts is the fact that this will be multiple review process, bringing it forward for initial review, we'll be iterating with them with interim review and then be final design review phase to make sure the questions are answered before we get to a state plan delivered.

I think you heard a little bit in our discussions about wilderness and rural and suburban and urban areas and one thing we're making sure as we work through the state consultation process is trying to get a good handle on where those emergency calls at. It is very easy and a lot of urban areas looking at information

on highways and key events, I think you heard examples in the past about large sporting events or large outdoor gatherings and make sure we know where things occur from public safety perspective during the planning process, especially if they are regularly scheduled events like large mass gatherings or other things that happen. We want to make sure we're looking at planning process of not just serving the metropolitan area of the country, but looking at how to cover rural area in cost effective way and build plan that covers everything from rural into the major cities.

Lastly, it is on the key elements that we discussed with the PSC related to local control and prioritization, this will be key issue as we move forward that will work through our plan asks discussions and ideas to be able to get terrific feedback from them on that. We also plan to look at some of the key costs and other areas that we look at within the law to be able to bring forward the most effective cost effective plan that will get a state best system at the end of the day that will provide the public safety communication that they deserve.

We talked about the final plan going forward, a couple things we need to know and know going forward to bring that up is looking at the state ran plan, as well as operational plan, where we'll radio access network be placed, who will maintain that equipment, what will funding levels be from FirstNet as we go forward through that and these are key things we don't have the answers to today, as we work in our business planning we know we will seek the answer and be able to build that as we go forward with the state and lay that out in a way that is understandable to them and lays out what the future holds.

And that's what we covered with the PSC last week and hopefully that is helpful to you to keep you in the loop on what we're talking to them about and continue to plan a lot of outreach efforts in addition to the individual state consultations that will occur.

>> Sue Swenson: I'm delighted you shared with the PSC I'd be interested in their role as advisory group what kind of feedback they had with you. I know you shared with them. Did they have points of view on the approach that we have developed and have any things that would be useful to us in terms of changing what we were thinking?

>> Sure. I will turn this over to upon can Jeff Johnson for a minute since Chief Johnson was with me and get his opinion of that.

>> Okay.

>> Thank you. I think they are very pleased with the direction we're headed. There was a staff both Phil and T.J. presented to the PSC is you know they are very open, saying, here is what we're thinking this, is the direction we're headed. You know, we've got a full complement of our associates from admiral Hewitt, and his team to a number of other folks. And it is very conversational in tone. But I think all in all, I think they are very pleased with the direction we're headed. And they are just very interested in continuing the path we've started. You know, they want to figure out how to listen to the b-Top entities we've just awarded Spectrum Management Lease to it and how we're going to reach out to the early builders and listen within the PSC structure, how we'll do that with the tribal communities, etcetera. I think from technical perspective, they seem very pleased and defer to staff.

>> Sue Swenson: You know, I really am, I think all of us are counting on them to really beat up whatever it is we take them and be critical and give us really good input because they have a great perspective on that and so I really want them, I'm having been to a PSC meeting not too long ago, I know they are not a shy group, I want to make sure they continue to feel like they can beat us up a little bit, right?

>> Sue, this is Suzanne Spaulding.

>> Uh-huh.

>> I want to echo that, my gratitude to the team for successfully strengthening that relationship. I know it's taken a lot of work on both sides and I'm here at department of home land security, hear good things about the direction in which that is moving, so just wanted to say thank you to everybody who has worked so hard on that and also to thank the staff for their acknowledgment of the great work that Admiral Hewitt, and his team at emergency communication at Department of Homeland Security have done, working with tribal officials, and also trying to coordinate the Federal both needs and resources through that emergency communication preparedness center, collaboration with Teri Takai, Department of Defense and so thanks for acknowledging those efforts and as I say for doing such a great job advancing important relationships.

>> Sue Swenson: Thank you.

>> Also, I think Sue, to your point, the PSC is a lot of things and one of them is not shy.

>> Right.

>> They tell you precisely what is on their mind and that is what is -- one of their most endearing qualities.

>> Right.

>> If you look around that room, there is some amazing talent as individuals and to watch what Chairman McCuen has done to coalesce them as a team and start to focus those individual experiences, it's really powerful. And to Suzanne Spaulding's point, the work that she has done and the work that Teri is doing to now create that environment through the EPCP, to our Federal stake holders, that is going to be very powerful, as well. We have a lot of learning to go. Our ears are open and we're making substantial effort. We just want to continue to mature it.

>> You know, I think this is such an important step, I mean, obviously the technical plan we come up with, but really understanding what our users want is probably one of the most important things we can do and the quality of that feedback is going to be critical to us being able to deliver a plan to the governor and the members of that whole state, a plan that will meet their needs. I just think this is really important phase for us. Tim, you were going to say something.

>> Encouraged that Bill and the whole group, I don't think you want to do 56 of these all at once and I wouldn't really encourage a process if there are states that are more advanced, just keep going with them, just do them as you can because just like we promoted in the B-Top and the early mover learnings, I think we will get a lot of early moving as we go through the process with the state. I encourage us if there are two or three ready to start looking at design plans, let's do it tomorrow and not wait and have to do it all the evening before the homework is due. I'd encourage us to state that and pick up the early mover learnings.

>> Sue Swenson: Yeah, let me jump on Tim's comment. Not only for purpose of state plan, but helping us understand and maybe refine assumptions about how we're thinking about our model. So it's not only to be able to put the state plan together but to help us validate information. I second Tim's comment about going as soon as possible. I guess the question, T.J., to you, I was asked the question about

when. I mean, I know you are forming a team, I mean, do you think we could start doing that right after the beginning of the year? Because I know there are states that are potentially ready to do that.

>> It will definitely be in the first quarter of the calendar year, but definitely working on staffing and our key thing is staffing. We will kick off with the first states, but staff suggest our biggest issue to make sure we have the right people place and right materials, I think we'll be to Tim's example, testing that on the first few states to make sure we have that correctly and won't be perfect day 1. We want the right team in place that is able to have effective discussion with the states and we just have to little more staffing up over the next month or two will get us there, we're close.

>> We'll be encouraging you to move on this, right?

>> I will --

>> Bill.

>> I would like to add, Tim, we hear you loud and clear and from our conversations we completely agree with that. Ready to see early movers lineup and start to work with them. Couple fundamental steps we need to get through. Staff suggest one of those and that is well underway. But we also need to work to make sure we've defined all the criteria for what presentation to governor will look like in a state plan. That can be what we develop, but has to be collaborative effort aligned with NTIA and we've started the work with them to check the boxes and our intension will be to basically communicate at that point, here is the road map to a state plan and communicate that to all the states and those states that are ready and want to come and engage with us, we'll be ready to meet with them and get those moving. We hear you loud and clear and will do that.

>> Sue Swenson: Great. Go ahead, chuck.

>> Chuck Dowd: I want to reinforce, what Tim is describing and again, you know, I 99 my comments, I think we as a Board, want to encourage that because it shows and I think that is what looking for right now the result. I continue is not going to happen overnight, but that kind of is exactly should be looking to do. I appreciate what Tim said.

>> Sue Swenson: Perfect. Any other comments or questions for Tim and that outreach? Greg?

>> I want to reinforce something you were saying. I think T.J. has been working hard on the use cases. That's PSC has a very good effort going on right now to define use cases and different types of --

>> Right.

>> As network design concept need to understand what sort of uses and processes they are going through. So our first effort of getting coverage was really excellent and it is still great. I think it is first class piece of work, the use case will feed into more of our modeling as we go forward. So that is underway and I think PSC is in the middle of that. Great effort.

>> Sue Swenson: Perfect. Thank you for the update, I'm sure the board ask public appreciate what we're doing on that. We'll be looking forward to your next update, T.J.

>> Sounds good.

>> Wellington Webb, I think you wanted to make a comment?

>> Yeah. Sue, thank you very much. Earlier I had -- I was remiss in not thanking those individuals that served on the special review committee and specifically Suzanne Spaulding and Dana Hyde and Tony West and Chuck Dowd, Jeff Johnson, Ed Reynolds, Admiral Hewitt's staff, Uzoma and Office of General Counsel and Robinson and his staff. I have great appreciation for the use of words, phrases and specifics to details in writing of reports, especially when you are the last -- the last report that is going out before it is seen by the eyes of the public. And all these individuals are doing this in addition to their day jobs. So sometimes I think we forget that people have other duties that they are doing in addition to their volunteer activities and activities they are doing. And to watch those individuals in the Federal family working together, they were a lot of late night phone calls, some that got very tense, and at the end everyone came back together for the good of the cause and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for the work they did.

>> Sue Swenson: Very nice, thank you, Wellington Webb. Before we -- I want to mention to the listening public, we'll be going into closed session as we normally do when we have matters confidential in nature. Before that, wanted to make a couple of comments and that is you'll notice when you see some documents and revision to the bylaws we have actually removed the executive committee from the bylaws, as we have convened our other committees, our original bylaws have executive committee that is no longer necessary, so just want to make a comment about that, so people were aware of that.

Also want to mention we will not be holding press briefing today, I think we've moved to period when Heather Phillips, who has been help envelope arranging press contacts, she can arrange any interviews that the press is interested in, we will not be having a press briefing today and also that the documents that we've talked about today in terms of the charter and the resolutions will all be posted at conclusion of today's meeting. So as I said, normal practice, we have confidential matters to discuss, we will only be coming back to the public meeting to just briefly discuss the outcome of the closed session, so with that, we'll close the session and go into executive session with the Board.

(Closed session) --

>> We're back in session, great. You can see we moved more quickly than some of the meetings yesterday. We're going to work with our Chairman of Finance Committee and see if we can move more quickly. But the Board voted to approve the release of the headquarters location in Rustin and Boulder and adopted the general manager delegation of authority that was discussed. So thank you, everybody, for joining us today, thank you, Board, for a good session and we will see everybody at the next Board Meeting. Thank you very much, a motion to adjourn.

>> So moved.

>> Thank you, Teri. Second.

>> Second.

>> All those in favor? All those opposed same sign. Thank you very much. Have a good day.