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Transcript

FirstNet Committee and Board Meetings, Teleconference, March 14, 2017

COORDINATOR: Welcome and thank you for standing by. For the duration of today's conference, all participants will be in a listen-only mode. I would like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Ms. Sue Swenson. Thank you. You may begin.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, operator, and welcome, everybody to our March FirstNet combined committee and board meetings. We're excited to be here today to bring everybody up-to-speed on where we are relative to all of our key initiatives and where we are relative to the procurement process. I know everybody is very interested in where we are and we're excited as well. We'll go through and I think you're used to this format because we actually used this format in December but we are going to combine the committee meetings. And then we'll go through our normal roll call, conflicts of interest, we'll accept the board minutes and we'll have updates from Harlin McEwen at the PSAC, we'll have technology, chief customer service updates, finance, organization and operational updates, litigation and we will close with a CEO update from our CEO Mike Poth. We'll also have a closed session today for a period of time and we will come back and report-out the outcome from our closed session. Just a few comments before we get started and first of all, I want to welcome though I don't think Kathy's yet on the call. She may be but we have a new board member from the Office of Management and Budget.

Obviously with the transition in the federal government, we have new board members. Kathy Kraninger is recently joined OMB as the Associate Director for General Government where she oversees the budget development and execution for a number of executive branch agencies including Commerce, Justice and Homeland Security. Kathy comes to OMB from the Senate where she served as the Clerk of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security which provides the Department of Homeland Security discretionary budget. Her Hill career includes a position with the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security as well as the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. She's also served in executive branch post with the Department of Transportation and DHS so we welcome Kathy to this new position and as a FirstNet board member. We also welcome David Hess. David is on the call with us, welcome, David. David is the Senior Official performing the duties of the Undersecretary National Protection and Program Directorate. He's the DHS Interim Delegate and David is the Chief of Staff of the National Protection and Program Directorate better known as NPPD. I have my glossary of acronyms here, currently serving as the Senior Official performing the duties of the Undersecretary. I think David has been with DHS for some time and so clearly understands the importance of DHS relative to FirstNet. And in this role he works closely with the departmental senior leadership, the NPPD, the Deputy Undersecretaries and NPPD senior leadership to help manage the day-to-day operations of the directorate to achieve its mission to protect and enhance the resilience of the nation's physical and cyber infrastructure, obviously of great interest in general and in particular to FirstNet and Mr. Hess also serves as NPPD's Chief of Staff. Before he joined the front office, he served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for NPPD and prior to that he served as the Director of the Legislative Affairs for DHS' preparedness directorate so David we're really looking forward to your participation with FirstNet and appreciate all the experience that you bring to FirstNet so thanks for joining us today.

DAVID HESS: Thank you, thank you very much.

SUE SWENSON: Certainly. You know, just a few comments before we actually go into the conflicts of interest statement and actually into the board meeting, you know, we've been working I think you know very hard over the last gosh close to five years on getting ready for where we are today and, we-you know, this really marks a key step in the procurement process which we've been engaged with in very focused over the last year. In December, we briefed everybody on the FirstNet operational readiness and the fact that we were ready to execute. Today we're building on those key milestones and we are ready as we indicated to take whatever steps are necessary pending the court decision in the protest action and so both management and the board are continuing to move with urgency on all fronts. We are still as all of you know in the active procurement process and we're waiting for the U.S. Court of Appeals and Federal Claims to issue its decision before taking final action but however we pledge to do so and we continue to do so. We work on all aspects of the procurement obviously short of the award and so we're ready and able to move forward with the partnership as soon as permissible to do so and so I just wanted you to know that we have kept to that commitment. We have been on that trajectory since FirstNet got created but we're I think more ready than ever and I think you'll hear that in the presentations today. So with that, I think we're ready to Karen, I think do the - do you want to do - roll call first or conflicts? You want to do conflicts first?

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Sure, let's do the conflicts first and then I'll do roll call.

SUE SWENSON: Great.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: And I apologize, you've heard this before but in advance of FirstNet's March 14th, 2017 combined committee and board meeting, the management team has provided the board and committee members with an agenda outlining each of the items that will be discussed and decided during today's meeting. The members were also provided with the conflicts of interest assessment which was produced jointly by the Commerce Department Office of General Counsel and FirstNet's Office of Chief Counsel. Providing these documents in advance to the board members allows them to identify potential conflicts of interest and to recuse themselves from participation if required. We will prior to this committee and board meeting remind all board members of their obligations relating to conflicts of interest and ask them to identify whether any recusals from deliberations or voting are necessary. In consideration of the joint meeting today, each member should consider his or her obligations with respect to the appropriate committee and for some of you that might mean more than one. Just to be clear, we are only doing one conflict notification for this combined committee and board meeting. With that said, any board members who believe that they must now recuse themselves, please so state for the record. Hearing no recusals, we are ready to proceed Madame Chair and I'll proceed with the roll. Sue Swenson?

SUE SWENSON: Very good, here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Jeff Johnson?

JEFF JOHNSON: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Ed Horowitz

ED HOROWITZ: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Christopher Burbank?

CHRISTOPHER BURBANK: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: James Douglas?

JAMES DOUGLAS: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Kevin McGinnis?

KEVIN MCGINNIS: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Annise Parker?

ANNISE PARKER: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Neil Cox?

NEIL COX: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Ed Reynolds?

ED REYONDS: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Richard Stanek?

RICHARD STANEK: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Teri Takai?

TERI TAKAI: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Kathy Kraninger?

KATHY KRANINGER: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: David Hess?

DAVID HESS: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Christopher Piehota?

CHRISTOPHER PIEHOTA: Here.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Thank you, Madame. [Inaudible] We have a quorum across the floor. I will never hear the end of this. We have a quorum for the floor and to the [inaudible] committee.

SUE SWENSON: No, I appreciate that, I appreciate that, and I appreciate all of the board members being present at today's meeting. For those of you who were at the December meeting, the board members who were there, you have minutes in front of you from the committee and the board meetings from December. And I've made some minor comments to our board secretary, some minor adjustments to that but I'm wondering if anybody else has any additions or corrections to the minutes? Hearing none, I'll take that as a motion to approve and would welcome a second to that.

TERI TAKAI: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, is that you Teri?

TERI TAKAI: Yes, it is.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Teri. Any further discussion on the minutes? All those in favor please signify by and all of those I presume Karen, you know who wasn't there so for those of you who weren't at the meetings obviously you will not vote to approve since you weren't there but for those who were, all those in favor signify by saying aye?

GROUP: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: Okay, any opposition or abstentions? Great, Karen the minutes are approved and I presume you will make those available on our Website post the meeting today.

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Yes, I will do so with your corrections.

SUE SWENSON: Great, thank you. You know, before we go into the meat of the meeting, I think it's really appropriate to start the meeting with a resolution to extend Chief Harlin McEwen's term as the PSAC Chair. Harlin, you know, has been with us since the beginning and frankly, Harlin brings extensive years of experience both as an advocate for public safety and an incredibly successful career in law enforcement. You know, he's worked to create a public safety broadband network frankly long before FirstNet and I think that was, you know, his vision along with others in his work and involvement in the numerous associations he's been involved with and continues with is unparalleled. And of course, most importantly to us serving as the First Chair of the PSAC. He's frankly a big part of why we are here today and Harlin is involved in a lot of things that you see publicly but a lot of things that, you know, behind the scenes that he makes happen for us. So, the Board Jeff Johnson, our Vice Chair and FirstNet leadership, Harlin incredibly appreciate the countless hours that you have put in over the years and specifically with the PSAC and can't thank you enough for your commitment to public safety, FirstNet and the many thousands of hours to span, you know, in which you've put in to make PSAC such a success. And frankly it's for these reasons and many more that the Board would like to move to extend your term as the PSAC Chairman until such time as we're able to announce the partner award. We think it's only appropriate that you stay in that position until that is able to be completed and it wouldn't be possible or right to award the contract without you being front and center as part of that so we want to apologize in advance for delaying your retirement. I know you're anxious to go do other things but we would like you to remain as the PSAC Chair for just a bit longer so I don't know if you have any comments or want to make any comments at this point but we're going to consider a resolution but I'd like to give you an opportunity to make any comments.

HARLIN MCEWEN: Well, thank you Sue, and I appreciate the consideration of the Board and just say that this is one of those times when I'm glad to serve just a little longer and will hope that that doesn't mean very much longer.

SUE SWENSON: Right, right, no, no, we hope so too Harlin, but we really appreciate your willingness to do this and just want to say thank you. I don't think we can thank you enough and obviously, we'll have the appropriate recognition when the time is right but I think we're ready as a Board to consider this and Karen, I think you have some operative language that perhaps you'd like to read before we consider moving to approve this resolution?

KAREN MILLER-KUWANA: Yes, this is Board Resolution 83 and the operative language is now therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the extension of Chief Harlin McEwen's current term as PSAC Chair through the time of award and associated activities and announcements.

SUE SWENSON: Great, thank you Karen. Go ahead.

KEVIN MCGINNIS: This is Kevin. It would be my pleasure to as a long-time colleague and a fellow [inaudible] to make this motion.

SUE SWENSON: Well, I appreciate that, Kevin, I appreciate the motion. Is there a second to that motion?

((Crosstalk))

SUE SWENSON: Okay, Jeff, thank you and is there any other further discussion or comments that any of the Board members would like to make before we move to approve? Okay, with that we have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye?

GROUP: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: Any opposition or abstentions, same sign? Great. Harlin, you are now extended until the award is made and like you said and we hope it's not too much longer before that happens but we really, really appreciate your willing to do this and with that I'm going to give you the floor to give the Board and the listening audience an update on PSAC.

HARLIN MCEWEN: Well, thanks, Sue. I really appreciate you and Jeff Johnson, and the other members of the Board as well as the FirstNet leadership for the opportunity to continue serving as Chair of the PSAC through the time of a partner award. It's really been my honor to serve in this roll since the beginning of FirstNet and I appreciate the opportunity to stay until we see that award made so thank you again.

JEFF JOHNSON: Certainly.

HARLIN MCEWEN: I appreciate the opportunity again today to provide a brief update on the work of the PSAC. As you are aware, the PSAC represents a broad array of stakeholders across all public safety disciplines as well as local, state and federal government organizations and continues to provide valuable input and feedback to FirstNet as it prepares for award and subsequent network deployment. Next slide, please. So right now, the PSAC is as I said is continuing to work hard across these working groups and task teams and I'm going to give you a very brief update on our current and upcoming efforts. On this slide for those of you that are able to see it, it gives you the list of task team members on our current task entitled Preparing for Adoption. Earlier this year the PSAC launched its Preparing for Adoption task team as an assignment from Chief Customer Officer Rich Reed. This tasking will create a document to prepare public safety users at the agency level for adoption of FirstNet services as well as of the benefits for doing so. The task team will identify key pathways to adoption. They'll describe ways for FirstNet to facilitate a positive user experience on the network and to identify ways to capitalize on emerging future trends, applications or uses of broadband data. The adoption task team is aiming to have a final report to FirstNet in time for the in-person June PSAC meeting. You see the list of 14 members. We've had great response. We've usually restricted task teams to about 15. We have 14 here. These people are, you know, really working diligently to perform this work. Next slide, please. So, looking ahead for the PSAC, just kind of giving you a little visual here but success for the PSAC in 2017 is dependent on the following things: completion of the user adoption task team and the establishment of a second task which will be determined later this year by Chief Customer Officer Rich Reed. We will continue the execution of the working groups. We have an early builder working group. We have a tribal working group and we're in the process of trying to setup federal working group. I might mention that the federal working group has been a challenge because we started this in the fall just before the presidential election and with the total change in leadership in the various Cabinet positions and the departments, it's been difficult to get the names of the people who are going to represent these federal agencies so it's been a little bit of a setback. It's not because of lack of interest, it's just the leadership is in that transition and we have to just wait until we get those nominations. [inaudible] an eagerness to serving as the leading advocate for public safety in a post-award FirstNet, I think PSAC is very anxious to continue to show a meaningful role in, you know, developing the final implementation of this network. So, we're ready to do whatever we're called upon to do to give our advice. As I mentioned, the PSAC will be holding its first in-person meeting of the year on Thursday, June 15th in San Antonio, Texas, right on the heels of the PSCR meetings. In the past, usually we've met in the front of the PSCR. This year we'll be meeting at the end of the PSCR. On behalf of the PSAC Executive Committee, I would like to cordially invite members of the FirstNet Board to join us that day in Texas for our meeting. I know it'd mean a great deal to the PSAC to have some of the members of the Board in attendance in a show of support to the public safety community and the network that we are all working together to build. In closing I want to again thank the Board and the FirstNet leadership for your support of the PSAC and we look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

SUE SWENSON: Harlin, thank you very much for that quick update and I want to thank take the opportunity to not only thank you but to frankly all of the members of the PSAC and particularly for those who have served so willingly on all of the task teams that we have seen underway for the past several years. As you see the names here on this preparing for adoption task team, you see some of the same names that have given so freely of their time as well Harlin so you know, I know you'll pass-on for those who aren't listening today our appreciation for not only the work that they've done on the task teams completed but for the ongoing work. Having the advisory council representing all aspects of public safety frankly has been critical to the development of the requests for proposal and all of the operational things that we know are going to be so important for public safety. Because with this capability in front of them, you know, life will change we believe for the better for public safety and getting their input early and often has been critical so I know that other members of the Board I know that Chief Johnson, the Vice Chair and obviously, the public safety community and Kevin and others who've served on the Board and you know, Rich and Chris are very appreciative of the work that the members of the PSAC do. So, from me and I'm sure others will want to make some comments as well but for me I really appreciate you know, the entire PSAC. Thank you. Does any other members of the Board want to make any comments about that, Chief Johnson, anything from your end?

JEFF JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madame Chair. Harlin, I just want to thank you and the PSAC Executive Committee and the members of the committee. You guys have done a huge lift all on volunteer hours and truly you are the voice, the eyesight and the operational experience that is going to pour into the FirstNet network. Absent that, you know, we're just a pipe so thank you for all your leadership. You've pulled together a very diverse and broad group of public safety ground troops and you've pointed them all in one direction. They've been very effective, very functional and the FirstNet Board, we're just grateful for your work, thank you, Harlin, thank you to the whole group.

HARLIN MCEWEN: Thanks, Sue.

SUE SWENSON: Sure. Anybody else want to make any comments before we move on and Harlin as far as the meeting in San Antonio, just so you know I was talking with Derrick Orr you know, obviously, who organizes that PSCR meeting and as you know there's kind of a tradition to be there so I'm sure you'll see myself and other people at that meeting in San Antonio but thanks for reminding folks that that's coming up and it'll be here before we know it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you tell us the date again of that meeting?

HARLIN MCEWEN: Yes, June 15th.

SUE SWENSON: Great, perfect, so check your calendars everybody and I think we can, you know, certainly make arrangements. You know, I know that there's, you know,

the normal organizing that takes place for hotel rooms and things like that so we'll make sure that that gets out to all the members of the Board, Harlin, okay?

HARLIN MCEWEN: Yes, there is a little rub there. We are going to have to stay at a different hotel than the PSCR one and we're just about to sign a contract so that information will be forwarded to you and the Board, Sue.

SUE SWENSON: Excellent, excellent, well that'll be very helpful so I'm sure you'll see a number of us there so Harlin, thanks again for that update. I'm really looking forward to the work on the adoption because this is obviously critically important so I'm sure we'll be in touch on that and thanks, again. With that I think we're ready to move on to a technology update with Neil Cox, the Chair of the Technology Committee and Jeff Bratcher, FirstNet's CTO so thank you Neil and Jeff. Take it away.

Neil Cox: Okay, thank you Madame Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. This is Neil Cox. We were very fortunate to have a meeting on March the 8th a full-day meeting with the Technology Committee for a briefing in Boulder, Colorado and at our technical headquarters there. And I just kind of give you a real high level of what the agenda was and I'll give you some of my takeaways and then I'll turn it over to Jeff where he can go into any details or answer any questions. We had a lot of technical discussions around the integrated task team approach after post-award. What are the technical activities going to be so we were all very comfortable on what the on how we're going to handle post-award. We are very fortunate to have an individual from NIST there to talk about the public safety innovation acceleration program which the submissions were actually due that week and we got feedback on that. We talked about some little network policy updates and then we spent a lot of time on applications and devices and how they work in so let me give you some of the takeaways that I walked away with and I think the whole technology committee of the Board shares this.

And that was we were very impressed that this is not just going to be a network that's going to be a BAND 14 for iPhones and iPads. This network is going to really serve public safety in a big way. Going back to the NIST on the public safety innovation experimental program, that was a grant of \$30 million dollars and there were 161 applications for funding. Most of them came from academia and most of them were around location-based services and public safety analytics so there was like five categories but the most were in those two categories and it looks like it's going to really prove beneficial the amount of effort especially by academia going into providing services and products and all for this network. Then we learned a lot about some of the applications that the technology community is working on for public safety and first responders. One of the things that really impressed me was today everyone knows their phone uses GPS and can get a location of your phone. What's been missing on the location though has been altitude and there has been a company now that has developed a chipset which is pressure-sensitive that will give altitude measurements in five-centimeter increments so you can imagine a high-rise building in New York, Chicago, D.C., Miami, where somebody is using their cellphone because they don't

have landline anymore and they're in an emergency and they don't tell them what floor they're on. They call 9-1-1, now with this technology we can not only be able to get the latitude and longitude of the device but also the altitude so a first responder can actually go right to that unit, that apartment and you can imagine also with these devices in the fire community where they're in and now they could be tracked at the altitude also. This is a major breakthrough in technology that will really help. Some of the other things that were really impressive was some of the technology. You know, we've had facial recognition technology around for a long time. I saw back at, you know, 2000-2001 some very sophisticated devices but now you have this technology actually coming-out on handheld devices and so you can imagine an officer walking up to someone they just pulled over and all of a sudden they're instead of asking the question do you have any warrants or anything out for you, they'll be able to immediately do the facial scans and I'm talking about things in the future. But this technology would then look and look at the individual and find out you know, if that law enforcement if he needs to be concerned or not concerned about that individual, he can go down to automate population of forms and tickets by just taking license and registration and insurance cards. All this technology will not only make the job more efficient but really, really protect the individual, the first responder. Some other things too that were quite exciting was to see how some of the commercial applications of technology will make it into public safety. And one of them that I was surprised at, you know, we've all seen all the hype around some of the devices like Alexa and the Google one in the home where you ask it a question, it goes to databases and gives you back through virtual reality a response to your question. Well you can imagine the databases that first responders in public safety have so if an officer is dispatched to a particular house, apartment, building, on the way there they're getting the same types of technology that will start reading-out to that first responder in public safety what they need to know when they get there and this will be without the aid of any dispatcher. It will just come directly from the cloud essentially where they will know, you know, when I knock on that door what to expect because we've been there five times earlier and this is what's happened the last five times. And then you can also see this in fire where essentially virtual reality could be put onto the screen of their map so they could read what they should know and get information so it's really exciting to see the technology that the entrepreneurs in the community are starting to look at when they know this network's going to be available and the applications that will flow. And the last thing before I turn it over to Jeff that I think was really impressive to everybody on the technology committee was how the tech team in Boulder is kind of approaching EMS, police and fire as doing case studies of existing events and looking at those case studies and said with the FirstNet network, what applications or devices could have made that case study better? You know, could we have protected lives both public or public safety? Could we have protected property so they are looking at case actual case studies from events and then looking at what this network would do in that particular instance if we had this application or this technology so we were all very impressed with that approach on how to get applications and devices in the hands of public safety. So, with that I will turn it over to Jeff, and Jeff, you might want to expand or you can answer any questions.

JEFF BRATCHER: Great, thank you Chairman Cox and we definitely enjoyed having you and Chris Burbank and Ed Horowitz on-site and we had several participating via the phone bridge as well. Just a couple of things to follow-up on that and to share with the Board. For the PSCR conference is going to be a little different this year. They're focused as you see on the slide that's on the WebEx, they planned their grant recipients on this first initial round of funding actually be there and present. That's part of the conditions of the grant award for this so it will be a little different conference this year but we look forward to hearing about the research and development dollars that are being spent to enhance and further develop public safety broadband technologies for these key critical areas. And with that I'll wrap-up my talk and open for questions or we can move on to Chief Customer Officer Rich Reed.

SUE SWENSON: Hey, Jeff, Sue. I just have a question because for those who are kind of new to this whole PSCR R&D grant, it is really kind of a new approach, and I know that Derrick and PSCR team did quite a bit of outreach, you know, at the different meetings that have occurred over the last year. I think it would be safe to say that we're not only pleased but pleasantly surprised with the number of applications that came-in. This becomes more mainstream versus, you know, really narrow public safety. Is that the way Derrick and you see it?

JEFF BRATCHER: Absolutely correct, Sue. I think their expectations were far exceeded. I think there's been a couple of different numbers reported. We're showing 161 here. There was 175, I believe in some of the press articles. That was just due to there were 14 duplicates that came-in in different methods of proposing those either through grants.gov or directly to NIST but yes, you're absolutely correct. This funding was part of the FirstNet legislation as well and set aside \$300 million amount of funding for NIST to have this research and development program and this isn't the only shot at this so this is the initial \$30 million chunk of that R&D money. They have a couple of other prize challenges and grants lined-up for later in this year that they'll be announcing shortly. I think the first one is a prize challenge related virtual reality technology and its use in the public safety space.

SUE SWENSON: Right, and also, I know that, you know, in talking with Derrick I think the plan is you know, because they've got to review all these applications and I think the plan is to try to communicate the "winners" I think at the PSCR meeting in San Antonio. Is that you're understanding?

JEFF BRATCHER: That's my understanding and not only communicate that but have them actually present on what they're going to be doing with that funding, the actual grantees.

SUE SWENSON: Perfect, perfect.

NEIL COX: And Sue it's really two days before the Harlin's meeting there in San Antonio also.

SUE SWENSON: Okay, yes, right, exactly, so I just wanted to point that out that not only are we excited about the number but we're going to actually get to see what they have planned so I know that Derrick is moving as quickly as he can yet giving the quality review that's required but we're pretty excited about this number of people who were interested in public safety so that's fantastic.

NEIL COX: I agree Sue and I think knowing that there are so many in the entrepreneurial community that are waiting for this network to go live so these applications and devices can be put-out to public safety, it should be huge.

SUE SWENSON: Right.

NEIL COX: Be absolutely huge for all of us in this country.

SUE SWENSON: Well, as we know Neil and others, you know, this has been a long time coming and so obviously, I think people are, you know, more than ready to, you know, to get going on this. A lot of time and effort and, you know, high-quality input has been provided so we're clearly ready to do that. So, thank you Jeff and Neil and Jeff, thanks for the continued work out in Boulder with your team and Neil, thanks for your work as the Chair of the Technology Committee. We appreciate that. With that we're going to move over to the Chief Customer update with Rich Reed and this is an area obviously that we made some changes in over the last year. We feel it's really important to make sure, you know, as you saw in the PSAC update from Harlin, obviously, adoption's really important so, you know, this clearly has to be the focus. This is not a mandate, remember, you know, like most programs. We need to deliver something that public safety actually needs and wants and so the work that the Chief Customer team is doing is critically important to that so with that Rich, the floor is yours.

RICH REED: Thank you, Sue, and good afternoon, everyone. Before I get started, I just wanted to take a moment and thank Harlin for all of his hard work, dedication and the time he spent. I work closely with Harlin as well as the entire PSAC and I can tell you the amount of hours Harlin spends with me on the phone, with Dave Holders on the phone, with other members of PSAC on the phone it's an extraordinary commitment and I want to thank Harlin and I look forward to working with him through the award. It really is something that I enjoy and appreciate. Before I get into, you know, what we're going to be doing in the very near future, I just want to do a quick recap of what we've done in the last quarter. As always, we are continuing our outreach and consultation with stakeholders. Between January and the end of March, we've executed over 120 outreach and consultation engagements. That reaches over 10,000 stakeholders. We've actually visited over 38 states and territories so really a robust engagement on the consultation and outreach side and that's with communities within the federal, state, local and tribal levels of government as well so very robust consultation and outreach still going on. Specific discipline engagement meetings we've had during that period of time through the major city chiefs, major county sheriffs, National Sheriffs Association

and the EMS community via the JEMS conference that was just recently held. And I want to thank specifically Rick Stanek and Kevin McGinnis for participating in these engagements as well as Harlin McEwen for taking time out of their days to participate in those events with us. I think it's very important to thank the Board members when they take the time to go out and engage with the stakeholder community on our behalf. Looking forward, we're going to go out and execute our normal yearly participating in IWCE we're going to have dozens of speaking events to include keynote speeches, panel discussions, town halls as well as our booth deployment at IWCE and as everyone knows it's a major event for both stakeholders as well as industry. It would be a good time for us to get together and really get a good pulse check of what's going on in the industry and share our message broadly across stakeholders. In addition to the actual consultation events, the communication team's been very, very busy developing online content, social media content, and specifically videos. I don't know if you've gone onto our Website and looked at the video section but we've done a lot of great work and I want to commend the communications team for being very innovative and looking at ways to get the information out broadly without requiring travel and doing it very cost-effectively. I think the products speak for themselves so please take the time to go to our website www.firstnet.gov and look at the video section because it's really impressive work there's a 101 video that was recently released, a 2017 consultation video. And we also have spotlights and bios for members of the PSAC as well as FirstNet staff that you can look at and it really gives you the depth and breadth of talent that we've recruited and it's a really nice spotlight for the amount of work that's being executed on behalf of FirstNet. So, in addition to consultation and outreach, as you know we are also responsible for state plan development so the state plan team has done a tremendous amount of work preparing for award. We've gone through and really prepared the information that has come out of consultation, the information that we've developed specifically in state plans to ensure that once the partner is awarded we are able to engage with them that we get through that draft plan development process as quickly as possible. We've developed draft landing pages, executive summaries and really put structure to the data and how we're going to have a dialogue with the partner post award so that's a recap of what we've been doing over the last quarter.

Let me get into the very important activities of the first 100 days that the types of activities we're going to execute post-award and make sure everyone understands that the timing and cadence of those activities. So, the first thing I'll say is everything we're going to be doing initially post-award is to ensure the success of both the states as well as the partner in receiving that state plan content. We want to make sure that we are immediately post-award engaged with the SPOC communities. Hopefully within the first 24 hours of signing the contract, we will send out an e-mail or get on the phone with the SPOC community as well as the PSAC community and make sure that everyone understands the details of how we're going to move forward and the timing for moving forward. And then we will schedule very quickly a Webinar event to make sure that everybody hears the most up-to-date information post-award with all the information we can release, what we know, what we don't know, keeping the same cadence of information sharing we've used over the last several years. With the goal of making sure

that everyone has what they need, has the right information to be effective. After we do that we will immediately enter into a dialogue with the partner. We'll do a joint kick-off meeting with the goal of bringing our vision and the partner's vision and combining it into one. We want to make sure that both the FirstNet subject matter expert's been working on this for so long as well as the future partner's, you know, subject matter experts have the ability to sit down and find a level ground and combine those visions so that everybody knows what each player's doing and we're executing in the most efficient way with the goal of getting that draft plan developed very quickly. We then enter into the state plan draft development phase where we're going to develop a guidance package for the SPOC community to execute. We're also going to share a feedback form for how we're going to interact in the reviewing of a state plan. We want to make sure that the input we're receiving from the states is structured in a way that's easily consumable and shareable with the future partner. We want to make sure that everybody has a consistent way to look at the draft plan content and ultimately, make that the most impactful engagement we can in terms of draft plan review. And we want to make sure that the SPOCs have as much notice as possible so that they get the right folks in the room to review that draft plan content and make sure that the right eyes get on that information and they know how to properly protect the information once it's shared.

As we move into the next phase, we're going to develop an overview on how we're going to develop the content, the policies and the consultation draft. We will engage with the partner to make sure that the plans are properly reflected with the state information. We want to make sure that the stakeholders see themselves reflected in that tailored state plan and we will take that ultimate content and populate it into the FirstNet portal, that online portal for dissemination.

Obviously, it's going to be very important as we deliver an online portal content that we use the appropriate level of vetting and testing so we're going to have a very robust testing process so that we can ultimately release that draft plan to the states at the same time and we can go out and start socializing that information and engaging the states on the content of that draft plan. And with that, that's sort of the nature of how we're going to approach the post-award activities. Any questions?

SUE SWENSON: You know, Rich, you know as you know Chief Johnson and I and others obviously have been very interested as we are in all aspects of FirstNet but this area in particular is critically important and I hope the listening audience and the board maybe is not close to this because they're not on, you know, the outreach committee sees the, you know, the significant work that has gone into being prepared for this and not just at the concept level. You know, we're really spending a lot of time talking about you know, the execution, how does this actually get deployed effectively and I think it's really important for the listening audience to understand that's the kind of detail. There's a lot that, you know, we're only showing just the very high level summary of this but there's a lot of detail behind this and as you said, we will have to work with whoever our partner is to make sure that we're on the same page but I'm very impressed as one Board member for the quality of the work that's gone into this and the preparation. I think this shows our readiness and I want to thank you for your leadership and the work

of everybody who's been working on this because I know there's a lot of work behind the scenes and then just one last comment. You referred to SPOC and I know there's a lot of people who know what SPOCs are but they probably think it's Star Trek and it's not but it's single point of contact for the states for those of you who don't know that acronym because we use it, you know, just part of our vernacular now but I wanted to make sure the listening audience knew that you weren't talking Star Trek.

RICH REED: Thank you, thank you.

SUE SWENSON: Okay, okay, you know, one of the other things that I think we've paid a lot of attention to and Governor Douglas of course is our Chair of our Finance Committee, but Kim Farrington is our CFO at FirstNet and from the very first days at FirstNet we took a very, you know, discipline approach to budgeting and adhering to budgets and obviously not spending more than we needed to. Just because you have it doesn't mean you should spend it and so I think the FirstNet team would if you asked any of them would tell you that the finance committee's been pretty rough on the management team so the board is taking a very active role to make sure that we budget that which we believe we need and not anymore and we've really tied all of our budgeting to specific outcomes that we wanted to accomplish. So, with that Kim I think you're prepared with an update on our financial results but I wanted to give that context for those of the listening audience and perhaps our new Board members who have not been closed to this from the beginning that this is really the culture of FirstNet so with that the floor is yours, Kim.

KIM FARRINGTON: Thank you, Sue. Good afternoon, everyone. As Sue said we have been very good stewards of every taxpayer dollar that we have and if you look at our cumulative financial results, FirstNet FY '17 financial situation has followed the same trend since the beginning of the fiscal year. As you can see through January 31st, with regard to our obligations we have an obligations budget this year of \$84.6 million. Year-to-date through January 31st, we utilized 24% of that equates to about \$20.6 million in obligations and the reason for the variance is due to a delay in the contract and the natural delay of other contracts related to the major procurement. With regard to our expenses, we have an expense budget of \$118.6 million and through January 31st, we've utilized 21% of that which equates to \$25.2 million dollars. This is predominantly due to two reasons. First being the expenses that naturally would follow the obligations that did not occur in the 1st Quarter of FY '17, and also a delay in the spectrum relocation grant expenses that we were anticipating sooner when we first formulated the FY '17 budget. But moving on to great news, as you may remember in December at that Board meeting I actually commented that I believed that we would have a clean audit opinion on our Fiscal Year 2016 financial statement audit and that is again the case. We earned our fourth consecutive clean or unmodified audit opinion and we actually did more than that this year. We were able to close a previously-reported significant deficiency related to our financial service providers IT Access Controls. So, we were able to actually prove that FirstNet has compensating controls in place to mitigate our service providers [inaudible] but there's more. We actually closed another

management-level finding that was related to undocumented policies and procedures. We were able to show the auditors that we have created 35 policies and procedures that we were able to show that then reflect that we do have those policies and procedures and controls in place. So, looking at the graph, this illustrates our progress in the financial arena. You can see in FY '14 we actually had a total of six weaknesses, five being management-level and one significant deficiency. You can see now that downward trend over the last couple of years and we are now down to just one management-level finding that we are planning to resolve this fiscal year so you might ask what does all this financial and audit information mean to you as a stakeholder? This basically means that FirstNet is able to provide reasonable assurance of the reliability of FirstNet's financial reporting as well as its operations so ultimately the financial perspective we are in a great position to support the public safety community. So if there are no other questions, Sue, I'll turn it over to you.

SUE SWENSON: Kim, go ahead.

MIKE POTH: Yes, so as you noted and Kim and her team and the entire management team has been very prudent in how they go about exercising any expenses that I always like to tell them that envision if it was your own company if it was coming-out of your own wallet or purse would you spend that dollar or invest in that direction because that is as the Board knows and I think many of the public that any dollars above our operating costs that we've able to save is going to be a reinvestment back into the network for years to come. So, prudent budgeting and discipline around that just getting enough funds to operate effectively is the key and Kim and her team have done a great job. The clean audit also is not a trivial exercise and it takes Kim's team, you know, probably two months every year working with the outside independent auditors to come to this outcome so I'm very pleased that we're able to report that again.

SUE SWENSON: Yeah, no, Mike, go ahead, somebody else wanted to comment?

JAMES DOUGLAS: This is Jim so I was just going to add on behalf of the committee that I think our colleagues on the Board know that we've really matured in terms of our financial operations over the past year or two, some of you who were on the call with the outside auditors and heard the information that Kim has presented on closing deficiencies and findings. And we've got a little stability in our budgeting now. Kim reports to the finance committee on a monthly basis showing our obligations and expenses against our budget and I think we have a right to feel really good about where we've come over the last couple of years in terms of positioning the organization for our task ahead from financial operations standpoint.

SUE SWENSON: No, Jim I absolutely concur and I think that it's really important for those who are maybe not as familiar with the organizations, we've come from nowhere to somewhere pretty fast and I really want to thank Kim for her leadership. You know, she brings a lot of discipline because of her experience in the federal government and so she's brought discipline to the organization and I challenge anybody to have any

policy discussions with her because she can stand toe-to-toe with anybody on policy. But as a result of that Jim to your point, we've been able to put the discipline in place and to get this clean audit and Kim will remember on an audit a couple of years ago, we dug-in on a finding and this year as a result of that digging-in Kim, we were able to get a clean audit on that. So, we didn't leave any stone unturned to make sure we put the appropriate controls in place and that kind of discipline and tenacity is what gets us to where we are today so I think it's important to recognize, you know, in a relatively short period of time we have become a mature organization that is Jim to your point can handle what's ahead which is really important. That's what the whole focus of the whole organization has been is to be ready, you know, for the time when we can actually start to deploy a nationwide public safety network, a broadband network so Kim, thanks to you and your team and thanks Governor for your leadership of the finance committee very much appreciate it.

((Crosstalk))

SUE SWENSON: Go ahead, go ahead.

KIM FARRINGTON: I just wanted to say it's a team effort so a huge shout-out to the finance team who worked tirelessly to get these results.

SUE SWENSON: Exactly, exactly, I know the perspiration that is required to get some of this stuff done so very much appreciate it so speaking of readiness, you know, our President TJ Kennedy is up next to talk about the organization and kind of our operations update. And this is something that we've been focused on. TJ frankly I can think it's almost back to Day 1 we've been envisioning this day and you and many of the people at FirstNet have been instrumental in thinking about that readiness and I think you're going to give us an organization and operations update today so the floor is yours.

TJ KENNEDY: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm very excited that the entire organization is ready to move forward and one of the things you're going to hear from the FirstNet team going forward is we're going to be very focused on talking about task orders and the actual deployment work that will be accomplished together across the entire organization working with our public/private partnership, with public safety and with our technology partner to make this happen. You'll see on this slide here that the number of key things that will happen on Day 1 post-award and we will literally move-out with the first three task orders which will focus on the state plan portal itself so that states and all their key stakeholders will have the ability to get access to information. Lot of great work will be done in these early days post-award between the chief customer office team, the chief technology officer team and the NPO the network program office team to work with the partner to prepare that state portal so that we can immediately get information out over the next few months. The next element is Task Order 2 which is the actual final development of a plan based upon the public/private partnership and to have all the details that a state would be looking for in a draft state plan that will be discussed with

them and then turn into a final state plan. One of the things that our team has very much worked-on is how can they accelerate this process so we can move with extreme urgency to get these plans in front of public safety, in front of the governors along with the key state single point of contacts. And to work very closely with them to make sure that these plans that are communicated, they're discussed and that the questions are answered so that we can move forward with the opt and opt-out process and getting to deployment of the network as quickly as possible. I can tell you that the team has really worked hard on all the key elements that are also in Task Order 3. This is actually a much larger task order. When we talk about the core task order, it's not just an evolve pack at core and redundant locations across the country that are certainly going to exist but in addition to that it's all the services that are going to be offered. Its applications, it's actually having keeping key Band 14 devices that at the launch of the network. It's making sure we document the final architecture and the key infrastructure that are needed across the country, that we talk through all the details and make sure we're prepared for actual operations on the network and move ourselves through, you know, everything that needs to occur and there's a number of key tasks that on here. That will eventually result in the Task Order 4 which will eventually be the RAN plans for each of the states that will result out of the efforts that go forward. Going on to Slide 17 the integrated task teams that exist are there to really be our key functioning and operational bodies, these integrated task teams have a cross-section of personnel from the operational units across FirstNet. These will be the teams that will be working hand-in-glove in that public-private partnership to really make sure that they execute on both the state plans and the state portal as well as all those elements of the core network. You'll see there is so much work to be done both on the state plans and the state plan portal and the core network that there will be a number of activities that happen Day 1 and literally in the first, second and third week post-award. I can tell you that the team is absolutely ready to go execute on this immediately. We have to wait for the key court decision and get to an award but really the team is ready to go. They've been preparing all of the elements and have things loaded so that they can start-off without a hitch and they can literally all be in the same room and ready to move forward. So those teams have been here working on this. I think the Board should rest assured that they are prepared and ready to go on these 13 task teams that will literally allow us to hit the ground running at full speed. With that I will open it up for questions for me about overall operations and where the NPO, CCO and CTO teams will be going forward post-award and be prepared.

SUE SWENSON: Any questions from the Board? We've of course had several briefings just in general on all the work that has been going into this and again much like finance there's a lot that's underneath all of this. This is a very, very high-level picture of what has to be done. When you move from, you know, concept and slideware to actual execution, the FirstNet team and the Board know that I've been maniacally focused on being ready. You know, having been in like several board members in similar businesses, you know, this is the attention to detail that's required to be effective when we're finally able to execute. So TJ to you and you know, I won't mention names because I'll omit somebody but you know who's on the team, big thanks for getting us to

this spot and I'm very impressed with the quality of the planning so I believe that we have every chance to be successful when we're in a position to move ahead so thank you from me and the Board.

TJ KENNEDY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

SUE SWENSON: So, any other comments or questions from the Board members? If not, I think everybody knows that we're still in an active procurement and we are waiting for the U.S. Court of Appeals of Federal Claims for an outcome in the process it's been undergoing for the last couple of months so with us today is Jason Karp, our General Counsel of FirstNet and I think he will probably have a very brief update for us Jason on the litigation.

JASON KARP: Thanks, Sue, absolutely and just to kind of refresh everybody's recollection, I'll just quickly go back a little bit of the history just so everyone recalls where we are so you know, back in November one of the offerors, Rivada Mercury, filed a protest in the Court of Federal Claims as you noted based on the competitive rates, determination that had been made at that time. In addition, shortly thereafter AT&T file a motion to intervene in that case which was granted by the Court. The judge had established a briefing schedule at that time which was to conclude in mid-February and the good news is everybody adhered to that schedule and the briefing did conclude in mid-February as originally scheduled. An oral argument was scheduled to take place on March 3rd as well that did take place, that has been completed so all steps relating to the protest of the parties have been completed and now it's with the court and certainly we anxiously await their decision because of all of this great work you've heard about is really dependent upon that litigation coming to fruition and FirstNet having the ability to move forward. Just a couple of other points just to note, you know, as we have previously discussed I think there was no injunctive order or temporary restraining order that the judge had issued in that case so it did permit FirstNet to continue to move forward with all of the activities associated with the procurement short of the award. And as you've heard that the team has been doing that and I know that FirstNet's been working very closely with our acquisition partner DOI to take the steps necessary to ensure that and are fully prepared to move forward based on whatever the decision the court issues hopefully in the next several days. I know that from my perspective and the entire management team's perspective as well as the folks at DOI that we've taken this litigation extremely seriously, it's been a big focus of the team. We are very grateful quite frankly to the court and want to thank the court for its diligence. It's certainly recognized the urgency of this project and set a schedule that was very aggressive and made the huge net schedule and so I think that that's extremely important and we're very grateful for that. As I noted once the decision is issued, we will respect that court's decision and we will take whatever actions are necessary to comply with the direction that the court gives. At this point, obviously that's a wait and see and we will be prepared to react accordingly when we receive that decision and as noted previously that at this point could be just about any day so we're waiting very anxiously so really with that, you know, I just want to turn it back to you Madame Chair. It's really now, you

know, within the Board's purview consistent with their obligations under the act to you know, ensure we are best-positioned to move as quickly as possible once we receive that decision and it's determined, you know, what the next steps will be, you know, so we can address whatever open issues may exist and if any after the decision and the court so we can move forward with the network deployment for the benefit of public safety so with that certainly happy to answer any questions if anyone's got any.

SUE SWENSON: Any questions by the Board members on Jason's report or the status of the litigation? Jason, I also, you know, obviously, Department of Justice was very instrumental in representing FirstNet, you know, through the litigation and obviously very grateful to the work, I mean, we work very closely with them of course but very grateful to the work that they've done to represent our case in court so want to acknowledge that work of, you know, for on our behalf.

I think with that if there are no questions for the listening audience, we're going to go into closed session because we're going to have some discussion around acquisition-sensitive information.

We expect as I understand it Mike I think we're planning maybe about 25-30 minutes at the most and we would come back with a brief report out after the closed session. I think that's the plan, correct?

MIKE POTH: Yes, that's a good target.

SUE SWENSON: Okay, and so I'll need a motion. I'd move that we close the combined committee and Board meeting to go into closed section. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

GROUP: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: Any objections or abstentions? Great, so we will move into closed session and we will come back to the listening audience after the closed session.

COORDINATOR: Participants and some speakers will hear music during the closed session. Please standby for closed session.

COORDINATOR: Thank you, I've joined all lines.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you very much and thank you for the listening audience for your patience. Obviously, our closed session went a bit longer than we had anticipated but obviously important discussion for the Board. We're at an important juncture at our process here. What I'd like to do is turn the meeting over to our CEO Mike Poth for a

readout on the closed session and any closing comments Mike and then when you're complete, I'll move to adjourn the meeting.

MIKE POTH: Great, thanks very much Sue and I'd like to welcome the new federal Board members as well and I look forward to working with you and during the closed session we did discuss the Board did discuss the state of the acquisition and the logical next steps. So as everyone knows we are anxiously awaiting the determination by the Court and then the Board and the FirstNet staff will then react accordingly to that. We are sensitive that the Board and public safety and all our state partners are anxiously awaiting for an outcome and as soon as it becomes available, we will then start communicating that to everyone. You know, in the meantime we're going to as the court has continued to allow us and I think everyone in the Board heard today all the steps we are doing to prepare for the execution of the contract or the next steps as the Court determines so we're going to continue to work with our acquisition partner and Department of Interior and Department of Commerce and DHS and DOJ and OMB to continue to move forward. I do want to share just for a moment we did have a great opportunity two weeks ago. Secretary Ross is the brand new Secretary in the Department of Commerce and after what he describes as a long time before his confirmation, we have the opportunity literally his second day on the job to provide him a briefing on FirstNet and where we stand. And I'm here to tell to the Board and everyone that the Secretary of Commerce and this entire administration is very excited about FirstNet and has committed to do everything they can to continue to ensure its success so that was very refreshing. It's so significant that Secretary Ross in his first day in the speech to all employees of the Department of Commerce identified FirstNet as one of his top three priorities so it was great that the new administration and the new Secretary is leaning forward to make this successful for public safety and without my prompting, he said this is critical for first responders and public safety and please let him know personally what he can do to help. He's going to make it a priority so you know, with a great deal of confidence and a little bravado that I can say that the, you know, the new administration and our Board as always is continuing the lead forward. I hope today that the Board's gotten a good overview. We will continue to press forward. We do embrace everyone's sense of urgency and we look forward to a positive outcome in the very near future so with that Madame Chair, I will turn it back over to you unless there's any questions.

SUE SWENSON: Any questions or comment from the Board? So, thank you Mike and if there is no questions or comments, I'd move that we adjourn today's meeting. Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Second.

EDWARD HOROWITZ: It's Ed, I'll second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. All those in favor please signify by saying aye?

GROUP: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: Any opposition or abstentions? We are adjourned. Thank you everybody for joining us today. We look forward to our next communication with you. Have a great day.

COORDINATOR: That concludes today's call. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.

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