SLERS JTF Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Meeting Location: Betty Easley Conference Center,
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 152
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Board Members & Back-ups in attendance:

1. SAC Mark Perez, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
3. Col. Gene Spaulding, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)
5. Michael Harrell, Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC)
7. Sheriff Brian Lamb, Lafayette County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO)

Department of Management Services (DMS) Staff Members in Attendance:

1. Doug Whitfield, SLERS Field Engineer
2. Nigel Shepherd, SLERS Field Engineer
3. Quenedy Pierre-Louis, SLERS Field Engineer (By teleconference)
4. Heath Beach, Deputy State Chief Information Officer
5. Matthew Matney, Chief, Bureau of Public Safety
6. Millie Marchiano, Administrative Assistant (By teleconference)
7. Shaun Krueger, Engineer Specialist
8. Scott Penton, SLERS Manager+
9. Chris Kemp, Engineer Specialist
10. Pam Gerard, SLERS Contract Manager
11. Steve Welsh, Utility System Engineering Supervisor
12. Kurt Eckel, SLERS Frequency Manager

Members of the Public in Attendance:

1. Scott Macias, L3 Harris
2. Tal Whiddon, Williams Communications
3. Bill Skukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
4. Capt. Chris Sella, (FWC)
5. Paul Ouellette, FWC
7. Bill Bierbaum, (DFS)
8. Bob Busch, Motorola
9. Audie Rowell, Walton County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO)
10. Mark Burk, ISF
11. Major Timothy Roufa, FHP

(If meeting participants are not listed, it may be due to a lack of sign-in acknowledging participation.)

Members of the Public in Attendance, via telephone conference:

(If teleconference participants are not listed, it may be due to non-receipt of emails acknowledging participation.

Action Items:

   o JTF Workshop

1. Call to Order

   o Chairman Perez called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.
   o Chairman Perez made a point of reference that new legislation returned a subsection of the Department of Environmental Protection to go under the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. There is a component of investigative services that are back at the Department of Environmental Protection. Therefore, they will be back as representative of the Board.
   o Introductions were made of Proxys and Board members.

2. Approval of Minutes

   o Col. Spaulding noted on page four, section 10, bullet point 10, Stoneham was spelled incorrectly. It should be “Stoneman.”
   o Col. Spaulding made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019, meeting, with corrections. Col. Wiggins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

3. Request for Public Comments

   o None.

4. SLERS II Procurement Update

   o Mr. Matt Matney provided an update on the SLERS II Procurement.
   o Mr. Matney stated the contract is still under review by DMS legal counsel. There is still pending litigation and oral arguments will begin on November 19.
   o Col. Spaulding stated he wanted to reiterate the sense of urgency as far as getting new information. The agencies need to prepare for procurement of replacement radios as well as what will be needed based on what is stated in the contract. He stressed he would like to get information as soon as possible.
Mr. Matney stated DMS is very aware how critical information is to the agencies. Chairman Perez asked in a best-case scenario, how far behind does this make us. Mr. Matney stated if the contract were signed immediately, it would probably place us two years behind. Chairman Perez stated that in 2014, the Board developed a strategic plan for the procurement, with the features and technology desired. The Board’s hope was to be ready to keep delays like this from happening. Referring to the Strategic Plan showing the timeline, the migration and transition of SLERS should have started in July 2017. He stated putting us two years behind after all the planning is frustrating and concerning to the agencies. Two years behind means agencies must look at the impact it creates; the radios that are end of life, equipment and other needs that must be kept up to date. He said the Board is asking for understanding that they are forced to take additional steps. Legislative budget requests have been created and now additional funds need to be requested. He stated the primary strategic goal the Board outlined is to promote law enforcement personal safety through the expansion of statewide handheld portable coverage. That was listed as number one because, as representatives of our agencies and the men and women we represent, it is critical. The Board would like to express to DMS and make a public record to not only DMS but other individuals and legislative leaders to understand this delay potentially puts the safety of law enforcement personnel at risk. He said the fact there is a two-year delay is unfortunate. Chairman Perez said he and the Board will commit do their part to work with DMS to let our legislative leaders understand and recognize this is a serious issue. He further stated he’d like the Board to help DMS convey the message to leaders and decision makers, that any more delays are not acceptable.

Col. Spaulding stated the message needs to get to leaders in the agencies as well as downtown to understand how serious this is. He stated the people at the right level need to understand the sense of urgency. He said everyone needs to communicate and strive to get ahead of this situation.

Chairman Perez stated there are many third-party subscribers and they’re probably in a worse position than we are as their equipment is much older. Sheriff Lamb said they will struggle with the financial issues.

Chairman Perez suggested holding a workshop before the end of the year.

Col. Spaulding asked if there was the possibility of a signed contract by the end of the year.

Heath Beach responded he does expect a resolution to the contract.

Chairman Perez suggested December 10 or 17, to hold the workshop. Col. Spaulding stated he would be out of town on December 10.

Sheriff Lamb made a motion to hold the workshop on December 17. Maj. Burt Himmer seconded the motion.

Col. Spaulding suggested including the Technical Committee. Chairman Perez agreed they should be included.

5. Partner Applications
Mr. Doug Whitfield provided an update on Partner Applications.

Walton County and DeFuniak Springs Police Department.
- Walton County is currently a partner on the SLERS network. They are requesting to increase their billed/active radio county by 20. DeFuniak Springs Police Department is also wanting to add eight radios to the SLERS system with a potential growth of 12 radios over the next six years under Walton County. DeFuniak Springs PD also requests three new agency specific talk groups to be used with their radios. This will increase the total billed/active radio amount by a total of 40 radios.
- DMS and the JTF Technical Committee recommends approval of this application.
- Col. Wiggins made a motion to approve. Col. Spaulding seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Tal Whiddon relayed the appreciation of Chief Hurley for the approval of the application at the Technical Committee meeting, stating it could possibly save one of his officer’s lives.

The Florida Army National Guard.
- The Florida Army National Guard is a partner on the SLERS network. They are requesting to increase their radio amount by 100 portables at Camp Blanding.
- A load study was done and found no potential issues with adding these radios. DMS and the JTF Technical Committee recommends the approval of this application.
- Maj. Himmer made a motion to approve. Sheriff Lamb seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Broward Sheriff’s Office
- The Broward Sheriff’s Office is currently an interoperability partner on the SLERS P25 network. They are requesting to add three mobiles to the SLERS network as well as the two previously approved radios for SLERS P25 network.
- A load study was done for the area and found no potential issues with adding these radios to this area.
- DMS and the JTF Technical Committee recommend the approval of this application.
- Chairman Perez inquired if this brings their numbers to five. Mr. Whitfield responded Broward was initially approved for five; two for the P25 network and these mobiles for the SLERS network.
- Col. Wiggins made a motion to approve. Sheriff Lamb seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. Mobile Radio System (MRS) Deployments

Mr. Doug Whitfield provided an update on the Mobile Radio System Deployments.
Mr. Whitfield reported for this fiscal year, there has been one completed MRS deployment for the Coke Zero 400 in Daytona. He said a total of seven more deployments are projected.

7. Security Update
   - Maj. Gaston reported from January 1 through October 31, 2019, 907 applications have been received. Of that, 698 have been approved, 93 denied, 3 pending and 113 deactivated.

8. Regional Communications Center (RCC) Operational Update
   - Maj. Keith Gaston provided the RCC operational update.
   - The move from Orlando to Sanford is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday (November 6-7, 2019) of this week and will be completely operational by sometime Thursday morning.
   - We continue to have a low turnover rate, even with the move.
   - We are looking to be 100% staffed in two of the seven centers.

9. JTF Technical Update
   - Bill Skukowski provided the update from the JTF Technical Committee.
   - Mr. Skukowski reported the Committee met on October 22nd and discussed many of the items covered today.
   - Harris has provided the new portable radio, the XL185 portable. It has been made available to several agencies to evaluate. FWC is testing the radio with an LTE chip installed. It has the capability to connect to a cellular network. The cellular capability allows it to be used as a backup to the radio system. FWC is looking to maybe get a cache of these radios for out of state response. It will provide communications within teams as well as the ability to talk to people in Florida, dispatch centers and Command staff.
   - He stated DMS is currently getting ready for the testing of the new XL185 mobile radio and will hopefully hear the results soon.
   - Recently there have been discussions regarding the processes of requesting the MRS and the funding. It was thought the processes were worked out until Hurricane Dorian and encountered new issues. The Technical Committee will be continuing to work out those issues.
   - The Technical Committee approved the four meeting dates for next year.
   - The elections were held. Mr. Skukowski stated he was elected Chairman again and Maj. Burt Himmer, DFS, was elected Vice-Chairman.
   - Mr. Skukowski inquired if there was a need to have the selections approved by the Board. Chairman Perez said he didn’t think so and deferred to DMS.
Chairman Perez said it is his understanding the Technical Committee has the right to nominate and approve their own memberships.

10. Elections

- Chairman Perez stated he will not accept nominations for the Chairman position as it is healthy to rotate leadership.
- He opened nominations for the Vice Chairman. Chairman Perez nominated Col. James Wiggins, FDACS, for the position of Vice Chairman. No other nominations were received. Col. Wiggins was elected Vice Chairman for the JTF Board Committee.
- Col. Wiggins thanked Chairman Perez for his leadership. Col. Wiggins then nominated Col. Gene Spaulding, FHP, for Chairman. No other nominations were received. Col. Spaulding was elected Chairman for the JTF Board Committee.
- Col. Spaulding also thanked Chairman Perez for his leadership and what he has done for the Board.
- Chairman Perez recognized Tal Whiddon and Steve Williams for their support of the Technical Committee and the Board.

11. JTF Meeting Dates for 2020

- Chairman Perez asked if there were any concerns with the proposed dates.
- Col. Spaulding said he had a conflict with Tuesday, May 5. He asked if the meeting could be moved either forward or backward by one week. He stated he also has a conflict with November 3. He asked if the meeting could be changed to November 10.
- Pending the date changes, Col. Spaulding made a motion to approve the dates. Sheriff Lamb seconded the motion and the motion carried.

12. Request for Public Comments

- Matt Matney thanked Chairman Perez for all his contributions.

13. Request for Agenda Items

- JTF Workshop on December 17, 2019

14. Adjourn

- Col. Spaulding made a motion to adjourn. Sheriff Lamb seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting:
Date: February 25, 2020 9:30 a.m.
Location: Betty Easley Conference Center
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 152
Tallahassee, Florida 32399