



## Transcript

### **FirstNet Board of Directors Webcast, Washington, DC, March 24-25, 2015**

#### ***Part 1 - Governance and Personnel Committee***

SUE SWENSON: I think everyone is connected, if not I'm sure we'll get communications from somebody to let us know that we're having difficulty. But I will tell you we've spent quite a bit of time making sure that we have good audio today for today's meeting.

I want to welcome everybody to the FirstNet Governance and Personnel Committee meeting this morning. I want to express appreciation to the Department of Commerce for hosting us here in their facility downtown. I have to say I've never been in this room before. I was a bit overwhelmed. I feel like I'm in Parliament or something, you know, being up on the stage and having a big audience like this, but hopefully that doesn't affect our ability to conduct an effective meeting.

I just have to say it really is a pleasure to be here today. We've made a lot of progress over the last year, and I think you'll see that we continue to make significant progress here at FirstNet, and I think you'll see that today as we go through the Committee meetings and talk about the issues having to do with the documents for the draft RFP.

I also think, you know, that we are committed to keeping meetings as open as possible, and I hope you've seen that over the last several meetings that we've had at FirstNet. However, today we're going to have to go into numerous closed sessions because of the sensitivity and confidentiality of the acquisition process. Those of you who have been involved in that effort with the federal procurement process, I believe, understand this, and we need to conduct these closed sessions so that we comply with the laws, and also to safeguard the proprietary information of the people that are providing it to us. So we will try to be efficient and be in closed session at a minimum, and then come back and review the outcomes of those sessions with you.

So here's how it's going to work today. We'll have a meeting here. We'll go into closed session. The Board Chairs at each of the Committee meetings will reconvene the public session, and then we will review the outcomes of each of those closed sessions with the public. And we anticipate that the Committees will take action today that will recommend to the full Board, so we will have more robust discussions in the open session tomorrow about the discussion from today. So I think the Committee members are aware of the process, and I wanted to make sure that the public was. If management's proposals are approved by each of the Committees today, like I said, we'll spend a considerable time tomorrow to talk about the framework for management's recommendations for the path forward as agreed in our closed sessions today.

As you know, this is one of the many consultation efforts that we're undertaking at FirstNet. As you know, we're doing a significant outreach in all the states and territories. We've issued numerous requests for information. We've now issued two public notices, and, again, this is -- I think you can see that we're engaging very fully in the consultation process, and this is one of many, many efforts of consultation.

What's also becoming a customary part of every meeting is to review any conflicts that any of the Board members have relative to the discussions underway. So I would like to call on our Board Secretary to

walk us through, and our webcasting audience to be aware of any conflicts that any of our board members have. Uzoma, so would you take us through the conflicts notification?

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Sure. So this is a statement I'll be reading for each of the committee meetings today. "In advance of FirstNet's March 2015 Committee and Board meetings, the management team has provided the Board with an agenda, outlining each of the items that will be discussed and decided during the Committee's meetings, and during the Board meeting. The members were also provided with a conflicts of interest assessment, which was produced jointly by Commerce Department of Office of General Counsel, as well as FirstNet's Chief Counsel Office. Providing these documents in advance to the Board members allows them to identify potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from consideration."

We will, prior to each Committee, and the full 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 is necessary. With that said, we have one board member I know that wants to make one quick statement.

TIM BRYAN: Thanks, Uzoma, and Sue and Stuart and Board members. I will make this statement at this session and hopefully just let it work for the full two days so I don't have to make it over and over again. But as you know, I'm affiliated with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, and there's some aspects of the RFP that deal with regionalization of states, local, national, those sorts of things, so out of just a complete abundance of caution, I'll recuse myself from any vote on that particular item, but other than that, I'm going to participate fully in the discussions and the votes, et cetera, et cetera. I just wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of that, Sue. That's all.

SUE SWENSON: Okay. Is everyone comfortable with Tim's comments? Thank you, Tim. I appreciate that.

TIM BRYAN: Thanks. Thanks, Sue. Thanks, Uzoma.

SUE SWENSON: So I think any other board members have any conflicts to announce? I think we're good there. I think we're ready to take the roll.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Okay. Sue Swenson?

SUE SWENSON: Here.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Barry Boniface?

BARRY BONIFACE: Here.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Tim Bryan?

TIM BRYAN: Here.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Jeff Johnson?

JEFF JOHNSON: Here.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Teri Takai.

TERI TAKAI: Here.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Madam Chair, we have a quorum.

SUE SWENSON: Great. Thank you very much. And then administratively we have some minutes to approve. I think you all received copies of the last minutes, and I was wondering if anybody had any comments, and if not, I would certainly entertain a motion to approve.

TERI TAKAI: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. Is there a second?

BARRY BONIFACE: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Any further discussion about the minutes? Great. All those in favor of the minute, please signify by saying "aye."

ALL: Aye

SUE SWENSON: Any opposition? Any abstentions? Great. I think the minutes are approved and we can proceed. I am delighted to have one of the FirstNet staff members with us today, Ed Parkinson. I've spent quite a time with Ed of late, and his great staff that he's added, and delighted that we have Ed and the folks on the staff to help us with government affairs. Obviously, all the work we do inside of FirstNet is critically important, but the outreach we make to state, local, and the folks on Capitol Hill is critically important.

Ed brings a wealth of experience to FirstNet. He's been involved in FirstNet even before the legislation. In fact, probably was, I can say instrumental perhaps in helping us get the legislation. So delighted to introduce Ed Parkinson, and, Ed, I think you have an update for the Committee and for the audience today.

ED PARKINSON: Thank you, Sue, and good morning to all. Good morning to all who are watching. It's been a busy year, and I think it's safe to say that we've accomplished a tremendous amount. The Annual Report to Congress that was published in the beginning of March, I think, really did a tremendous job of really being able to illustrate just how far FirstNet has moved ahead in the last 12 months. Now it dealt with the financial year, FY'14, the period between September '13 through to October of last year, and it really provided this comprehensive update on the strategic goals that this Board had set out for the entire organization. It really, too, illustrated the crucial role that states are going to play as we develop the FirstNet network. And so I'll just run through a number of key points that I feel it would be worthwhile just going over one last time. And as a reminder to all of those who are watching this webcast, the report is on the FirstNet website, as are the three previous reports, all available for download.

I think, just to kick off, the key aspect was the tremendous amount of outreach that the FirstNet team was able to accomplish through FY'14. In part, the state and local outreach that Dave Buchanan, Rich Reed, and Amanda Hilliard have been able to quarterback was a key aspect in being able to reach out to over 20,000 public safety individuals across the country. We hit every single state and territory. We held meetings with various representatives from each of the 56 states and territories, including the District of Columbia, and I think it's very rare in an organization of the size of FirstNet to be able to accomplish that.

Now, much more work remains to be done, and I think as we move through the state consultation process throughout the remainder of 2015, those numbers, too, will grow, and including the number of folks that we can hit. We were able to vastly improve our media outreach and our social media presence. Our twitter page now has over a thousand followers. We have a tremendous number of followers online. We have a YouTube channel. We have Google+, and I think that sort of general outreach continues to illustrate the maturation of the organization.

We were also able to develop an organization, and when I first joined FirstNet, this was one of the key aspects that the Board talked about, is how we have to develop a culture, we have to develop the actual organization from the ground up. And by bringing onboard staff, we brought onboard 67 staff in FY'14, which really is a tremendous improvement, an increase of over 800% from the previous financial year.

The senior management, we've been able to build out, some of whom sit on the table here today. And I think as any organization matures, that organization is reflective of the type of people we're able to bring onboard.

And I can only speak on behalf of my team, and those who I interact with every day, but, you know, we've really brought on just world class personnel, and I'm tremendously excited about what we have to come in the years following. We were also able to open two offices. There's a section in the annual report which goes into some detail about our Reston space, as well as the Boulder Laboratories in Colorado. So I think illustrating that we've been able to move dynamically and that's a really important part, as well as the collaboration we've shown with the PSCR labs out in Boulder, Colorado. So another tremendous step in the right direction.

Finally, and I think most importantly, is the interaction we've had with public safety, and specifically the Public Safety Advisory Committee under Chief Harlin McEwen. I think making sure that that is the voice and that is the constituency that we are developing this network for, and to make sure that we engage with them on a regular occurrence is the vitally important part of any work that we do at FirstNet. And the three reports that we were able to develop and deliver regarding human factors, the potential users, and use cases in FY'14 really, I think, illustrated that the key role of the PSAC playing going forward. It's our voice to public safety; it's public safety's representatives in the first organization. And I think the indications are that that's something an organization and the committee is really what we're going to be leveraging going forward. So just some key points from the report. It's about 40, 45 pages long, about four times the length of any other report that we've been able to publish, and I think, too, that just draws a nice bow in the fact that we are maturing. We're showing tremendous progress. We did some fantastic work in FY'14, but a lot remains to be done, and that's something that we're all very dedicated to achieving.

SUE SWENSON: Any questions for Ed about the annual report? Ed, just one question that I have is obviously it's quite a bit of work, and I think we, also as you indicate, collaborate with folks to put this together, what kind of feedback do we get? I'm not sure that I'm that familiar with the process. I mean, obviously, it's a kind of report card in a sense for FirstNet. I mean, do you interact? Do people raise questions about when it's submitted when you go over and talk to folks on Capitol Hill?

ED PARKINSON: Yeah, that's a great question. This is a resource for Congress. This is a resource for the public. And I think making sure that we do get that interaction and people are aware of the work that we're doing, not only in the outreach events that we host, Board meetings like this, but this is a tangible product that we can point at. And we've gotten a tremendous amount of feedback, not only from Capitol Hill but especially the public safety community. States have really gone into it in some detail. I was at IWCE with a number of FirstNet individuals last week, and I got a number of folks come up to me and explain how pleased they were to see some of the detailed information that was in there that some feel was lacking over the last few years. So all in all, some very good feedback, and I think folks are excited to see what's to come in FY'15.

SUE SWENSON: That's great. I mean, I know how much work that goes into it, so I'm happy to hear that it's a useful tool. Any other questions from the Board, or comments about the annual report? Thank you, Ed, and thank you for the work of you and your team. I really -- and I know everyone else appreciates it. Thank you. At this stage, I think we're ready to go into closed session. And just as a reminder, we are going to close a portion of each of the committee meetings today to discuss our sensitive acquisition matters. As I indicated previously, this is consistent with our obligations to keep our procurement sensitive information confidential, and so that the people who will be offerors to the RFP will freely share key pieces of information that will be critical to FirstNet's success. So, obviously, this is really critically important.

You know, it's a difficult balance. You want to have the meetings open but in order to make this really be successful, we have to go into these closed sessions and have these discussions in private. We expect to reconvene in the 9:45 timeframe. I would suggest that if it looks like we need to take longer, we will

come back and update the audience as to the time that we need to take. So, with that, I would entertain a motion to close the meeting.

TIM BRYAN: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Tim.

TERI TAKAI: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Teri. Any further discussion?

JEFFREY JOHNSON: And we move, right? They don't move.

SUE SWENSON: We move. You stay here. You don't have to move. We're going to move out. Thank you for that clarification. So we're going to go to another room. And we're just down the hall. But having said that, all those in favor to close the meeting, please say "aye."

ALL: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: Any opposition or abstentions? Okay, we're going to close. We'll be back, hopefully, by 9:45.

[Break]

SUE SWENSON: Well, thank you for your patience. It took a little bit longer. It always takes longer than you think. Always, when you have these discussions. Obviously we had some very robust dialogue about this obviously very important effort here. We heard from James Mitchell, FirstNet Senior Program Manager for Operations with support from John Quinlan, our Deputy CFO for Strategic Planning, on our approach to the draft RFP and the Governance Committee's jurisdiction.

Today we're going to be actually taking each of the Committees, and each of the Committees has a different obviously, jurisdiction over the draft RFP documents, so obviously we concentrated on the Governance Committee. You know, one of the things that they really reviewed with us was the number of functions for a potential partner or partners that we need to consider, and also contracts of those partners and the relationship that FirstNet has with those partners. You know, this is obviously very important. But we wanted to leave the aperture for the draft RFP wider versus narrow. We're not prescribing this. Much like we have done previously in our proceedings, we've really tried to take a position, but this is the beginning of a process. This is not a final determination of where we are. But obviously framing this up correctly for people's consideration is important, so there was quite a bit of discussion for understanding to make sure that we're putting this RFP out there in the way in which it was -- the draft RFP -- in the way it was intended. So we spent quite a bit of time talking about those issues.

We will also take a look at this approach within this Committee and the other Committees, and then, again, the full Board tomorrow will have a more robust discussion about this in its totality. So collectively we will aggregate all of the Committee discussions and then aggregate that in the Board discussion tomorrow. As I said this is really an ongoing consultation effort. This is very complicated. You know, we keep saying this at every session we go to. You know, what we're doing here has really never been done before. The arrangements that we're talking about, the network that we're going to build, how we're going to operate this to benefit public safety is very challenging, and so we have to give the time and diligence to these questions and consider it with all the expertise that sits on the Board and all the experience that the Board members bring. I think it's, we want to make sure that we do this in the right way so that we get the best outcome for public safety.

And so more information and clarity will be coming. I know maybe it seems a little vague right now, but stay with us through the day today and the day tomorrow, and I think this will come together in a way that you will see how this notice that we will be talking about to go out and get input from the offeror

community will come together in a response that we think will lead to the outcome of building this national public safety broadband network.

So, at this point, we want to consider a resolution for the Governance Committee, and so I would like our Board Secretary to read the operative portions of that resolution.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: This is the fourth resolution of the Governance and Personnel Committee. "Now therefore be resolved that the Governance and Personnel Committee recommends that the Board approve and release for comment the material terms of management's proposed acquisition approach presented to the Committee and delegates authority to management to release the appropriate draft acquisition documents substantially reflecting such terms for comment."

SUE SWENSON: So can I get a motion from one of the Committee members to move this resolution?

BARRY BONIFACE: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. Is there a second.

TIM BRYAN: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Tim. Any discussion about the resolution?

TERI TAKAI: Yes, Madam Chair, I'd like to recommend that for the minutes that we record that we're approving the resolution with the understanding that the minutes reflect the discussion that happened in the Committee, where we had a number of suggestions and requests for additional clarification. And that FirstNet -- the FirstNet team committed to come back to us with those clarifications. And, therefore, we want to move the process forward because we need to really get the RFP out.

SUE SWENSON: Right.

TERI TAKAI: But, you know, with those two items reflected in the minutes, please.

SUE SWENSON: Is the committee comfortable with that approach? Because, as we said, it was a good robust discussion, and I think it's important to reflect that. Thank you. Thank you, Teri. So any other comments or discussion about the resolution? All those in favor for the resolution, please signify by saying "aye."

ALL: Aye

SUE SWENSON: Any opposition? Any abstentions? Motion carries. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. And I appreciate the discussion in the committee meeting. We're getting into the meat of it, and so this is very important work for FirstNet and the future of the broadband network.

I think we're complete today with the agenda, and so we will take a motion to adjourn the meeting and then we'll move on to, I believe, the Technology Committee.

UZOMA ONYEIJE: Technology, yeah.

SUE SWENSON: Technology Committee. Are we going to take a short break for the audience, or are we going to move right into it?

UZOMA ONYEIJE: We're just going to move right into the next meeting. We're just going to get the Technology Committee up here and get started.

SUE SWENSON: Okay, great. So I need a motion to adjourn.

TIM BRYAN: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. Second?

TERI TAKAI: Second.

SUE SWENSON: All in favor?

ALL: Aye

SUE SWENSON: Any opposed? Any opposition? Any abstentions? We're adjourned. Thank you very much. I appreciate your patience.