



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2025
COMBINED BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEES MEETING

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held a public Combined Board and Committees meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in person and via Microsoft Teams, at 9:30 AM CST in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A video recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).

Acting Board Chair, Renee Gordon, welcomed everyone and introduced new Office of Management and Budget Board Designee Mark Calabria. During this meeting, highlights and updates were provided from the Public Safety Advisory, Advocacy, Finance and Investment, and Programs and Future Planning committees.

Roll Call

Renee Gordon (“Acting Chair”), Michael Adkinson, Billy Bob Brown, Jr.,¹ Damon Darsey, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Erik Gaull, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Jocelyn Moore, Jeffrey Norman, Rasheid Scarlett, Trisha Wolford, and Mark Calabria participated. A quorum was present for the Combined Board and Board Committees meeting.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Board Committees meeting, Board Secretary Jennifer Watts sent Board members the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. Prior to the meeting, all Board members certified that they reviewed and understood the conflict of interest guidance and the meeting agenda and they did not have a conflict of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Acting Chair Gordon requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2024, Combined Board and Board Committees Meeting. Warren Mickens made the motion, Alexandra Fernández Navarro seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes and to make them available to the public at the end of the meeting.

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Update

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard provided a recap of the December PSAC meeting in Boulder, Colorado, where PSAC members were able to engage with the newly appointed Board and visit

¹ Billy Bob Brown Jr., Erik Gaull, and Mark Calabria attended virtually.

the FirstNet Authority technical headquarters and lab along with a walk-through of the Public Safety Immersive Test Center. The group participated in an Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) session, tech demos, and Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption (QPP) demos. They saw FirstNet deployables and learned about their capabilities. Chair Lombard stated that because of the deployable demo, one of the PSAC members decided to pursue a Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD) best practice working group.

In a year ahead review, Chair Lombard indicated that the PSAC and Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) are in the process of membership appointment and re-appointment. The PSAC will continue to collaborate with the FirstNet Authority on investment discussions related to coverage enhancement and network evolution. Pending authorization, the PSAC plans to meet next in Bellevue, Washington, concurrently with the June Combined Board and Committees meeting and 5x5 conference.

Advocacy Committee Update

Committee Chair Chief Trisha Wolford highlighted engagements and collaborations with public safety stakeholders from the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, including New Year's Eve celebrations, the Presidential Inauguration, national security special events, the Super Bowl in New Orleans, Groundhog Day in Pennsylvania, wildfires, severe weather incidents, and the plane crash in Washington, D.C. Chief Wolford reported that the network performed as designed during the New Year's Day terrorist attack in New Orleans and in support of the Los Angeles wildfires. FirstNet Authority and AT&T made staff available and AT&T staged FirstNet communication assets wherever needed. The team participated in nearly 300 public safety engagements, reached 13,000 stakeholders across 53 states, territories and federal agencies, and hosted 13 public safety tours for 80 visitors in the FirstNet Authority Boulder facility. Chief Wolford stated that direct feedback from end users is critical for continued investment. High level feedback themes included coverage in all forms, reliability, potential enhancements, and outstanding needs. The FirstNet Authority remains committed to ensuring public safety's unique communication needs are addressed by the FirstNet network and will continue engagement with public safety partners. Chief Wolford invited the public safety community to submit nominees for the 2025 Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award and the FirstNet Authority Patriot Awards at [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Committee Chair Sean McDevitt briefed that during the initial five months of FY 2025, the FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$36.5 million, which is approximately 20% under budget expectations, largely due to timing, both in terms of open positions and some delayed expenditures and continued prudence on behalf of the management team of the FirstNet Authority and the Board's oversight. Chair McDevitt noted that the FirstNet Authority does not operate through an annual congressional appropriations process, and that its founding legislation requires that the FirstNet Authority be financially self-sustaining through its contract with AT&T.

Chair McDevitt stated that the FirstNet Authority continued to move forward with its investments in network coverage expansion and enhancements to deliver results for public safety and the network that serves them, including bringing on air 1,000 new Band 14 enabled sites,

and providing in building coverage options where first responders lack wireless communications coverage.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Rasheid Scarlett stated that the FirstNet network covers more than 2.9 million square miles and ensures that first responders in every state, territory, and Washington, D.C., can stay connected when it matters most. Mr. Scarlett noted that the FirstNet Authority created a growing marketplace that gives first responders access to custom-built services, mission ready devices, and innovative applications tailored specifically for their needs. He then highlighted how far the network has come, what sets it apart from other networks, and where it's headed next.

Chair Scarlett stated that to evolve, innovate, and expand, the FirstNet Authority is deploying a full 5G standalone core which unlocks capabilities such as lower latency and improved reliability versus a non-standalone 5G. Coverage is expanding to not only focus on urban areas, but also rural, tribal lands and territories, and areas along the border to ensure that no first responder is left without a reliable connection. FirstNet will also boost in-building coverage, deploying over 10,000 cell booster pros to ensure reliable service and incorporate next generation technologies, and has deployed the Response Operation Group (ROG) thousands of times, providing a network for critical incidents and planned events.

Closing Remarks

Acting Chair Renee Gordon remarked on 2025 emergency events to date that included terrorist attacks in New Orleans and Las Vegas, the devastating wildfires in California, the tragic plane crash in Washington D.C., and numerous other weather-related events that spanned the country. Public safety and the emergency response systems they rely on were put to the test, and when first responders needed it most, FirstNet performed as it was designed. FirstNet is the only network that is built by public safety for public safety and is making a difference for public safety personnel everywhere.

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Joe Wassel thanked Acting Chair Gordon for recognizing the nation's first responders and the roles they play. He remarked on how the FirstNet Authority will continue to look for ways to improve the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network and remain focused on listening to public safety and enhancing the network based on their needs.

Board Adjourned

Acting Chair Gordon added thanks to Board support staff before thanking the local, state, federal, and tribal public safety community representatives the Board met in Oklahoma City earlier in the week. Acting Chair Gordon thanked Oklahoma City Fire Chief Richard Kelly for sharing his experience as one of the responders on the scene after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma in 1995, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Acting Chair Gordon requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Jeffrey Norman made the motion to adjourn. Damon Darsey seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.