Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS)
Steering Committee - Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft TEAMS
December 16, 2021 - 10:30 AM

Committee Members in Attendance:	**Katrina Flory**, State CIO/Assistant Director DAS as Chair	**Jack Marchbanks**, ODOT
	Karen Huey, Representing Director's Office of ODPS	**Dan Baker**, Deputy Director, OBM
	Kevin Reardon, Ohio Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Commerce	**Doug Young**, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
	Chris Zukoski, Ohio Department Of Health.	**Matt Williams**, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
		William Vedra, Local Government Sub-Committee Chair

Welcome

Chairman Flory called the MARCS Steering Committee meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

1. **Introduction:**

Steering Committee members (hereinafter "The Committee") in attendance were introduced. 43 persons signed in and were in the audience. A copy of the attendance sheet will be attached to the minutes.

Chairman Flory then asked MARCS Director, Rick Schmahl to conduct the meeting.

An agenda was provided. Agenda is attached to these minutes. PowerPoint is also attached.

2. **Review of 12/22/2020 Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the December 22, 2020, meeting, were introduced by Director Schmahl and Chairman Flory. Minutes reviewed by all.

Motion: Kevin Reardon made a motion to accept the December 22, 2020, minutes. The motion was Seconded by William Vedra. Chairman Flory called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **MARCS Updates:**

a. Current Status

b. Strategic Roaming

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MARCS continues to roll out strategic roaming across the state. The project is helping to reduce unnecessary traffic on towers across the state, thus reducing the amount of busies on sites.

c. End of Life Devices
Beginning July 1, 2022, MARCS will require any End-of-Life device to have Radio Authentication in it to be accepted on to the system.

d. Radio Authentication
MARCS is moving forward with radio authentication to increase system security. Currently MARCS is requiring radio vendors to include this feature in the sale of new equipment. The system is currently set to accept radio authentication but does not require it until July 1, 2025.

e. Franklin County/MARCS Merger
The merger is continuing to move forward. All (7) Simulcast Sites are operational at the max 30-channel level. Remaining part of the project is the move from Bixby to Reynoldsburg which is progressing and should be completed in the spring.

f. Bi-Directional Amplifier SOP
A Bi-Directional Amplifier SOP and BDA Retransmission Authorization Request (RAR) Forms were drafted by the SIEC SOP Sub-committee & other volunteers. It was approved by the SIEC at the October 27, 2021, meeting. The SOP & RAR forms have been posted on the SIEC website and are being used regularly to document and approve new BDAs integrated with the MARCS network. They can also be used to document and obtain FCC-required approval for BDAs that were installed before the adoption of the SOP & RAR form by the SIEC.

g. Core Upgrades
Upgrades will begin in the spring. Routers will be replaced during this upgrade. More details will be provided as the time approaches.

4. Procedure Updates: Jim Sullivan & Tom Bretthauer

MPP17 Collocation Technical Policy and the Collocation application were updated and provided prior to the meeting. MARCS is proposing additional information to better clarify potential licensees on the Class III rating required on the structural analysis. Both the Technical Policy and application were updated to include the information.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes to MPP17 and the application. Chairman Flory called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

MPP22 MARCS Patching Policy was updated and provided prior to the meeting. MARCS is proposing adding revision history fields, updating letterhead with appropriate position information, and removing 3.5 related information.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes to MPP22 and the application. Chairman Flory called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Field Operations Updates: Dick Miller

New Partnerships & Infrastructure Updates

a. Richland County
   MARCS is building a tower with the county in the City of Lucas. The county was awarded funds from the State to assist in the construction of the tower site.
b. Trumbull County
c. Williams County
   MARCS worked with County officials and built a tower in Bryan, OH. The County was also awarded funds from the State to assist in the construction of the tower site. The tower is online and providing increase coverage to Williams County and its neighboring counties Defiance, Fulton & Henry.
d. Wayne County
   MARCS is working with County officials to construct a tower in the Fredericksburg area. Due to the terrain the area has been a challenge to get coverage there. The County was also awarded funds from the State to assist in the construction of the tower site. This will improve coverage in the area.
e. City of Bowling Green
   Through a partnership with the City of Bowling Green and ODOT, MARCS will be adding a tower site on the southeast end of town. ODOT is providing the land for the site. The city is constructing the tower partial with funds city officials were able to secure from the state. MARCS was able to repurpose a shelter and supplied the Motorola P25 equipment.
f. Portage County
g. Preble County
   Through a partnership with the County, and City of Lewisburg MARCS will be constructing a tower in Lewisburg. City is providing the land, County received funds from the State to assist with the construction of the tower & MARCS is providing the Motorola P25 equipment & a repurposed shelter.
h. Highland County

6. Upcoming Tower Replacements: Dick Miller

a. Butler
   Tower is aging and in need of major repairs. MARCS is replacing it with a self-supporting tower.
b. Linnville

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Tower is aging and does not provide adequate coverage for the area. MARCS is working with Licking County officials to find a better location and built a new self-supporting tower that will provide the area with better coverage.

c. Carey
Tower is also aging and in need of major repairs. MARCS is replacing it with a self-supporting tower.

7. FirstNet: Garrett Guantner and Rick Schmahl

a. Infrastructure

Garrett gave a report on site upgrades, new sites, and in-building coverage improvements to facilities such as hospitals.

b. LTE PTT to MARCS

Director Schmahl reported the agreement is still in the hands of both AT&T and Ohio attorneys.

8. Ohio Fire Marshal Grant Update: Fire Marshal Kevin Reardon

9. Upcoming Agenda Items:

10. Questions, Discussions:

11. Next Meeting Date:

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kevin Reardon and was seconded by William Vedra. None Opposed. Motion passed; the committee adjourned.

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