



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Thursday, September 7, 2023 • 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Tadeo, Director, EMS Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

Vincent Capelle, Fire Chief, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association

Joshua Nelson, City Manager, California Contract Cities Association

David Povero, Chief of Police, City of Covina Police Department

ALTERNATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Leslie Luke, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

Nicholas Berkuta, Alternate Vice-Chair, Battalion Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

Brian Yanagi, Alternate Chair, Chief, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

OFFICERS PRESENT

Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director

Beatriz Cojulun, LA-RICS, Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT / VACANT

Vacant, City of Signal Hill Police Department

Brian Solinsky, Police Chief, Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association

Cardell Hurt, Acting Chief of Police, City of Inglewood Police Department



NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alternate Board Chair Brian Yanagi called the Regular meeting of the Board to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Beatriz Cojulun took the roll and acknowledged a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

A. July 6, 2023 – Regular Minutes

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the attached Regular Meeting Minutes on July 6, 2023. There were no questions or corrections, therefore, he asked for a motion to approve.

Board Member David Povero motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Richard Tadeo.

Ayes (7): Luke, Berkuta, Yanagi, Tadeo, Capelle, and Povero.

Abstained (1): Nelson abstained due to not being present at meeting.

MOTION APPROVED.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no reports on the Regular Meeting Agenda.

VI. REPORTS (B – E)

B. Director's Report – Scott Edson

Executive Director Scott Edson greeted the Board members and all those in attendance.



Executive Director Edson welcomed new Board Member Joshua Nelson from the City of Industry, as the new appointee representing the Contract Cities Association on the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Executive Director Edson went on to say Board Member Nelson has been with City of Industry as a City Manager and as an Engineer.

Executive Director Edson also welcomed Chief Nicholas Berkuta who joined the Board meeting as an Alternate Board Member for the County of Los Angeles (County) Fire Department (LACoFD).

Executive Director Edson said the Digital Voice Network and Narrowband Networks continue to perform very well. Executive Director Edson mentioned that as previously reported to the Board, the County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) transitioned its Custody Radio Operation onto LA-RICS and completed during the first part of July. Executive Director Edson further mentioned that LASD is now fully on boarded on LA-RICS. Executive Director Edson said that with the completion of onboarding the LASD, this is a major milestone for the LA-RICS staff as it was not only the patrol radio communications, but also the largest Custody Operation in the country that is now on LA-RICS.

Executive Director Edson shared that last week, the Inglewood Police Department transitioned onto LA-RICS. Executive Director Edson With this transition, both Inglewood Police Department's (PD) main radio operation and SoFi Stadium's operation are now on LA-RICS. Executive Director Edson stated the Authority would be monitoring this closely should any issues that arise from onboarding Inglewood PD.

Executive Director Edson reported that in early July, Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) started with coverage acceptance testing for the remaining voice subsystems, Analog Conventional Voice Radio System (ACVRS) and Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS). Executive Director Edson stated that these are the analog voice layers on the LA-RICS Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system.

Executive Director Edson provided details on the testing and validation methodology, which is different from P25 Digital Trunked Voice Radio System (DTVRS) testing, where automated data collection and evaluation were utilized. The analog testing requires staff to listen to each audio clip collected at a test point and evaluate if it meets the contractual requirement for voice quality. Executive Director Edson went on to say the drive testing requires a large number of test vehicles, drivers, and operators to traverse all covered areas of County of Los Angeles, sometimes in multiple passes to test a different band or regional channels. Executive Director Edson further said that testing is ongoing, on schedule, and expected for completed by September 22, 2023, to meet the ACVRS



and LARTCS provisional acceptance date of October 9, 2023. Executive Director Edson mentioned that LA-RICS staff would continue to support this effort until completion.

Executive Director Edson expressed that over the last few months the Authority has held several meetings with the region and discussed interoperability and what the needs are to complete the systems of system model, standardizing interoperable procedures and interoperable Talkgroup and channel configurations. Executive Director Edson stated that once there are agreed procedures, agencies should put procedures in place and train all dispatch and field users. Executive Director Edson informed the Board the Authority is working with MSI to identify any gaps and costs associated with ensuring full interoperability with the region, since the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Board promised this to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) back in 2015.

Executive Director Edson mentioned that as previously reported to the Board at the last meeting regarding project closeout, the site and system documentation process is underway. Executive Director Edson expressed that these documents would be critical for the staff and contractors in maintaining this large, complex land mobile radio system. Executive Director Edson said that technical staff has put in concerted efforts to review this large volume of documents to meet the milestone deadline per the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS).

Executive Director Edson informed the Board that since the last meeting the Authority has met with several police agencies and updated them on the status of LA-RICS. Executive Director Edson shared the consultant continues to work on collection of all the costs associated with operating and maintaining the system, along with a replacement system for the future. Executive Director Edson believes that with this information the Authority would be able to make a recommendation to the Board to transition the Authority's original Adopted Funding Plan to a subscription model. Executive Director Edson stated the Authority contemplates having the recommendation for the Finance Committee available at the Finance Committee meeting in October 2023.

Executive Director Edson added the Authority issued a Request for Information (RFI) to the portable radio manufactures so we can test their radios on the Authority's system and be able to provide our subscribers with a list of radios that work on the Authority's system. Executive Director Edson shared the Authority also plans to bring smartphone like Push-to-Talk (PTT) capability to the LA-RICS LMR system, as that may be all some users need, versus a significantly more expensive mobile and or portable radio. Executive Director Edson mentioned the Authority has also heard some users would like PTT on a smartphone in addition to a radio.

Executive Director Edson reported that during the month of July, Authority staff members attended the National Homeland Security Conference in Chicago, Illinois.



Executive Director Edson shared the conference provided training in several vital areas such as the current threats posed by extremist groups, National security coordination, current cyber security threats, grants and contracts. Executive Director Edson said there were also collaboration meetings regarding World Cup Soccer Games and the 2028 Olympic Games contemplated to be held in Los Angeles. Executive Director Edson also said that Authority staff met with managers from the Chicago office of Emergency Management and Communications to compare notes and get information on how their Digital Trunked Radio System is working. Executive Director Edson informed the Board the Authority team believes the contacts and relationships formed at the conference will be invaluable as our system evolves. Executive Director Edson In addition to this conference Ted Pao attended the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, which provided several collaboration and training opportunities.

Executive Director Edson reported that as for Grants, as the Authority continues through cutover and subsystem acceptance, the Authority is on track with grant spending out of the UASI 2022 grant and will certainly closeout each remaining open and awarded grant well ahead of each respective performance period deadline.

Executive Director Edson updated the Board regarding the Budget, in which Agenda Item H provides the Board with an update on quarterly uses of the AT&T Business Agreement funds. For some of the new Board Members, Executive Director Edson provided a brief history went on to say these were the funds obtained from the asset transfer of the Long Term Evolution (LTE) system LA-RICS built to AT&T/FirstNet and utilized to pay for certain member funded line items in the LA-RICS operating budget, as Adopted by the Board. Executive Director Edson asked to note that this quarter's report reflects an increase in balance versus a decrease and this is attributed to reclassifications/ adjustments resulting from the amended budget the Board approved on June 1, 2023, where certain charges were adjusted to be payable by the California State Budget Act with reclassification credits showing in this quarterly report.

Additionally, Executive Director Edson asked the Board to note that Agenda Item I provided an update on uses of Governmental services under the delegation given to the Executive Director by the Board at the Board meeting on May 4, 2023. Executive Director Edson reported that to-date; the Authority expended \$38,000 on various activities such as emergency generator rentals, fueling services for those generators, road repair services, etc. Executive Director Edson stated that he would continue to report to the Board as costs were incurred against the maximum delegation you provided.

Executive Director Edson reported that as for Contracts, the Authority continues to work closely with MSI on Subsystem Acceptance, Completion of Closeout Books



and phase acceptance by site with an amendment projected to be presented to the Board at next month's meeting, October 7, 2023, memorializing the IMS and corresponding dates.

Executive Director Edson shared that at this time, full system acceptance has been scheduled for November 17, 2023, at which time a one (1) year warranty will start.

Executive Director Edson concluded by saying the Authority has the Project Manager's (PM) Report immediately following this report, along with the Ops and Tech committee reports. Executive Director Edson went on to say they are followed by discussion items on LMR network Operations and Issues, Outreach, the AT&T Business Agreement funds and Governmental services under the delegation I just mentioned, and notice that an Election of Chair and Vice chairperson will take place next month. Executive Director Edson expressed that in addition, under Administrative Matters, he would present on the need to start the process for an Election for an At-Large Board Member.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item B by Executive Director Edson. There was no further discussion.

C. Project Manager's Report – Brian Smyth

Program Director Brian Smyth greeted the Board and presented Agenda Item C.

Program Director Smyth reported on the progress of the IMS submitted by Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) with a revised schedule submitted on July 18, 2023, that would move up the Final Acceptance date to November 17, 2023, from the previously forecasted date of December 20, 2023, pending an amendment to the contract to make that a binding date.

Program Director Smyth stated that during August 2023, for commercial power at Green Mountain (GRM), a Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued for a contractor to perform the work. California State Parks is requesting that LARICS obtain an ROE permit for the electrical work and weed abatement work. Program Director Smyth commented the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) needed clarification of what costs must be paid for the short-term and long-term solutions.

Program Director Smyth Mentioned that migration coordination was in progress in August 2023 with County Internal Services Department (ISD) in regards to sites. Mount Lukens 2 (MTL2) and Frost Peak (FRP), but have now been completed.

Program Director Smyth shared that Bridge Warranty Plans are in progress towards finalizing for Narrowband Mobile Data Network 2 (NMDN2), Analog Conventional



Voice Radio Subsystem (ACVRS), and Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS), pending pricing.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the Fire suppression set-up being modified at Universal Citywalk (UNIV-CITYWALK) with work nearing completion.

Program Director Smyth provided an update on Site Access Roads, which are a consistent issue. Program Director Smyth provided an example of a site with issues, Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) site is pending repair while identifying a funding source, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) being one we are exploring, with an option for the United States Forest Service (USFS) to perform the job as well.

Program Director Smyth reported that Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for generators allow usage for only two-hundred (200) hours a year, with weather being an issue on some sites requiring filing of variances.

Program Director Smyth said currently the Authority is going through the development of solicitations for competitive bids for various categories of construction services for work remaining at certain sites such as MCI site (permanent generator replacement), weed abatement at various sites while in parallel working with MSI for their scope of weed abatement, additionally there is work needed in telecommunications, electrical, security, etc. where the team is working to obtain a bench of qualified contractors to perform this on-call work.

Project Director Smyth provided an update on the need for contractors to take down towers as the equipment is migrated to the new site, those will be competitive bids. Project Director Smyth shared the team is meeting weekly to ensure site access agreements and updates with the agencies that have migrated

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item C by Project Director Smyth.

Program Director Smyth was asked about the recent Tropical Storm Hilary and whether the storm caused damage at sites, which there was plenty of water damage affecting road access. Board Member Tadeo asked if there was damage to any of the towers, which Program Director Smyth confirmed there was not, thankfully any damage to the tower similar to that caused by the winter storms by falling ice. Board Member Leslie Luke provided a tip for storm related generator use, the Office of Emergency Management can assist with obtaining a waiver for generator use during times of emergency.

There was no further discussion.



D. Joint Operations and Technical Committee Chair's Report – Operations Lead Lieutenant Robert Weber

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared the Joint Operations and Technical Committees meeting was held on July 18, 2023, was chaired by Technical Lead Ted Pao; having quorum present, the Minutes were approved; the committee received an update on the LMR system, Regional interoperability update as well as Land Mobile Radio status update and concluded with two (2) discussion items, Review of communication issues during the Bobcat Fire as well as lessons learned and the LAW/Fire Unified Command scenarios.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to share the meeting update from the August 15, 2023, Joint Operations and Technical Committees meeting that did not have quorum present, therefore, Minutes were not approved; with mostly updates, including a presentation from ESChat representative, Push-to-Talk (PTT) vendor, with the hopes of incorporating it to the system.

This concluded the presentation and report on Agenda Item D by Project Operations Lead Lt. Weber.

E. Finance Committee Chair's Report – NONE

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (F – J)

F. Land Mobile Radio Network Operations Status and Issues – Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao provided an update on the status of the July and August 2023 Talkgroups. Technical Lead Pao stated that LASD, and Inglewood Police Department are now fully onboarded. Technical Lead Pao shared the Authority continues monitoring system performance index and alarm notification to ensure critical service-impacting issues are identified and resolute quickly.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned staff continues to work with MSI Service Manager and ISD to define area of responsibility, proper triage of reported issues, and notification processed to ensure trouble reports from the field are handled correctly and resolved. Technical Lead Pao went on to say this would be a learning process for all of the stakeholders for the duration of onboarding agencies by subsystems, such as ACVRS and LARTCS.

Technical Lead Pao expressed that with Tropical Storm Hillary and recent rain events, road access issue continues to be challenging for a few of the Authority's USFS sites where either slides or blockages from rocks and trees have prevented service personnel from reaching the sites. Technical Lead Pao shared the Authority continues to work with stakeholders and contractors on clearing these roads and happily have not seen any service impacts resulting from the road blockage.



Technical Lead Pao shared slide presentation of the LMR operation status. Technical Lead Pao shared details regarding the top ranking by use Talkgroups and their total talk times/minutes for both July and August 2023, by site and agency.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item F. There was no further discussion.

G. Outreach Update – Lieutenant Robert Weber

Operations Lead Lt. Robert Weber reported that during the months of July and August 2023, personnel from MSI and Authority staff continued with system testing. Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared the Authority is waiting for final testing results, that however, the ACVRS and LARTCS systems seem to be operating very well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further reported that during the month of July, Authority staff attended the National Homeland Security Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said the conference provided training in several vital areas, such as the current threats posed by extremist groups, National security coordination, and current cyber security threats. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say there were also collaboration meetings regarding World Cup Soccer Games and the 2028 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that Authority staff met with managers from the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications to compare notes and got information on how their Digital Trunked Radio System is working. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said the Authority team believes the contacts and relationships formed at the conference will be invaluable as our system moves forward. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that in addition to this conference Technical Lead Pao attended the APCO conference in Nashville, Tennessee, which provided several collaboration and training opportunities.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber provided an update for the month of August and said that Authority staff conducted several meetings with regional stakeholders regarding interoperability, which included staff from the City of Los Angeles (City) Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), Los Angeles Port Police and the Long Beach Police Department. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that in addition to these meetings on August 17, 2023, the Authority staff hosted the Regional Interoperability working group monthly phone conference. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that based on these coordination meetings the Authority would be requesting a gap analysis from MSI to connect the different individual systems to provide true regional interoperability.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed that due to Tropical Storm Hilary and the recent earthquake, Authority staff and personnel from the LASD Communications and Fleet Management Bureau (CFMB) conducted site and access road inspections. Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that thus far the Authority has not discovered any damage.



Operations Lead Lt. Weber share that Authority staff conducted additional outreach to Cal State Dominguez Hills, the Sierra Madre Police Department, and to the City of Alhambra. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said these Agencies are all evaluating their communications needs and the possibility of using LA-RICS, as Authority staff works closely with these agencies to ensure their needs are met.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber concluded by saying that Authority staff members have continued close contact with our State and Federal partners to ensure interoperability during major events and to further collaborate on regional public safety communication. Additionally, as previously reported the team is very excited to report the successful onboarding of the Inglewood Police Department onto the DTVRS subsystem. Authority staff members continue to maintain close contact with Federal and State partners to ensure interoperability during major events and further collaborate to ensure regional public safety communication.

This concluded the update on Agenda Item G. Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked if there were any questions.

There was no further discussion.

H. Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for AT&T Business Agreement Fund for Public Safety Broadband Network – Ronald Watson

Deputy Executive Director (DED) Ronald Watson presented Agenda item H to the Board and reported a quarterly update on the expenditures recorded to the AT&T Business Agreement funds for period ending June 30, 2023. DED Watson, shared the report was received from the County of Los Angeles Auditor-Controller's Office on July 26, 2023, and shared with the Board as promised when the Authority entered into the AT&T Business Agreement.

There was no further discussion.

I. Quarterly Report Governmental Services Uses – Ronald Watson

DED Watson presented Agenda item I which provided the Board with a quarterly report on uses of the Board's prior delegation to enlist assistance from the County of Los Angeles and other governmental agencies to perform various services needed at Land Mobile Radio sites the vendor, MSI, is refusing to perform.

DED Watson expressed the quarterly report captured expenses incurred through June 2023, totaling \$38,072, for services provided by County Department of Public Works (DPW) and County ISD for work including rental of roll up generator, refueling of generator, and road repair services.



J. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson – Scott Edson

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda J which serves the Board as a notification to a discussion Item on October 6, 2023, with an item to be calendared allowing the Board to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the current Board of Directors, as governed by the JPA, in which it states that each Fiscal Year the Board shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (K)

K. ELECTION FOR AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda item K, Election for At-Large Board Member, since the Board Member from Signal Hill has been vacant for some time. Executive Director Edson informed the Board the new Chief of Police has opted to stepdown from the JPA Board position, making available to other fire and police agencies within the region that are members.

Executive Director Edson stated the Authority's recommendation for the Board is to set March 7, 2024, as the date for a mail-in ballot election for the available one (1) At-Large Board Member seat; Executive Director Edson further detailed that only Board Directors to the Authority are eligible to vote for the At-Large seat. Executive Director Edson expressed the At-Large seat is vacant, and that even though Signal Hill no longer wishes to occupy the seat, they would remain a Member Agency of the Authority.

Executive Director Edson reiterated Authority's recommendation for the Board is to set March 7, 2024, as the date for a mail-in ballot election for the available one (1) At-Large Board Member seat, and direct the Executive Director to send correspondence to member agencies cities with a police and/or an independent fire department regarding the availability of this seat, and weather the member agency has an interest of being a candidate to fill the At-Large Board Member seat; and if so, to notify the Board Secretary, no later than ninety (90) days before March 7, 2024, mail-in ballot election. Executive Director Edson said that thirty (30) days prior the date set forth by the Board for the mail-in ballot election, direct the Board Secretary to mail a ballot to each member agency city containing the names of all of the declared member agency city candidates and notify the member agency city to complete the ballot and return the ballot to the Board Secretary no later than March 7, 2024, Board Meeting.

Alternate Chair Chief Yanagi asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of setting March 7, 2024, for mail-in ballot election for one (1) At-Large Board Director Member and one (2) Alternate Board Director Member seat. Board Member Capelle motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member Berkuta.



Ayes (7): Luke, Berkuta, Yanagi, Tadeo, Capelle, Nelson, and Povero.

MOTION APPROVED.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE

X. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

XI. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD –

XII. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi stated the next Regular Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), ELAC Community College Bureau, 1055 Corporate Center Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

Alternate Board Chair Yanagi called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:39 a.m. Board Member Berkuta motioned.

APPROVED