



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Date: June 18, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office / Microsoft Teams

Subject: Minutes of the South Carolina E911 Committee Meeting

Attendees: *Committee Members* – Melony Burgess – Chair, Wireless Rep. FTC, Terrance Ford – Wireless Rep. AT&T, Jane Francis – Consumer Rep., Mitch Fulmore – PSAP Rep. Florence County (*Teams*), Sam Gaither – PSAP Rep. Berkeley County (*Teams*), Amy McDowell – PSAP Rep. Greenville County, David Morrison – RFA SC 911 Program Manager, Sharon O’Bryant – Wireline Rep. Piedmont Rural Telephone (*Teams*), Ken Roper – SCAC (*Teams*), Linn Skipper, PSAP Rep. Sumter County, Misty Wise – RFA Appointment (*Teams*). *Staff* – Paul Athey, Kathryn Kelley (*Teams*), and Monica Russell (*Teams*). *Guests* – Peg Fox – Burr & Forman, LLP for SC Telephone Coalition, Baylen Moore – Attorney at Law, LLC for SC Telephone Coalition, and Brad Wright – Burr & Forman, LLP for SC Telephone Coalition. *Additional participants via Teams.*

Note: Guests were invited to attend virtually. An email invitation was sent to the Distribution list and the meeting notification was posted on the RFA website and in the Rembert Dennis Building. Meeting information and log-in instructions were posted online. Meeting agenda was posted online 2 days prior to the start of the meeting, and the documents were also shared via Teams.

- I. Chair Burgess called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Chair Burgess presented the April 16, 2024, meeting minutes which previously had been shared with the Members and asked if any Member had edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Amy McDowell motioned to approve the minutes; Ken Roper seconded the motion and all remaining members voted aye. Chair Burgess declared the minutes approved as written. ([See April minutes](#))
- III. South Carolina Telephone Coalition (SCTC):
RFA representatives stated they cannot comment on this discussion, and they recused themselves from the meeting. Chair Burgess asked Sam Gaither if he had any comments since he requested this item be added to the agenda. Mr. Gaither stated he had questions for RFA, and it was determined that the Committee will ask RFA to speak on this item at the next meeting. Ken Roper asked that the representatives from the South Carolina Telephone Coalition explain the letter that was sent to Frank Rainwater and the Committee. Chair Burgess introduced the

guests, and turned the meeting over to the SC Telephone Coalition representative Brad Wright from Burr Forman LLP to explain the letter:

- Mr. Wright provided background information on the SCTC and the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) role historically with 911.
 - The SCTC consists of rural telephone companies located throughout the state. They have 15 ILECs, 6 of which are telephone co-operatives.
 - ILECs have their own territories that they provide service to, and those areas are open to competition
- Mr. Wright discussed the transition from E-911 to NextGen 911 and the challenges presented to the ILECs. E-911 requires local telephone companies to be responsible for a dedicated connection only in their area and to deliver traffic to the edge of their network. Whereas, with NextGen 911, third parties have requested the local carriers to sign contracts and be responsible for dedicated facilities in two out of state locations (Atlanta and Charlotte).
 - Mr. Wright presented the challenges and concerns related to liability and costs once third-party telephone companies began requesting agreements be signed by the ILECs. The agreements would require network traffic to travel to an out of state location which there are no statutory protections for and there would be a monthly charge to deliver that traffic. Additionally, SCTC has concerns regarding the Cost Share Agreement and Comtech's financial condition as outlined in the letter previously sent.

IV. SC ESInet

- Sam Gaither provided the following items for discussion:
 - Are there any counties that have informed the state that they will not be moving onto the State ESInet?
 - Since the members of RFA have recused themselves from this meeting, it was asked for this to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
 - What is the plan for rebid of the State Contract?
 - Mr. Gaither recommended that there be an RFP Committee that would be started in 2025-2026, with the RFP going out in 2026-2027, to give adequate time for transition, if needed, for the current contract expiration in 2030.
 - Governance structure of the State ESInet.
 - Mr. Gaither recommended that an Executive Committee be implemented with subcommittees for operational, technical, and financial items to assist with gathering information and making suggestions.

V. Other Items/Discussion

- Sam Gaither requested that the Status of the State ESInet be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

VI. Ken Roper motioned to adjourn the meeting and Terrance Ford seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

VII. The next scheduled meeting is July 16, 2024.

Public Notice of this meeting was posted at: <https://rfa.sc.gov/boards-committees/911> and at the Rembert Dennis Building.

These minutes were approved on 10/15/2024

Monica G Russell *Monica Russell*