

**Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS)
Steering Committee • Meeting Minutes
Ohio DOT/Auditorium
August 23, 2018 • 1:00 p.m.**

Committee Members In Attendance:	Stu Davis , State CIO/Assistant Director DAS as Chair Joe Montgomery , Representing Director's Office of ODPS Jeff Hussey , Ohio Fire Marshal's Office	Jack Marchbanks , ODOT Christine Morrison , Deputy Director, OBM John Davis , Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Vinko Kucinic , Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
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Welcome

Chairman Stu Davis called the MARCS Steering Committee meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

1. Introduction

Steering Committee members (hereinafter "The Committee") in attendance were introduced. 48 persons signed in and were in the audience.

Chairman Stu Davis 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 01/18/2018 Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the January 18, 2018 were introduced by Director Schmahl and Chairman Stu Davis. Minutes reviewed by all.

MOTION	Jeff Hussey made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Joe Montgomery. Stu Davis called for a vote, the motion passed.
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3. MARCS Updates:

- **Review of Changes over the last 2 ½ years.**

Rick Schmahl gave an update on the changes as MARCS continues to develop as the premier interoperable radio system. Recent information shows that MARCS leads as one of the largest interoperable radio programs in the United States. Pointed out the Executive Summary. Part of the study shows a focus on LMR and not technology. Parts of this study were made possible by moving a number of issues to OIT. Virtual Environment, shared services, anti-virus, and others were moved to improve efficiency. Example of Service Now was given with the recent flooding incident at the Mt. Vernon site.

Director Schmahl then updated the Committee that MARCS now has over 1800 agencies on the system.

Director Schmahl then gave an overview on a few of the challenges facing MARCS.

Director Schmahl then gave an overview of the successes on MARCS. Paging, Radio Rodeos, the OSU incident, and the Public University Exercise held at the University of Cincinnati.

Jennifer Allwine was introduced and gave an overview of the Business Operations in MARCS. Jennifer covered several areas including an overview of the income and customer base. MARCS is now over 81% of local users. Income continues to develop as new users come onto the system. Jennifer reported on the following:

- MARCS is projected to go over 120,000 devices on the system.
- MARCS has seen an 21% growth.
- 81% of all devices are local devices.
- 19% of all devices are state agencies and others.

Jennifer introduced Tom Bretthauer, MARCS Data System Manager. Tom reported on a number of changes that have occurred within his area. Tom outlined a map that showed the new programmers assignments. The State has been broken into quadrants with each quadrant having its own programmer. Tom also introduced the rest of his staff and outlined their responsibilities.

Tom then discussed System Keys and the process used to issue keys. Tom also discussed the development of code plugs and how they are part of the critical process in radio programming.

Tom then introduced Jason Kirby, MARCS Helpdesk, who covered a myriad of topics with the Helpdesk. These included updates at the Helpdesk, new software adoption, and the use of various DAS programs like Service Now.

Jason then introduced Dick Miller, Field Operations Manager for MARCS. Dick reported on several partnerships. Tuscarawas County is undergoing an \$11.5 million upgrade that should be operational on January 1, 2019. All Public Safety in Tuscarawas County is moving onto the system. Stark County, an \$11.2 Million upgrade, operational on January 1, 2019. Summit County is partnering with MARCS by Fall 2018. All Public Safety in Summit County is moving. Darke County, a new Tower from LGIF grant in Union City. All Public Safety in Darke County has transitioned to MARCS. Fairfield County, law enforcement is ready to make a move to MARCS except for Lancaster City Police and Fire. Fire will follow in 2019. City of Springfield is looking at a new radio system. MARCS has met with them and they are in attendance today. Trumbull County, ODNR gave Trumbull County over 300 radios. The entire county is transitioning to MARCS. A tower owned by City of Warren is getting upgraded to help with coverage in the County. Warren and Trumbull County Sheriff are moving soon. Defiance County - MARCS has finished the upgrade of the Defiance Tower at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Post. This will allow for greater coverage in this County. Honda of America - MARCS and Honda are working to correct a coverage issue in the Honda plants in Marysville and West Liberty. This Tower is being provided by Honda and MARCS is providing advisory support. Kent State University - MARCS and KSU are working to repurpose an existing rack of equipment to the roof of the KSU Library. With this addition, the City of Kent Fire and Police and the KSU Police are moving to MARCS. A number of other agencies in Portage County are also contemplating moving to MARCS.

4. Procedure Updates:

Director Schmahl gave an update on several policies that have been updated by the Ohio SIEC. Director Schmahl thanked Bob Bill and the Sub-Committee for their work on getting the policies updated. SIEC SOP's involve disparate systems and users and takes a significant effort to coalesce. More work is continuing.

5. Business Office Update:

No report from the Business Office.

6. Enhanced Local Infrastructure:

Stark and Tuscarawas County are in the works. There are no other Counties on the radar for an ELI agreement.

7. FirstNet:

Presented by Director Schmahl, and Matt Dagastoni. Overview and presentation from Matt on where AT&T was today and where they are headed.

8. Ohio Fire Marshal Update:

Presented by Fire Marshal Jeff Hussey

- Grant money is in the Fire Marshal budget for FY19 again. Looking forward to continuing to move the Fire Service as monies are available. Looking for letters of support from Directors on how important this grant is to the fire service and how it impacts interoperability statewide.
- Thanks to several from Marshal Hussey on the work that went into the grant process.

Director Davis encouraged all present to send a letter of support to the Fire Marshal Office.

9. MARCS 3.5 Status:

Presented by Dick Miller.

All the old equipment has been removed and salvaged. 3.5 is officially dead. No other actions on this issue.

10. Local Government Sub-Committee

Presented by Marshal Hussey. Reported on the meetings held and information shared. Also discussed the new Air Operations Policy from the SIEC. Requested continued development and asked that the technical aspects not to override the operational needs.

11. Questions and Discussion:

- Chairman Davis and Director Schmahl polled the attendees for any comments or discussions.
- Jack Marchbanks of ODOT requested involvement in the DriveOhio initiative. Requested participation in this important development.

12. Establishment of next meeting date:

- Chairman Davis and Director Schmahl will work to get a date scheduled. Topics and Agenda items will be provided. If anyone has specific items to address, please contact Director Schmahl.

Adjournment	Joe Montgomery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by many. None opposed. Motion passed, the committee adjourned.
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