

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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John Elias Baldacci
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
104 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0104



Michael P. Cantara
Commissioner

April 29, 2005

Senator Philip L. Bartlett II
Representative Lawrence Bliss
Chairs
Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: 25 M.R.S.A. § 1531, et al – Implementation Report; Maine Communications System
Policy Board

Dear Senator Bartlett and Representative Bliss:

As you know, the 121st Legislature enacted a law entitled “[T]he Maine Communications System Policy Board.” This Board, established within the Department of Public Safety, was created in order to “establish policies, procedures and standards for the cooperative use of the department’s communication system by municipal, county and state governmental entities.” Pursuant to 25 M.R.S.A. § 1533: “[t]he Maine Communications System Policy Board shall report to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters no later than January 1, 2005 regarding the status of the implementation plan developed pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 1532, subsection 3.”

On January 4, 2005, a letter was sent to you, and to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, outlining our preliminary work. In the January letter, we indicated that a more detailed report would be submitted to you by April 29, 2005. The Maine Communications System Policy Board wishes to offer this as its Annual Report as mandated by law.

The Policy Board has been fully populated with members serving as provided in the statute, excepting that a person representing municipalities of less than 5,000 people has yet to be appointed by the Governor, although a person meeting the statutory criteria has been forwarded to him for consideration. The names of the properly appointed members and their addresses are attached for reference. The Governor appointed Brian Rines, PhD, Mayor of Gardiner to serve as Chair.

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Central Maine Commerce Center
45 Commerce Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333

(207) 626-3803 (Voice)

(207) 287-3042 (Fax)

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While the Board is initially working to facilitate the safe and effective consolidation of emergency communication services, especially within the model area of Southern Kennebec County, it, however, appreciates that it has a scope of responsibility that is statewide in nature and is carefully attempting to maintain that perspective. To reflect that commitment and responsibility it adopted the following mission statement: **"the mission of this Board is to ensure the provision of a professional, high-quality, cost-effective, and reliable public safety emergency communications system, that provides our citizens a prompt and appropriate response to calls for service."**

Meetings during this gestational period have included a presentation by an outside specialist on a particular area of topical interest to broaden the range of information available to the Board's membership, especially on issues of inter-governmental grants, finance, contemporary communications technology and interoperability.

The primary internal role of the Policy Board is coordinative and it reviews at each meeting reports of each its sub-committees, noted below and which meet between the Board's bi-weekly sessions, to ensure that all "right hands" know what each of the "left hands" is doing and to ensure the information is integrated into the Board's overall effort.

The Board has created four sub-committees, each chaired by a member of the Board to do the detail work required to fulfill its mission and the legislative expectation of the development and implementation of a consolidated communications system within the State. The sub-committees are—with Chairman's names in parens—Budget and Finance (Ralph Farnham & Robert Devlin), Human Resources (William Crowley), Technology (Kennebec Sheriff Everett Flannery), and Operations (Lt. Donald Pomerlow, MSP). Non-board members may be appointed to serve on these sub-committees by the Board to reflect special expertise and experience and assist with completion of the initial mission.

There is also an effort coordinated by the technology sub-committee with the office of State Chief Information Officer, Richard Thompson, to create a survey that will be sent electronically to each community in Maine with some form of emergency communication systems to determine the staffing levels, workload, level of local interoperability and cost of services for Maine's current public safety emergency communications system.

That survey effort is in its final stage of development and "Beta Testing" will begin within two weeks. A copy of the proposed format of that survey is attached for your review, too.

It is expected that each of the sub-committees will have its initial work done by the early fall and that a full provisional operational plan can be approved by the Policy Board to govern its efforts, first in the North Augusta center and then across the state, no later than November 15, 2005. At this time there are no entities participating in the cooperative use of the Department of Public Safety's communication systems as a result of this enabling legislation. Actual consolidations of the communication efforts of the model area can be expected in CY 2006, although other consolidations involving entities outside of the scope of this Policy Board may be occurring simultaneously.

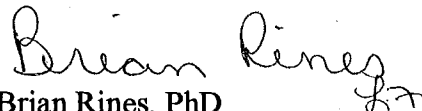
Members of the Policy Board have been attending these other meetings throughout the State seeking those ends and routinely brief the Board on their status.

We are pleased to report this committee's early success, and thank you for reviewing this report and await your questions or comments. Further, we plan on reporting back to you again by November 9, 2005 in the interest of keeping the Committee informed of our progress. In the interim, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Cantara, Commissioner
Maine Department of Public Safety



Brian Rines, PhD,
Chairman
Mayor, City of Gardiner

Attachment

Cc: All Members
Alan Stearns, Esq.
Jon Clark
Kristen Gottlieb



Reports

OIT Home Page

Log Off

Survey Menu

Survey Menu

List Surveys

New Survey

Main Menu

4-11-05



Survey List

Survey List

- [Reports](#)
- [OIT Home Page](#)
- [Log Off](#)

Id	Agency Name	Primary Contact Email	Status	Last Update	Submit Da
2	Test	Snyder, Lavana Lavana.Snyder@Maine.Gov	Submitted	04/07/2005	04/07/2005
3	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
5	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
6	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
7	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
8	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
9	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
10	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
11	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
12	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	
13	,	,	Pending	04/07/2005	

Survey Menu



New Survey



Section 1

[Reports](#)

[OIT Home Page](#)

[Log Off](#)

1. Agency Name:

2. Agency Address Line1:

3. Agency Address Line2:

4. City/Town:

5. Zip Code:

6. Primary Contact

 a. Last Name:

 b. First Name:

 c. Email:

 d. Phone:

 e. Title:

7. Technical Contact

 a. Last Name:

 b. First Name:

 c. Email:

 d. Phone:

 e. Title:

[Survey Menu](#)



New Survey



Section 2

- [Reports](#)

- [OIT Home Page](#)

- [Log Off](#)

8. Are you a PSAP? No

a. Will this Change In 24 Months: No

b. PSAP Comments:

9. If not a PSAP are you a Dispatch Center? No

a. Will this Change In 24 Months: No

b. Dispatch Comments:

10. How many communities do you provide services for?

[Survey Menu](#)



New Survey



Section 3

Community 1:

- [Reports](#)

- [OIT Home Page](#)

- [Log Off](#)

Full-time Agencies

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Part-time Agencies

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Full-time Fire Departments

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Part-time Fire Departments

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Full-time EMS Agencies

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Part-time EMS Agencies

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Other Agencies

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

Continue

Survey Menu



New Survey



Section 4

11. Do you dispatch for private agencies? No

- [Reports](#)
- [OIT Home Page](#)
- [Log Off](#)
-

Name	Call Volume	Annual Cost	Rates Determined by

[Survey Menu](#)



New Survey



Section 5

- [Reports](#)

- [OIT Home Page](#)

- [Log Off](#)

12. How many dispatchers do you employ?

a. Full-time:

b. Part-time:

13. What technology services/applications are you currently using in your dispatch center? (select all that apply)

- METRO access
- Computer aided dispatch
- Mapped assisted dispatch
- Automatic vehicle locator/GPS

Other Explanation

14. Do you utilize mobile data terminals? If yes, please answer the next two questions.

No

15. What technology services/applications are you currently using on your MDTs? (select all that apply)

- METRO access
- Wireless dispatch
- Car-to-car
- Records management/field reporting

Other Explanation

16. Do you utilize wireless data services to communicate with MDTs?

No

Other Explanation

17. Do you utilize voiceless communications?

a. Dispatch No

b. Unit To Unit No

18. What is your communication center's annual budget?

a. Does this include benefits? No

b. What is the cost of the benefit package?

19. How many dispatch positions are currently required to support your operations?

20. What type of system/technology is your agency utilizing for wireless voice communications? (select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	VHF High-band
<input type="checkbox"/>	VHF Low-band
<input type="checkbox"/>	VHF Narrow-band
<input type="checkbox"/>	800 MHz

21. Is your communications facility supported by either of the following? (select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Microwave
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAN

Continue

Survey Menu



Maine Communications Policy Board

Members

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Chief Information Officer, State of Maine
Ex officio

Town of less than 5,000

Name submitted, pending nomination