



METCOM 9-1-1

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020
Via Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Jim Anglemier
Sherry Bensema
Mark Daniel
David Frisendahl
Ed Grambusch
Michael Kahrmann
Bill Miles
Dave Rash
Scott Shepherd

Don Taylor
Jim Trierweiler

METCOM Staff:

Wendy Patterson
Mark Spross
John Thompson

Others in Attendance:

Nick Hunter
Mike Ishida – Day Wireless
Joe Kast – MCSO
Cameron Lougee – Day
Wireless
Brian Nicholas – MCPW
Mike Norin
Dari Reddy – ADCOMM
Chris Tate - Motorola

METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:01 AM with a quorum met by members present. The October 21, 2020 METCOM Governing Board meeting was held via Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The board meeting was opened by Mark Daniel.

Board Meeting Minutes: The June 9, 2020 meeting minutes were provided in the board packet prior to the meeting for review.

Motion to approve minutes: Scott Shepherd

Motion 2nd: Sherry Bensema

Motion carried no opposition

Marion County Radio Project Update: Brian Nicholas, Director Marion County Public Works (MCPW), shared the report by ADCOMM that was presented to the Marion County Board of Commissioners. ADCOMM was hired by Marion County to provide information/assessment on the Marion County radio project. Brian provided a summary of the slide presentation including the options provided in the ADCOMM assessment that could include partnership opportunities for better communications in the Santiam Canyon corridor. The Commissioners provided direction to look primarily at "Option B and Option E" outlined on the assessment. The Commissioners also approved to move forward with enhancements to upgrade the House Mountain site. The Commissioners did not approve to move forward with a radio project that accounted for a county wide option at this time. A copy of the Marion County Radio Communications (MCRC) Project presentation has been attached to these Board Meeting minutes for review as needed. The next meeting with Marion County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for November 17, 2020.

Halls Ridge: Due to the Beachie Creek Fire event that occurred in the Santiam Canyon, the Halls Ridge radio site was a complete loss. FEMA options have opened that would allow for the rebuild of the Halls Ridge site with a new VHF system funded at 75% within the FEMA Declaration.

General Discussion:

- METCOM still has the simulcast radio project for consideration. If METCOM is able to move forward with the VHF system at Halls Ridge and other partnership projects, this could potentially provide an opportunity to join with Marion County

in a Bond or a taxing district in the future depending on how the county funds their project.

- Mark Spross asked members in attendance; what more do you want to look at with a Marion County partnership? What other opportunities do you want to look at for projects that would enhance communication in the Santiam Canyon corridor? Don't forget the information we have on the Day Wireless project. No discussion was presented by the board members. Mark indicated to contact him if anyone had any further questions or concerns.
- Scott Shepherd noted it would be great if METCOM could partner with Marion County on the Halls Ridge buildout. Brian Nicholas did not see why we could not continue to look at this as a step in building our partnership.
- Jim Trierweiler voice his preference for "Option E" that was outlined in the Marion County Radio Communications (MCRC) project presentation. He believes this would support opportunities to move forward with partnerships between Marion County and METCOM.
- Mark Spross indicated in the long term, he would like to see METCOM move towards an 800 system. If METCOM is unable to secure the funding needed for partnering in the 800 system, we should move forward with the simulcast system as a first step. Mark reiterated that a simulcast system would not be a "fix all" at it would be a first step in a radio project.

Budget Committee Selection: Mark Daniel asked if there were any volunteers who were interested in serving on the METCOM 2020-2021 Budget Committee. The following will serve on the 2020-2021 METCOM Budget Committee:

- Ed Grambusch
- David Frisendahl
- Michael Kahrman
- Mark Daniel
- Sherry Bensema
- Dave Rash

Taxing District Information: Mark Spross provided an informational slide show on a possible taxing district. The slide show documents have been attached to the Board meeting minutes for review. Discussion:

- Ed Grambusch asked if the simulcast radio project has been placed on hold. His understanding was that the board had voted to move forward with the simulcast project present at previous board meetings. Mark Spross advised that he was asked to bring more information on the cost of the project and cost sharing with Marion County (the Marion County radio project) prior to moving forward on METCOM simulcast system. In addition, he was directed to what information is brought forward from Marion County before the METCOM Board makes their final decision.
- Ed further asked who makes the final decision regarding the radio project and when to move forward with it. He expressed concern with the radio project being an ongoing discussion without any significant movement. Mark Spross agreed that he did not want the process to continue as status quo as well. However, METCOM wants to make sure that we are being responsible in the decision process between the two systems. This means taking the time to allow for evaluation of costs and possible project partnerships that would in the long run provide for a better system and services.
- Ed Grambusch voiced concern that an 800 system would not work in parts of the Silverton Fire District as well as the Drakes Crossing Fire District. Mark Spross indicated that METCOM would support a system that allows for both VHF and 800 system operability, if that was the final recommendation from the Board.

- Jim Anglemier stated he thinks it is worth waiting a few months before moving forward with a system allow time to gather information from the County so that METCOM can make an informed decision between the two system options.

Salem Hospital/OHA Request at Whipper: Salem Hospital and the Oregon Health Authority have requested to have some space on the Whipper site. Mark Spross has confirmed that this would cause no interference issues and there is adequate space. Mark is working on contracts to address rates and fees. There was no opposition from board members present. Mark will move forward with the contract.

Basic Overview of the Fire: Mark expressed his gratitude for the METCOM employees who worked such an overwhelming event as the Beachie Creek Fire and wind storm event. Those employees were – First night: Tracy Arnett, Richelle Biancone, Tiffany Beck, Mary Graeber, Dennis Schlies and Louise Funk. The second day: Shawna Godfrey, Tracy Arnett, Loren Hall, Brittney Laubsch, Timi Collingham, Richelle Biancone, Tiffany Beck, Mary Graeber, Jordan VanDyke and John Thompson. The Halls Ridge radio site was a complete loss. Marion County and MCSO has a temporary trailer operational and METCOM has equipment on the temporary trailer. METCOM experienced some licensing issues when installing the temporary trailer and is working through the issue with help from Day Wireless. Currently Marion County and METCOM are partnering with the temporary facility. Marion County is working on the fuel issue at the site. Due to the location, there is limited access to provide fuel during the winter months and snow fall. Currently the site has a 3 day fuel capacity. Marion County has purchased a propane tank to subsidize the fuel and anticipates this should allow for site operation until April. The install on the propane tank is expected to be complete next week. The main issue currently, is security at the site. There has been two separate incidents where someone gained access to the site and turned off the gas valve. This caused a disruption of service. The forest service is installing a steel gate to deter and prevent further unauthorized access to the location. ODOT is under a great amount of pressure to install a tower at this location. They hope to have a site built by the end of this fiscal year.

The back-up center in Stayton experienced some challenges from the smoke and ash debris. Mark, John and Wendy spent a few hours at the location cleaning and providing debris removal from the site.

House Mountain –METCOM owns the combiner and it was recently serviced and working as designed. The wind storm blew the microwave out of alignment. This has been addressed and realigned by Complete Wireless.

Staffing Update: METCOM is still experiencing a staffing shortage. Currently we have three new employees in training (two have completed call taking and one radio discipline, while one is in call taker training). We have one additional candidate in the final stages of hire (anticipating a start date the first part of November) and one more in the background process. If both candidates who are still in the hire process successfully move forward and are hired, we will have two part-time call taker positions left to fill. We are continuing to move forward with the recruitment process. Although no formal notice has been received, it is anticipated two METCOM employees may retire by the end of 2021.

Everbridge: The State is working on a proposal to have one single statewide Everbridge system. The proposal will be brought forward to the State Emergency Board. Their hope is to have this single system in place by the end of the year. Mark will follow this to ensure continued operability of METCOM and our user agencies.

Good of the Order: None

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Future Board Meetings: December 8, 2020 – Via Zoom