



METCOM 9-1-1

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2021

Members in Attendance: Meeting Held via Zoom On-Line

Sherry Bensema
Joe Budge
Mark Daniel
Jordan Donat
David Frisendahl
Ed Grambusch
Kevin Hendricks
Alan Hume
Bill Miles

Dan Mullen
Fred Patterson
Don Taylor
Jim Trierweiler

Others in Attendance:
Brian Nicholas - MCPW
James Montgomery – Day
Wireless

METCOM Staff:
Wendy Patterson
Mark Spross
John Thompson
Jordan VanDyke

METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:03 AM with a quorum met by members present via Zoom on-line platform due to COVID-19.

The board meeting was opened by Mark Spross then transferred to Board Chair, Mark Daniel.

Board Meeting Minutes: The June 1, 2021 Board meeting minutes were provided in the board packet for review.

Motion to approve minutes: Ed Grambusch

Motion 2nd: Jim Trierweiler

Motion carried no opposition

The discussion regarding the status of the County Radio Project was moved to later in the agenda until Brian Nicholas with MCPW was available to join the meeting.

General Updates:

- METCOM is in the process of preparing for the annual audit schedule for November 3rd and 4th, 2021 performed by Grove, Mueller & Swank PC.
- METCOM received the APCO International 2021 Public Safety communications Team of the Year award for the work METCOM did during both the wildfires and the ice event.
- METCOM also received some APCO State awards. However, due to COVID, the state conference was cancelled. METCOM will hold a ceremony on December 1, 2021 at the Metropolis in Woodburn to honor our local award recipients. User agencies are invited and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP with Mark.
- METCOM continues to partner with Marion County for the rebuild at Halls Ridge. ODOT is still set to build a tower and shelter but that project has been delayed. METCOM will remain on the Marion County temporary trailer through this winter until final plans are established with Marion County and ODOT. The discussion continues regarding the permanent site and what that will look like. We anticipate that the equipment lost at the Detroit Fire Station will likely be housed in a new fire bay in Detroit. METCOM will continue to request an extension from FEMA for the new system build out.
- Everbridge has been transferred to Marion County utilizing the statewide system. This transfer should remain seamless for our day to day operations and users should not experience any disruptions. If agencies have any questions regarding the Everbridge system, please contact John Thompson or Kathleen Silva with MCEM.

- A replacement for the backup generator at the Stayton facility was allocated in the METCOM budget. We are starting the process of this replacement and hope to have more information soon. METCOM extends thanks to Stayton Fire for their continued support of utilizing their mechanic to help maintain the current and new generator.
- We are at end of life for our current telephone system at METCOM. Mark Spross has requested a variance from the State to go from 6 to 8 phone positions. Mark anticipates to hear back from the state regarding the variance request in the next few weeks. The new phone system is scheduled to go live in the fall of 2022.
- On October 12th and October 15th, METCOM will be conducting a staff meeting. This staff meeting will include a partial evacuation drill to the backup center. Staff will perform phone answering and radio communications to become familiar with the evacuation process should the need arise in the future.
- METCOM currently has 17 of the 19 dispatch positions filled. We have 2 part time call takers in the medical pre-employment process with an anticipated start date of the first part of November. Currently we have one full time dispatcher in backgrounds. We will have one more full time dispatcher position to fill as Brandi Johnson transitions from dispatch to her new Dispatch Supervisor position.

General Updates:

Mark Spross advised the Board that METCOM will continue to watch the Federal mandates regarding COVID vaccinations. Currently METCOM encourages, but does not mandate, staff to receive the COVID vaccination. Approximately 70% of METCOM employees are fully vaccinated at this time.

Q: Will METCOM honor COVID vaccine exemptions?

A: Yes. METCOM will follow the COVID vaccine exemptions as legally allowed.

Ed Grambusch advised the members present of the passing of Silverton Fire Department Captain Harry Klopfenstein on September 25th. Ed expressed his gratitude for the condolences that Silverton Fire has received from METCOM and area Fire Departments and firefighters.

Executive Session:

METCOM Board of Directors entered into Executive Session at 10:26 am under ORS 192.660 (2)(f)(h) Legal, and ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Negotiations.

METCOM Executive Session was closed and the METCOM general Board Meeting was reopened at 10:34 am.

Marion County Radio Project Update:

Committee Members from METCOM:

Ed Grambusch, Joe Budge, Marty Pilcher, Dave Frisendahl, Mark Daniel and Sherry Bensema.

Brian Nicholas – Marion County Public Works

- The House Mountain radio site experienced a power outage on September 27, 2021 that affected the microwave link. A new part is on order and the hope is to be up and running by tomorrow.
- Halls Ridge – Marion County has the temporary radio tower trailer fueled and ready for the winter. It is anticipated that ODOT will start construction in the area in late spring of 2022. Brian hopes to have a better timeline available for the Board in December of 2021.
- Marion County Radio Project – The contract for the Project Manager has been provided to the Marion County Commissioners for approval at the October 6th meeting. The Radio Project Committee will be contacted as soon as the Radio Project Manager has received the Commissioners approval and is ready to go. The committee should anticipate monthly meetings to formulate a project timeline and a strategic project plan. Brian is waiting for a written report from ADDCOM that will help to formulate the strategy

for the radio project. Marion County has selected Radio Technology Services; Patrick Hoover, for the Project Manager.

Radio Project Discussion:

Q: What type of Federal funding is being pursued and how is that process going?

A: MC provided a list of earmarks to their federal delegation. Representative Schrader supported three of the "asks," one of which was the full funding of the radio build out to about \$13 million dollars, but not necessarily all of the subscriber units. This did not pass reconciliations so was not approved. The "full ask" will not come from a federal earmark. However, MC did ask for \$1.2 million dollars specifically to pay for user subscriber units, to relieve METCOM user agency from needing to purchase the preliminary units. This earmark is still "alive" in the Department of Homeland Security operating budget bill and has made it past the House. MC is hopeful that this will continue to be supported and will make it past the Senate and reconciliation. Brian anticipates hearing if the \$1.2 million dollars will be available sometime in the next two weeks. If approved, these funds would be for the upcoming biennium so funds would need to be expended in the next two federal fiscal years.

Q: Is there state money that was set aside from the fires?

A: MC has the FEMA project request that is working through their review process. The Christmas tree bill that was passed on June 30th, radio funding monies were removed prior to passing. Marion County received \$66 million dollars in Federal ARPA funds. The Community Development Office is working on developing the grant program requirements at this time for these funds. When open, Brian will be submitting to the Community Development Office a grant request for the full radio project. MC continues to look at options to ensure that the full initial capitalization is covered with other revenue streams other than user fees so that user rates will be very affordable.

Q: When do you think there will be enough information for METCOM to make a decision to partner with MC for the radio project?

A: Brian hopes to have a better idea at the end of this fiscal year

Q: What is the timeline to have the system ready to turn on?

A: A reliable timeline would be to anticipate 2024.

Mark Spross advised Brian that METCOM will be starting our budget process in December for the 2022-2023 FY, with our formal budget adoption in June. If there is something that METCOM needs to look at for funding in the 2022-2023 FY budget Brian will need to communicate that as soon as possible.

Q: Should the Radio Committee expect to receive communication from MC and/or Patrick by the end of October?

A: Yes.

Budget Committee:

METCOM will be looking at a potential new funding formulas. Please reach out to your budget committee member if you have any questions or input on that process.
Budget Committee Members: Mark Daniel, Ed Grambusch, Sherry Bensema, Michael Kahrman, Dave Rash and Dan Mullen.

Future Board Meetings:

November 30, 2021 @ 10:00 am via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.