

COLUMBIA 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
Minutes of the Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting
October 26, 2021

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	NAME	HERE	ABSENT
Clatskanie RFPD	CFD		X
Columbia City PD	CCPD		X
Columbia Co. Emergency Mgmt. – Chris Carey	CCEM	Zoom	
Columbia Co. Sheriff's Dept. – Ryan Murphy	CCSO/CPD	Zoom	
CRFR	CRFR		X
Scappoose RFPD – Chief Jeff Pricher	SFD	Zoom	
Mist Birkenfeld RFPD – Chief Joe Kaczinski	MBFD	Zoom	
Oregon Dept. of Forestry – Malcolm Hiatt	ODF	Zoom	
Oregon State Police	OSP		X
Rainier PD	RPD		X
St. Helens PD – Chief Brian Greenway	SHPD	Zoom	
Scappoose PD	SPD		X
Metro West	MW		X
Vernonia RFPD – Chief Dean Smith	VFD	Zoom	
Vernonia PD	VPD		X
Columbia Co. Public Works – Mike Russell	CORD	Zoom	

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Fletcher, Nancy Edwards, Lara Marzilli, Nathan Hughes, Maryjo Beck

GUESTS PRESENT: Tyler Miller, citizen

OPENING / INTRODUCTIONS / ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Russell called the meeting to order Tuesday, October 26th at 12:02pm. Introductions were made.

No additions were made to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL – July 27, 2021:

Pricher moved and Carey seconded to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:

Fletcher stated that last month the Board appointed Interim Chief Shaun Davis to represent the City of Scappoose; Justin Stevenson will be his alternate.

DISTRICT UPDATES:

Operations Report

Marzilli reported on the following:

- Currently have two trainees and four applicants in the background process.
- A lead dispatcher promotional process will be starting and a recruitment for the Program Coordinator position will be taking place as well.
- Contract negotiations began last month.
- Prepping for mandatory staff training next month.

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EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL BRIEFING

Hughes reported on the following:

- Received a rebate of \$9,412 from Columbia River PUD for our lighting project.
- Moved CAD over to the SD-WAN network – its running on four internet connections with load balancing between those four connections. This will increase our bandwidth and speed.
- Recently promoted a new GIS Specialist, Dannell Hooper.
- Working with ODOT to get live camera feed into dispatch.

Pricher inquired if Hughes had any information from our CAD vendor about third party automatic vehicle locators (AVLs) that can interface with our CAD system. Hughes stated that our vendor returned with a minimum cost of \$33,000 to integrate with CAD. A couple other solutions are tape over UDP (Cradlepoint) and Field Ops via iPads.

12:11p.m. Hooper logged on.

DIRECTOR REPORT:

Radio System:

Dixie Mountain:

There is no new update. Fletcher continues to work with MNI and Day Wireless to provide drawings and specs on all of the equipment per the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) request.

Radio Site Improvements:

Fletcher reported that all winter prep has been completed at all of the sites.

Meissner:

Fletcher stated that construction at the Meissner site is contingent on the WCCCA radio system upgrade, which keeps getting pushed back. The tentative date we may be receiving the surplus tower and shelter from WCCCA is January. The front-end documents for the civil work are complete and our Construction Manager will publish the RFP when we have a better idea about construction dates.

Columbia Heights:

Fletcher reported that the lease with Day Wireless is complete. The lease is about \$24,000 a year, plus back rent of about \$12,000. The District did not want to enter into a long-term agreement because this site might not be one that is used with our new radio system. While the lease is more than the District wanted to spend, it buys the flexibility of a one-year agreement that expires in April. The District can then pay month to month.

COVID Update:

Fletcher stated that we're doing everything remote at this time (i.e., meetings). The District facility is shut down to the public with access only permitted to vendors for emergency work, mandatory updates or preventative maintenance.

Tow Service Contracts:

No update at this time.

Ambulance Service Area (ASA):

Fletcher stated that we're just waiting for the next meeting date.

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Corey Hill Vandalism:

Fletcher reported that the Corey Hill site was vandalized. Most of the repair work has been finished, but due to supply chain issues we're still waiting on a few things. Day Wireless expects it should be completed soon. Fletcher stated that he's been keeping our insurance agent and claims adjustor informed of the costs that are accumulating. He noted that the District will be reimbursed once the claim is closed out.

NextGen Radio System:

Fletcher stated that Federal Engineering (FE) presented their report and recommendation to the C911CD Board of Directors on September 23rd. The Board did not take any action at the meeting. Fletcher stated that the Board would like to reconvene with FE and the work group to discuss the report. He noted that FE is willing to work with the Board and users to help further define options and answer questions. Fletcher asked the Committee to help determine what the work group meeting should encompass. FE has recommended that we narrow our focus to one or two topics that will best assist the Board in making a final decision. Some suggested topics were:

- More in depth focus on CRESA solution
- Comparison of the two 800 solutions – CRESA and WCCCA
- Discussion on the Tate 700 or the CODAN VHF
- Start over and go out for RFP

Once the focus of the work group is agreed upon, FE will provide the District with a quote for this session. Fletcher shared slides from FE's presentation with the Committee and noted that their recommendation was partnering with CRESA and going to an 800 system.

Hiatt stated that his main concern with partnering with CRESA or WCCCA is the lack of ownership and control. He's concerned that the larger centers will make decisions without our input and those expenses will be passed onto us. Russell agreed that this is a valid concern and noted that there will most likely be annual user fees and maintenance costs for any of these options.

Pricher stated that it's difficult to differentiate between the systems. He expressed the need to consider the money side; how much the public will be willing to pay for a radio system and how much users can afford to pay. He noted that communication is the single most important thing to be able to do their jobs. Pricher expressed his concern with joining another entity that we have no control over, especially in another state. He feels we strongly need to consider doing something on our own rather than joining another entity.

Fletcher stated that there are two main advantages of partnering with an existing 800 core. The first being the price of the infrastructure; it would save us about two million dollars. The second advantage would be having the technical team to take care of the system. If we own and operate our own system, we would have to hire technical experts or contract with a third-party vendor to maintain the system, like we do today. Also, the District doesn't have any physical space to house a new system within our facility, we'd have to lease space outside of our agency.

Greenway would like to move away from VHF. He understands the concerns that have been shared, but feels the best route is to partner with an existing 700/800 system as it would be half the cost.

Carey inquired if a 700 system is upgradable to an 800 system at a later time. Fletcher stated that while they are different spectrums, they're basically the same type of system. He stated that Tate is initially offering a 700 analog system which can be upgraded incrementally to P25, however fatigue can set in fiscally and operationally.

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Pricher stated that his biggest fear in partnering with another agency is not having our needs taken into consideration. If the group does decide to partner, there will need to be checks and balances put in place so that the county's needs are not only heard but dealt with.

Fletcher stated that if the decision is made to partner with another agency the next step would be contract negotiations with the host agency to discuss those topics. The District would also enter into contract negotiations with the radio manufacturer (Motorola) who will be building and designing the system – this is where discussions regarding radio coverage and performance will take place.

Discussion followed.

Pricher stated that he'd like to hear from other members, especially law enforcement regarding what their needs are. He expressed the need for this to be a collaborative approach. He inquired why BOEC was not considered. Fletcher stated that it was not part of FE's scope of work as BOEC was not considered by any of the vendors that responded to the District's Request for Information (RFI) since they don't have as many sites that would benefit us as CRESA and WCCCA do. Discussion continued.

Russell's recommendation is to move to a 700/800 P25 compliant system in order to 'future proof' whichever system we go with (i.e., CRESA, WCCCA). He asked if members were ready to give a recommendation to Fletcher to present to the Board. Pricher noted that there's some questions that the Fire Defense Board are still waiting to have answered; he really isn't prepared to make a recommendation at this time.

Kaczinski stated that he also isn't ready to make a recommendation at this time. He suggested that an 'end date' be placed on member's getting their recommendations back to Fletcher, provided that all questions have been answered. Lengthy discussion followed.

Fletcher noted that the bond measure will cover user agency subscriber radios (mobiles and portable), annual subscriber fees and annual maintenance for a 10-year period. Discussion continued.

Murphy stated that he is leaning toward a 700/800 system (alternatives two or three), but he'd like to know the differences. He's interested in coverage and communication with partnering agencies (Cowlitz, Clatsop, Multnomah and Washington).

Fletcher summarized that member's still have outstanding questions and the majority are looking toward a 700/800 system. He encouraged those members who are interested, to attend the Board meeting on Thursday at 1pm.

ROUNDTABLE:

Greenway: No comment.

Carey: Looks like the Public Alert and Warning policy the county board is going to be adopted; it is largely weather related. Happy to seat down with individual fire/police agencies work out their own alert and warning policies and template messages if needed.

Hooper: Introduced herself as the new GIS Specialist, having replaced Foley who retired in August.

Smith: No comment.

Pricher: About to purchase about \$100,000 of radio equipment to upgrade their fleet of radios that were originally purchased in the 1990's. Continuing to work with C911CD on border challenges.

Kaczinski: No comment.

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Hiatt: The receptionist at their office, Karen Simonton, is retiring this week. Interviews have been completed and a new hire will begin next week.

Murphy: No comment.

Russell: Gearing up for winter operations; we're in a La Niña weather pattern, which is predicting colder and wetter than average.

Fletcher: Board of Directors meeting will be held this Thursday. If interested in attending email Hughes for an invite.

No other comments were made.

Announcements:

The next meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Zoom January 25th.

1:16pm Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryjo E. Beck

Date approved