

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT

Umatilla County Fire District #1, Station 23

April 4, 2017 – 1:30PM

Present: Director Pratt Director Roxbury Director Lieuallen
 Director Matlack Director Kennedy

Absent: None

Guests: Marlon Johnson, Day Wireless Rick Stokoe, Boardman Police Department
 Rob Reish, ODOT Loren Dieter, Boardman Police Department
 Joe Messman, ODOT
 William "Rudy" Rudoff and Brian Malinich, Mission Critical Partners (by phone)

Staff: Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown, Brett Mueller

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:28pm.

II. Roll Call: Directors Pratt, Matlack, Roxbury, Kennedy, and Lieuallen were present.

III. Minutes of the Meetings from March 7, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 7 meeting, with an updated bullet point from Director Pratt's presentation regarding Gilliam County, was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Lieuallen.

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

IV. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

VI.A.1.c. MCP Study Review (moved up on the agenda)

Shawn asked William Rudoff and Brian Malinich to call in for the meeting to talk about their study, the reasons behind their recommendations, and to answer any questions from the Board.

Malinich explained that MCP's frequency recommendation of the 700 band was based on the District's current system status (end of life), increasing interoperability with neighboring counties, and a mutually beneficial partnership with the State. MCP felt that there were more advantages with 700. They did confirm that there were advantages and disadvantages of changing bands and that staying UHF would not have a negative impact. MCP recommended creating an RFI that required vendors to give a performance based solution, a coverage study, and a band recommendation based on the current site. Rudoff and Malinich had a lot of faith in the RFP/RFI process. An RFI would not be a promise to purchase and could make the proposals easy to compare and score. They highly recommended this course of action as a next step. With the current system at End of Life, the District is at a fork and a longer wait carries more risk. In response to Director Lieuallen's questions, Shawn confirmed that the band decision would not have an effect on ISSI capability. MCP noted that, if the District and the State had the same vendor, the system connection would be an even better scenario.

V. Business from Guests: None

VI. Old Business

A. Next System RFP

1. Voice System Frequency Selection

a. Rob Reish, ODOT Wireless Communication Section Manager and Joe Messman, Operation Manager

Rob Reish stated that ODOT has a long standing relationship with UMRDD and partnerships are important at all levels. He noted that it was the responsibility of public agencies to be fiscally responsible with tax payer money and a way to do that is to partner with systems when it makes sense. After much analysis, the State felt that it did not make sense for UMRDD to share their core. This arrangement would pull the core away from the community and would rely on the microwave system. The State however, would like to continue to partner with UMRDD such as putting one of their extra sites in at Cabbage Hill. ODOT could provide support and assets that the District could use when building the new system, utilizing ISSI to connect the systems. Director Roxbury noted that a distributed core solution, such as what EF Johnson offers, would not cause any issues with an ISSI. Reish explained that, as long as the features and functions of trunking are intact, it would be fine to add OSP and ODOT to the UMRDD system and vice versa. The State has been able to partner with multiple agencies throughout Oregon.

Brett asked Reish his opinion on the Harris option of a smaller back up core that could control the system even if there was a failure to connect to the both State cores. It couldn't make configuration changes, but the system would continue to function. Reish replied that

he had heard of that but felt it would risk the ability of UMRDD to locally administer the system. Conceptionally, he was wary. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn explained that an ISSI with Benton County would require an additional software router and Marlon explained that equipment would be needed at both locations. Reish also noted that an ISSI connection is not inexpensive, with the cost being \$450k to connect a Motorola system and \$105k for Harris, with an additional fee of \$130k for services to activate the hardware and software with WACA.

Reish also suggested the Board consider the 700 band for many reasons, including the frequencies being in a clean spectrum and the valuable asset of the 48 channels allocated to the area. If the frequencies are not taken by public agencies, the channels will be available to other agencies. Reish felt that it would be a risk not to go 700. Additionally, Frontier Digital, Benton County, ODOT and OSP are using 700. In response to Director Kennedy's question, Reish explained that Harris under promised and over delivered on coverage. Subscriber units on 700 are more sensitive, have a lower noise floor, and are better at receiving. The only issue they ran into was Washington using identical frequencies and causing interference, but UMRDD would not have that issue. In response to Director Pratt's question, Reish said he could not speak to multipath issues because he had not had real world experience with that since they only had a small group of users at the time. Joe Messman noted that there were no multipath issues during the extensive coverage testing and the only coverage issues they encountered were between Cascade Locks and Troutdale. He did note that no indoor testing was done, but the portables were working better than expected. He also noted that, depending on the vendor, sites can be leveraged and there could be better seamless saturation of coverage.

Reish felt that the State and UMRDD had the opportunity to partner and consolidate equipment at some sites and that the State could help with the maintenance of the system, if they were allowed to use it. This is a point that has been discussed many times in the past. Shawn sent a map to Reish and they discussed ties-ins and a possible agreement at Black Mountain. They noted that ISSI does have limitations regarding the proprietary features that are not covered under P25. Reish and Messman also explained that, because they went with a third party console instead of the Harris Symphony consoles, they were not able to take advantage of some of benefits and features. They suggested the District also consider that, when making a decision.

b. Next Voice System Description Draft

Shawn presented an updated version of his draft document and included a call for ISSIs to the State in the description. He noted that there was a possibility of cost savings by going with Phase II, but that talkpaths would be lost. He had heard that the newer radios were more reliable. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn stated that he recommended staying UHF purely for the better coverage. He also noted that it would be worth it to lose a small amount of coverage to be able to go 700, but entire areas cannot be sacrificed. The chosen band will not have an impact on the cost of a new system, but will impact the cost of subscriber units. The Board discussed the option to use a performance based RFP or RFI (required coverage and features) and leaving the band choice out of the request. Shawn felt that his document was close to that, but still needed feedback on encryption and GPS.

Regarding GPS, Director Kennedy spoke with 2 police chiefs and reported that they requested to be able to track radio location when PTT is used, but not to have a constant signal coming from them. Shawn agreed that that would be better for the system because an additional channel would not be needed to monitor GPS. Chief Stokoe liked the idea of PTT mapping, but felt that the cost of the feature was a significant consideration. The Board agreed that the entire system did not need encryption and most agencies could share the talkgroup. BENT may need their own encrypted talkgroup. Chief Stokoe noted that BENT currently used an app on their phones because they did not have encryption, but would likely use the radios more if the encryption was an option and Shawn had heard the same.

B. Service Vehicle Update : No update

VII. New Business

A. System Administrator's Report

1. Unit Tracking Sheet: No subscriber units were issued in March.

2. District Income Review: The board reviewed the income report.

3. District Expenditures Review: The Board reviewed the expenditure report. Shawn reported that recently the District has a major equipment breakdown. A site controller stopped working. Day Wireless was called in to help Brett fix it and the charge for that was \$1400.

4. District Bank Statement/Checks Review: The Board reviewed the bank statements.

5. LGIP: The Board reviewed the LGIP report.

B. Frontier Site Visit Report

Brett and Shawn visited Frontier and spoke with Mike Smith and the Day Wireless technicians that run the system. They discussed using patches and connections from their system to UMRDD. Their core was installed at the highest point in Sherman County and their system was a good one, with only a slight power issue. Shawn noted that it seemed that Frontier was looking for a partner to share system costs, but he did not feel that it was an option for UMRDD, based on the geographic diversity and the inability to control the system. Director Matlack reported that someone from Frontier had a discussion with the Morrow County Commissioners and he was unsure why the representative went to the commissioners, instead of speaking with the District or himself directly. The commissioners told the

Frontier representative that they were not familiar with the system and did not have the answers they were looking for. Shawn replied that he received a call from the commissioners, regarding the future of the system.

Director Roxbury reiterated that he did not support the idea of the District sharing a core with any other agency because the District's future would then be reliant on other agency funding. He did support partnering with other agencies. Director Matlack noted that he had always been able to talk to OSP through the patch and they appreciated the interoperability and have had no complaints.

C. All User Meeting (4/26/17)

Shawn felt that it was necessary to have a meeting with the User Board to discuss many of the current issues, specifically the need for subscriber units.

Director Matlack commented that he missed the last Board meeting, but read the minutes and really appreciated Director Pratt's comments. Shawn noted that he invited the state and MCP to this meeting, based on the conversations that came out of Director Pratt's presentation.

It was suggested that, instead of choosing a band, Shawn write an RFI in a way that would have the vendors recommend a band, based on how they were able to meet the specific coverage requirements and he agreed that that was a plan that could bring really good information to the discussion. Shawn also assured Director Matlack that the fill in sites in Heppner, Umatilla, and Pendleton will be included in the RFP/RFI to ensure the most complete coverage possible. Everyone agreed that moving to a digital system would cause coverage losses, no matter which band or vendor is chosen. Shawn was attempting to cover every issue that the District faces, in his draft document.

VIII. Open Discussion

Chief Stokoe asked the Board to clarify the decision to pass a motion, committing to the 450 band for the new system. If it was being reconsidered, he felt that there should be a modification.

A motion to accept 450, 700, or 800, as the band for the next radio system was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Matlack.

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Chief Stokoe also informed the Board that he purchased a 700 mobile was given 2 700 portables from the State, to test in the area.

Shawn informed the Board that he planned to schedule a meeting of the Budget Committee in late April or early May, based on availability of the members. New members might be needed and Shawn considered running an ad in the paper for this purpose. He believed there were enough members for this year's meeting.

IX. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:59 pm was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Pratt.

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2017, at Boardman City Hall.