

**UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT**

Umatilla County Fire District #1, Station 23

October 3, 2017 1:30PM

Present: Director Matlack                      Director Pratt  
          Director Roxbury                      Director Lieuallen

Absent: Director Kennedy

Guests: Jeanine Weber, Harris              Rick Stokoe, Boardman Police Department  
          Roy Kyser, Motorola

Staff:                      Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown, Brett Mueller

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guest(s): The meeting was called to order at 1:27pm.

II. Minutes of the Meeting from August 1, 2017

*A motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on August 1, 2017 was made by Director Lieuallen and seconded by Director Pratt.*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Matlack: Aye*

*Director Roxbury: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

III. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: Add V. D. FirstNet update

IV. Business from Guest(s): None

V. Old Business

A. New Systems RFP

1. RFI Responses

a. Response Comparison Spreadsheet

Shawn received the RFI responses, reviewed them, spoke with representatives from each company, and created a spreadsheet for the Board to review. He outlined the information he received from each of the following vendors; Codan, E.F. Johnson, Motorola, and Harris. The main purpose of the RFI was to get band recommendations. On the face of the responses, 3 companies recommended UHF, but reading further into the documents, the argument for UHF became weaker. Shawn asked the Board if they were prepared to make a band decision based on the previous discussions and the information he provided.

The Board discussed the changes that would happen if the 700 band was chosen. Shawn noted that none of the issues were insurmountable and that most of the problems would be in the rural areas like south Morrow County, where coverage was already an issue. Director Matlack agreed that the coverage had been a problem and access to VHF and OSP frequencies was vital. Shawn agreed and noted that access to VHF would not go away, no matter which band was chosen. Director Pratt noted that the 700 band had a lot of practical use for Morrow County with regard to interoperability with nearby agencies. Director Matlack asked Shawn to explain the argument for leaving the 450 band if it was proven to have better coverage.

Shawn explained that all subscriber units and antennas would have to be replaced with a migration to the 700 band. The cost is more and more equipment would be needed, however all of the infrastructure must be replaced for either band option. Shawn's biggest concern with staying UHF was the issue of the noise floor and interference. Interference was already an issue for the system and a channel was regularly taken out of operation temporarily due to it. When the noise floor is above 4db, there is no advantage to UHF. 700 was also shown to be better at in-building coverage. Shawn also noted that, due to interference, the District needed more channels with UHF than it would with 700. In order to make up for coverage, a 3 zone system configuration with directional antennas was a consideration. Each site would have its own frequencies but some redundancy would be lost. In response to Director Matlack's concerns about collaboration with other agencies, Shawn confirmed that when the system is working perfectly, users would not notice any difference.

In response to Shawn's question about a noise floor and spectrum study, Roy confirmed that Motorola offered the service for about \$10,000 per site. The Board agreed that the cost for the study was too high.

Director Matlack expressed concern regarding federal grant money, based on the ongoing political issues in Oregon.

Based on his research and discussions, Shawn felt that 700 was the best option for the District's new system. The main concern that he had for 700 was the multipath issue, but based on the RFI responses, it did not appear to be a problem. Shawn noted that coverage in the schools would have to be addressed one by one and that in-building repeaters were less expensive on the 700 band.

Director Pratt noted his preference for 700. With all things considered, he felt that the noise floor issue was significant and that interoperability was an important benefit. Working with OSP would be just like talking to anyone else on the system and scanning lists could include OSP. The system would be designed in whatever way works best.

Director Lieuallen noted that she agreed with Director Matlack that VHF was essential, no matter which other band was chosen and she felt that 700 was the best option. Director Kennedy provided his preference of 700 in email correspondence, since he was unable to attend the meeting.

Director Pratt also pointed out that limiting subscriber units to agencies would afford additional funding for the rest of the new system. The subscriber unit subcommittee should speak with each agency and set rules for how many units were actually needed. The Board agreed that it was not necessary to ask the users what their band preference was.

With regard to VHF, Shawn explained that the cost for VHF infrastructure was low and the need for VHF would not go away. He expected the technology in the current VHF radios to remain the same for the foreseeable future and felt that maintaining VHF would not be a burden to the District. Shawn had been directed in the past, by the Board, to only service VHF for areas that are not covered by UHF. Director Roxbury felt that UHF was the best option because he believed that coverage should be the highest priority

*A motion to adopt the 700 band for the future radio system for the Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Lieuallen.*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Matlack: Aye*

*Director Roxbury: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

B. Subscriber Subcommittee: First meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 10 at 1:30pm, Umatilla Fire Station #2.

C. Grant Assistance

1. Motorola Presentation (Roy Kyser)

Roy Kyser attended the meeting to discuss grant opportunities from the State of Oregon office of Emergency Management. He reported that there were homeland security and state homeland security programs worth about \$3.8million and 80% of that was allocated for local grant awards. In response to Shawn's question, Roy confirmed that UMRDD would be eligible for these types of grants and that there were worth pursuing. The application period was January 2018 so there was time to prepare and submit. Roy didn't know a lot about the EMPG but included contact information for the District to pursue. Shawn felt that the District would not qualify for EMPG because it was for Emergency Management agencies specifically and needed to be tied to terrorism or Cascadia, like the solar power grant that he applied for. He didn't believe that it could be used for subscriber units. Roy agreed and suggested it for infrastructure. Shawn reminded the Board that he applied for the grant for microwave funding and was denied and felt that that would probably continue to be the result. Roy also reminded the Board that Motorola had a grant assistance program that was a free resource. The Board directed to Shawn to do more research.

Shawn reported that he met with his counterpart in Benton County and they discussed sharing a path. He asked the Board if a cross state merger or agreement was something they were interested in him pursuing. The Directors were supportive of this idea. Shawn noted that Benton County also had a positive response.

Shawn spoke about a merger with Frontier. That would only be a possibility with Motorola, as they have a Motorola core. Director Pratt expressed concern about their infrastructure and Shawn felt that UMRDD would be fine, even if Frontier had a problem and that UMRDD would have a lot of control. The benefit of sharing a master site would be less cost for upgrades, hardware, and maintenance. Shawn's concern was UMRDD being responsible for a larger part of the cost due to the difference in population and wondered if it would be worth it. Shawn will continue to discuss it with Mike Smith of Frontier.

D. FirstNet Update

Shawn reported that the governors of Washington and Oregon decided to put out an RFP for a 2 state LTE system. This decision did not mean that the states would not participate in FirstNet, it meant that the states have a similar typography and coverage with AT&T and wanted to see what else was available. They believed it was an important step in the procurement process. SEIC was asked by the governor and his committee to look again at AT&T and give input. The RFP release was planned for 10/13/17, with a decision to be made 12/28/17. Shawn noted that AT&T had a lot of work to do with regard to coverage in the Northwest.

VI. New Business

A. System Administrator's Report

1. Unit Tracking Sheet: The Board reviewed the Unit Tracking Sheets from August and September.

2. District Income Review: The Board reviewed the Income Report.

3. District Expenditure Review: The Board reviewed the Expenditure Reports from August and September. The dues and fees line was overdrawn. A resolution to move funds will be presented at the November meeting.

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

5. LGIP: The Board reviewed the LGIP Report.

## 6. Safety Committee Review

Shawn noted that the largest safety concern over recent months has been bees at the radio tower sites, specifically Exit 198 and the Prime Site, where wasp's nests were found. The District vehicles always have a can of spray for these issues.

### B. Athena-Weston School District

Shawn was in the process of programming and issuing radios to the AWSD. UMRDD has a signed user agreement with the school district superintendent. The school district has requested 3 mobile radios for their busses (which are owned by the school district) and 4 portable radios. Shawn planned to schedule a training. Their pricing was based on the regular user agreements.

### VII. Open Discussion

Chief Stokoe spoke of a presentation by the US Attorney General for the State of Oregon, with regard to seeking guidance in applying for federal grants while Oregon is a sanctuary state. He was waiting to see what the response was. It appeared that the State did not want to address the issue of the legality so there was a request for clarity. Director Matlack noted that money could not be spent on immigration investigations. The governor signed a house bill with more restrictions for what can be provided to ICE and now much of the information in police reports has to be redacted.

### VIII. Adjourn

*A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:47pm was made by Director Lieuallen and seconded by Director Pratt.*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Matlack: Aye*

*Director Roxbury: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

### **Next Meeting**

November 7, 2017

Boardman City Hall