

and, after additional trouble reports at the Whisky Music Fest, lowering the output power level on the control channel at UCSO.

Director Kennedy asked if, when making these adjustments of power reduction, coverage would be affected. Brett confirmed that a reduction in power would reduce coverage, but only by a very small amount and would likely only minimally affect indoor coverage in the area. Brett did not expect any users to notice a change. If lowering the power did not fix the problem, using a directional antenna to focus on certain areas could help to prevent interference. This had been done at the Boardman site. There had been a little loss of power at Boardman, but it was minimal versus the interference. Brett would continue to look for solutions to improve signal and coverage, and reduce interference. Brett noted that there was always a tradeoff, and his focus was on predictable coverage for the users. Director Kennedy asked if the testing was redone after the adjustments were made and Scott confirmed that they had done additional testing and found improvements in audio and signal strength. Brett and Racom continued to rely on user feedback.

Director Pierotti noted that knowing where dead zones were could be helpful in finding a workaround, but expecting coverage and not having it was the problem. Brett agreed. Director Pierotti asked for more of the suspect areas to be checked and investigated on how using a directional antenna would help. In response to Director Kennedy's question, Scott said the testing was not easily done, and it was not something the District was equipped to do without Racom's help.

Rod noted that, when testing, he made around 100 calls with 4 radios and never missed any calls or traffic, but then received a report that there was missed audio in the area. He was unable to replicate that problem.

Director Kennedy noted that there were issues during the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. He suggested doing some testing during Round Up, if there was someone available to sit and watch the radio traffic. They would then be able to see any issues in real time and report them to Brett. This might be more helpful than trying to recreate the issue, after the fact. Brett asked Racom if they were available to do more testing, around the Round Up grounds, in the time before Round Up began and Scott agreed that they would do that. Director Primmer felt that that testing would have serious value and noted that the Umatilla County fair was also coming up. She confirmed that Dispatch would continue to report all radio issues.

Brett reported some problems with the server that managed the Fleet Manager program. Scott worked on that and got it operating properly. Brett and Josh began working on programs for updating subscriber units at various agencies. They would start with west Umatilla County fire and had to do the programming in person. Firmware updates and voice enunciation were too large to do over the air.

Brett attended the Fire Defense Board meeting on 07/31/23 and noted that one topic was that interoperability with VHF and 7/800 was lacking. Racom had run into problems interfacing VHF radios to the tags. Tait recommended using a different product going forward, that should support Phase 2. That has been ordered, at their expense, to test. Brett noted that he was still working to get Benton County Fire, Walla Walla, and ODF into the system, to facilitate better interoperability.

Director Pierotti also attended the meeting and reported that ODF was not currently giving mutual aid. He felt that it should be a high priority to get them back online. Brett agreed and confirmed that he had a meeting with them the follow day. In response to Director Pierotti's question, Brett said that testing would be required and the solution would depend on those results.

B. Ukiah Site Construction

The latest news was that the site was in a holding pattern, waiting for the NEPA process. The environmental assessment primarily required Tribal approval. In response to Director Kennedy's comment, Brett agreed that this project had been in the planning stage for a long time. The site construction award was made in early 2023.

C. Safety review

District staff reviewed wildfire and smoke mitigation processes, through a SAIF training. The training targeted employers and how they could minimize the harmful effects to employees.

VI. New Business

A. SIP/Community Service Fee

A few weeks ago, the District received a letter from the Morrow County Assessor regarding a public meeting to discuss the distribution of a Community Service Fee, from a SIP agreement between Morrow County and Amazon. This was the first direct notification that the special districts received regarding this agreement. Brett attended the meeting, along with representatives from the 8 other special districts. (Port of Morrow Health District, Recreation District, Fire District, Library District, Vector District, Parks and Cemetery District) They were presented with a proposal for how the Community Service Fee would be distributed. All taxing agencies would receive the normal percentage that they would have received with property taxes. The districts asked if Morrow County was receiving additional funds and Morrow County reported that they would get a \$5 million payment up front and \$850,000 per year. Chief Hughes, Boardman Fire, suggested that Morrow County take a reduced amount of \$500,000, leaving up to about \$2 million of the 15 year term distribution for the special districts involved. In response to Director Kennedy's question, Brett confirmed that the majority of the special districts agreed to Morrow County's proposal. Brett was concerned about the lack of up front communication from Morrow County. They did follow the law and had the agreement on their meeting agenda, but Brett felt that the special districts should have been more involved from the beginning. Chief Hughes spoke with the commissioners and intended to stand by his recommendation, and also intended to be very involved in future agreements. Director Kennedy felt that, if the majority of the districts were on board, the District should approve the IGA. He also noted that, while the District could spend time and energy trying to convince Morrow County to change the distribution, it made more sense to get ahead of new agreements, as they come forward. Brett confirmed that there were more in the works.

In response to Director Kennedy's question, Brett reported that the District would receive around \$88,000.

A motion to approve the IGA for SIP distribution of Community Service Fee was made by Director Pierotti and seconded by Director Irons.

Director Pierotti: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

VII. Open Discussion

The Board discussed the date of the next meeting being the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend and, based on other events in September, decided to leave it scheduled for that day.

Director Pierotti thanked Scott for attending the meeting. The Board appreciated the update.

Scott confirmed that Racom would plan to do some testing in the Round Up area grounds.

In response to Director Kennedy's question, Brett confirmed that using a directional antenna could be done easily. There would be some license modification, but overall, quite achievable.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm.

Next Meeting
September 5, 2023
1:30pm
Boardman City Hall