

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT  
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING  
Stafford Hansell Government Center  
April 2, 2024

Present:                 Director Irons                 Director Primmer (telephonically)  
                              Director Pratt                 Director Pierotti (telephonically)

Absent:                 Director Kennedy

In-Person Guests:     None

Remote Guests:       Adam Wilkinson (telephonically)

Staff:                   Brett Mueller, Rosanna Brown

- I.       Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:32pm.
  
- II.      Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None
  
- III.     Business from Guests: None
  
- IV.     Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes from the meeting on March 5, 2024.
  - B. System Administrator's Report
    - 1. District Income Review
    - 2. District Expenditures Review
    - 3. District Bank Statement/Checks Review
    - 4. LGIP

*A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Primmer and seconded by Director Irons.*

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Pierotti: Aye*

- V.       Old Business
  - A. LMR System Project Update

Since the last meeting, Brett had spent a fair bit of time in the field and with software modeling, giving close scrutiny to areas with projected delay spread interference, which occurs in a simulcast system. He looked at areas that were modeled to be problematic and comparing them to field reports, with special attention on the reservation where there have been more reports of missed calls around the foothills. It looked like the best explanation was that, while there was some delay spread interference, it was not bad until it was mixed with multipath, which was the signal bouncing from the transmitters off of other objects and the signals mixed, causing distortion that could not be received properly. An adjustment to timing could help mitigate those issues, however that could cause issues in the city of Pendleton. Brett planned to take a cautious approach to changes in the system timing.

Adcomm suggested a setting in the subscriber configuration in the programming, that would take message error rates into account when choosing control channels. It would use that information to decide if the error rate was high enough to move to another site. Brett had been experimenting with that and was cautiously optimistic about implementing that with some users. There were certain costs to that because the radios have to check other control channels on a regular basis and, if the radio switched registration, there was a

possibility of a short call being missed. For the right agency, Brett thought the risk might be worth that possibility.

There was a trouble report regarding a call that was completely scrambled to Dispatch. Brett verified it at the logging recorder and noted that it was in an area of less than optimal coverage, but that another user on the system was able to hear the call clearly. Brett and Hank had both experienced a couple of scrambled calls in the last month that Dispatch heard clearly. They were in the Pendleton zone and at least one of the users was in the same zone. Director Pratt noted that he had heard calls clearly that were garbled to Dispatch. Brett planned to continue to investigate the issue.

Brett reported that he and Hank had been doing some testing on the SOW (Site on Wheels) transportable site and had been very pleased with the results. Testing was done with a low-profile 7/800 mobile antenna on the roof of the pickup. Testing was done in areas with poor coverage. The portables that they used to test the system were programmed differently. One was programmed to recognize the SOW and the other was not, but both portables found it easily.

In response to Director Pierotti's question, Brett acknowledged that it would be worthwhile to have a way for users to request the SOW that included trigger marks for deployment. He anticipated bringing it up at one of the next fire meetings and advertising it as a resource. In response to Director Pratt's question, Brett confirmed that it had 2 talk paths and was Phase 2. There was talk of a possible exercise in the upper Umatilla region in May that Brett thought could be a good time to test the site, as that area has little radio coverage from the system.

#### B. Ukiah Site Construction

The Ukiah site construction was completed. Remaining tasks to be done before the site could go live included generator commissioning, DC system reconnection and testing, and fiber installation. Racom was working the rack and antenna installation into their schedule. Brett hoped for the site to be online before the Ukiah rodeo in June.

In the meantime, Brett was planning some revisions to the standard user agreement. He wanted to have that in place before signing an agreement with the City of Ukiah and decide how many radios they would need for their fire users and quick response team. Due to a recent demand for radios, Brett expected to have another request to purchase radios at the next meeting, but he was unsure at the time the number needed.

#### C. Update to the User and Subscriber Unit Issue Policy/Fee Schedule

Brett provided a rough draft to directors. It was a combination of policies that included the unit issues, user fees, and system access. The system access portion would cover topics like who was allowed on the system, what terms govern that, and what they should pay. The District did not intend to provide service to private or for-profit entities, but there were some that District users needed interoperability with, like Life Flight. Those types of users would be given access to the system, but were required to purchase their own subscriber units. Brett also noted that he wanted the document to include language about returning or surrendering units when an agency ceases to fulfill a safety role, with the objective being efficient use of District resources. Director Pratt suggested accountability language that would give the District the right to inspect the equipment, with proper notice, to ensure it was functional and being used correctly. Director Pierotti suggested requiring each user agency to conduct an annual inventory audit.

#### D. Fire Radio Committee Appointment

Adam Wilkison reported that he had contacted all of the Umatilla County and Morrow County fire agencies and provided the board a list of the users that agreed to be on the committee. This list included a few alternates. This list was provided to the directors.

Director Pierotti suggested electing a co-chair and a secretary. Adam confirmed that they planned to do so at the first in-person meeting.

*A motion to appoint the listed members to the Fire Portable Radio Committee was made by Director Pierotti and seconded by Director Primmer.*

Brian Hemphill	Sam Irons	Jimmy Davis	Justin Morris (alternate)
Chris Grant	Dave Baty	Steve Rhea	Matt Lewis (alternate)
Dan McConkey	Adam Wilkinson (chair)		Mike Hughes (alternate)

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Pierotti: Aye*

Brett saw an email that was sent to a vendor, that indicated the District would be replacing all of the fire radios and he did not think that was the Board's intention. The cost of replacing all 337 units could easily be more than \$3 million. Adam confirmed that the number of units to be purchased was up for discussion and hoped to identify a radio before working on the numbers. Director Pierotti noted that he had found a matching funds OEM grant. The deadline was 04/10/2024, but it was an annual opportunity.

Adam noted that vendors that sent demo radios were going to want someone to be responsible for the radios, while users were testing them. He asked the board if the District would be responsible party. He expected that, when a user requested a demo radio, they would sign an agreement with the District. Director Pratt thought that the committee should have their first meeting, to discuss their wants and needs, before requesting demo units. Adam noted that he had spoken with many of the committee members about what features they were looking for. Director Pratt requested that the committee have the first meeting, determine 4 or 5 radios that meet their requirements, present them at a board meeting, and then the board would make a decision about accepting liability.

E. Safety Review: District staff reviewed information on distracted driver awareness.

## VI. New Business

### A. EMS services in Morrow County

In the packet, Brett included a letter from Morrow County counsel to the Morrow County Health District. Director Pratt reported that the Morrow County Board of Commissioners contracted with Boardman Fire to provide all of the EMS services in the county, after the agreement with Morrow County Health District was terminated. The Boardman Fire contract was for 90 days and there was an option to renew for an additional 90 days.

The current ASA was being revised in Morrow County and, at some point in the future, anyone would be able to apply to provide these services.

Director Pratt had heard about instances of interference by MCHD that caused concern. He asked that the board have a discussion about what action, if any, the District should take. In this instance, should there be a deadline set or a catalyst identified for action? Should it be left to Brett to take action? Should the District's legal counsel be contacted? What steps needed to be taken if the District was unable to get the radios back, if it was determined that the agency does not qualify for user status?

Directors Pierotti and Primmer agreed that Brett should seek legal counsel. If the MCHD was going to be allowed to retain some or all of the radios, they should be required to articulate their need. Additionally, the board had concerns about MCHD's use of the radios causing interference with other users.

Brett had spoken with the MCHD in January and had thought it would be best to leave the radios in place, until a more permanent solution had been reached. At this point, he did not believe they needed all of the

radios that had been issued to them, and there was a need for those radios at other user agencies. The board directed Brett to reach out to the District's legal counsel and to SDAO and ask for their perspectives on the District's liability in this situation.

VII. Open Business

Brett reported that the employee health insurance rates would be increasing by 14%. He would provide figures at the May meeting and request that the District consider covering the increase for the current employees.

VIII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:26pm.

Next Meeting

May 7, 2024 - 1:30pm

Boardman City Hall