

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
Stafford Hansell Government Center
October 1, 2024

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

Absent: Director Pierotti Director Kennedy

In-Person Guests: None

Remote Guests: Adam Wilkinson, Pendleton Fire

Staff: Brett Mueller, Rosanna Brown

- I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:41pm.
- II. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None
- III. Business from Guests: None
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes from the meetings on September 3, 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 Pratt and seconded by Director Primmer.

Director Irons: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

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

Brett reminded the board that he had hoped the rest of the tasks on Racom's list would be completed in time to discuss system acceptance at this meeting. He reported that, while they had worked on it, they were finding it difficult to keep up with the workload since Rod Ekholm's departure. About 2 weeks ago, they sent a tech to the District for a couple of days and he was able to complete a few items. He spent some time at the Jordan Butte site, but had issues with configurations there and had to leave before he could finish. Brett thought Racom's most important task, the recommendation from ADCOMM, was to work on completing the documentation. Susan Ronning felt that it needed a lot of work and should be more of an "as built" document versus a "design" document. Racom recognized that and would continue to work on it.

Brett reported that there had not been much in the way of system level issues. He did not receive any trouble reports from users during Round Up. In response to Brett's question, Adam confirmed that he had not heard from many users and planned to reach out to the captains for feedback.

During the previous meeting, Brett discussed communication problems during a fire, near the foothills on the reservation. He and Hank continued to fine tune the settings and had been experimenting with the adaptive hunt parameter. The setting seemed to be working well, but could not be confirmed as successful until it was deployed widely. It had been put into a few radios and Brett would continue to monitor, and make improvements where possible.

In response to Director Pratt's comment about on-going issues on Boardman PD portables, Brett reported that Hank continued to work on radio alignment. MCSO and Boardman PD were on his schedule to visit. Brett expected that those adjustments would alleviate some of the issues, at least with the Tait subscribers.

B. Update to the User and Subscriber Unit Issue Policy/Fee Schedule: No update

C. Fire Radio Committee Update

Adam Wilkison reported to the board that he and Brett had met recently. Adam provided the agreement between the District and the agencies, for use of the demo units, for Brett's review and approval. He had obtained Motorola radios, though one of those had issues and could not be used. Adam began making contact with the agencies. He was calling them to confirm which agencies wanted to participate, since they now had a better idea of the logistics. He planned to issue the units in pairs. Those agencies, as part of their participation, would need to be willing to physically pass the radios on to the next agency after 2 weeks of testing. Racom's staffing issues were a challenge and Adam needed to touch base with them to ensure that demos would be coming from 3 different vendors. He also planned to touch base with Bendix King.

Brett reported that another topic that he and Adam discussed was the importance of documentation regarding the units, especially if the District was not part of the agency handoff. The agency contacts should photograph and include notes regarding the condition of the units and, if damaged, when and where the damage occurred. With regard to the 4 Motorola radios, Brett noted that 3 were delivered with batteries so dead that they would not charge on the chargers provided. The fourth had a control knob issue and could not be used. Brett did not think the units sent were in prime condition. He noted that 4 radios had been programmed by Hank and were ready to be distributed.

D. Safety Review

In early September the staff reviewed the topic of pedestrian safety, which was timely due to the Pendleton Round-Up. More recently, staff reviewed the topic of situational awareness at work.

VI. New Business

A. Review of the US Marshals MOU

Brett received a request, jointly through Umatilla County and the US Marshals Service, for the Marshals to have access to the UCSO talk group. Sheriff Rowan was supportive and enthusiastic about the potential cooperation between the agencies when working on an incident together, since communications had been a problem in the past.

As the possibility for bringing the Marshals on to the system was discussed, it was noted that other law enforcement agencies might also be interested in the potential for more interoperability. Brett provided the Marshals with a list of LE talk groups, with the caveat that an agency representative would have to authorize and approve the access.

Brett sent individual emails to the agency heads and received replies from all, most being supportive of the agreement. One agency wanted to be contacted by the Marshals directly and another agency was still considering.

Since Director Kennedy was not in attendance, Brett reported his response to the board. Director Kennedy had asked for this topic to be reviewed at the meeting. He said he would prefer that interested

federal agencies had a talk group dedicated to them and not have access to user talk groups. He wanted the emergency traffic and coordination to go through dispatch, with a talk group on the console.

Brett did not recommend that for a few reasons and wished Director Kennedy was present for the discussion. Brett noted that any talk groups that were added to the consoles would be competing for a limited number of available licenses in a pool. He also felt, based on similar interoperability talk groups created in the past, users were unlikely to switch talk groups.

Director Kennedy also told Brett that he would like to see some reciprocity in the agreement. When giving the Marshals access to the District's system, the District should also have access to whatever system they were using.

Director Pratt had no objection to the MOU and thought it was long overdue. It would be helpful in improved communications.

Director Primmer agreed and was supportive of any agency that wanted to be included.

Director Irons had no objections.

A motion to approve moving forward with the US Marshals MOU, with adjusted changes regarding participating agencies, was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Irons.

Director Irons: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

VII. Open Discussion

Brett informed the board that the District's bookkeeping firm, Landmark, would be closing when the owner, Claudia Henningson, retired. Claudia recommended that the District find a new firm before the end of the calendar year for processing payroll. Brett was receptive to suggestions and asked the directors for recommendations. In response to Director Iron's question, Rosanna responded that the new firm should have an efficient system and be proficient in payroll. Brett confirmed that he would prefer a local firm in Pendleton, but was willing to look further in the District if necessary. Director Primmer offered 3 recommendations for Brett to look into.

Brett informed the board that IWCE would be held in Las Vegas during the week of March 17, 2025. He asked the directors to consider attending and to let him know if they were interested. He was hoping that he and Hank would be able to attend, so he planned to work on finding coverage.

Brett notified the board that the District had a new .gov domain: UMOregonRadio.gov. It could be used mostly interchangeably with umrdd.org, with the benefits of having a .gov, mainly clarifying identifying the District as a government agency.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm

Next Meeting

November 5, 2024 - 1:30pm

Boardman City Hall