

RIVERCOM USER GROUP MEETING
RiverCom Conference Room,
140 S. Mission St. 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, Washington
Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Present: Mike Dingle, DCSO-EM; Shawn Ballard, Ballard Ambulance; Dennis Ashmore, CCFD-7; Rick Murray, WPD; Karl Jonasson, CCPHD-2 EMS; Tom Martin, CCFD-8; Phil Mosher, CCFD-1; Rod Fountain, CCFD-9; Millie Tirapelle, RiverCom.

The meeting was called to order by Phil Mosher at 11:00 a.m.

The members decided that Karl Jonasson will be the 2009 Chairman of the RiverCom User Group (RUG). Phil Mosher will replace Jim Brown as the voting member on the RiverCom Administrative Board.

Approval of the Minutes: The revised minutes for the November 4, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Directors Report: Millie Tirapelle reported the following site updates:

Keystone – The building addition has been completed and the site has been cleared of debris. Lonny England has indicated he will vacate the site no later than March 2009. The technical staff is looking at power alternatives. Five solar panels (at a cost of \$1,500 each) and a generator could be installed in lieu of upgrading the exposed power line. Any plan to modify the power supply would require DNR approval.

Blag – The tower is up and ready for equipment installation in the spring. There was an after-installation inquiry by six homeowners living on the east side of Blag Mountain. They requested that the tower be disguised as a tree. Director Tirapelle explained that the tower would have had to be pre-engineered at double the cost. The residents were okay with the present tower as long as there would not be more towers added to the site.

Lower Badger – Technicians are putting in a larger generator power circuit. This will provide an added safety factor for periods of high use.

Upper Badger – Technicians will be putting up a temporary building this winter.

Round Mountain – The antenna has been moved higher on the pole, and antenna stabilizers have been installed.

911 Consoles: Director Tirapelle reported that Motorola no longer supports our ten to twelve year old console radio control equipment. Last month one of the controllers ceased working. RiverCom hired a retired former Motorola technician to trouble shoot the problem; it was questionable as to whether or not the repairs could even be accomplished. RiverCom technicians were able to document the repair procedures performed, but it is only a matter of time before this obsolete equipment will fail. Motorola has given RiverCom a quote of \$600,000 to 700,000 to replace the eleven radio control units.

911 Funding: The State E911 Program is moving toward a Next Generation (NG) 911 System statewide. The State 911 Program currently reimburses contract counties for the salaries of some employees directly related to the delivery of 911 services. RiverCom receives approximately \$790,000 annually in salary assistance. There is significant concern the reimbursement funding will be eliminated due to the WA State budget shortfall combined with the State E911 Program build-out of NG911. The APCO/NENA legislative committee has hired a lobbyist, and prepared a Bill (carried by Senator Fraser), to increase the 911 tax. The telephone companies have indicated they will support the tax increase if salaries are eliminated and the tax collected is changed to a "fee" with one pay-point. The fee would be paid to WA State. The fear is that the State would then be able to appropriate the fees collected. Many of the small counties that would be most affected by the loss of salaries have already passed their 1/10th of 1% measures and are no longer concerned about these changes. The lobbyist recommended supporting the fee and continuing salary assistance. Director Tirapelle expressed concern that in the last hour we may not get salary assistance.

The Crisis Mental Health Group will be going back to the Chelan County Commissioners to request 1/10 of 1%. Director Tirapelle handed out a draft of the "RiverCom 911 Emergency Communications Systems and Facilities Funding Agreement" for review and discussion. Director Tirapelle will distribute the draft to the Administrative Board members in order to have consensus on the Resolution and Funding Agreement language by January. If approved by voters expenditures could begin in 2010 budget cycle.

The State E911 Program has decided to support the VIPER NG911 telephone application. RiverCom's portion of the change-over to VIPER will be approximately \$150,000. Collectively, \$850,000 of Capitol Improvement expenditures will be needed in the 2010 budget to keep RiverCom operating effectively. If the 1/10 of 1% measure is not approved by the voter's, the funding will have to come from the User Agencies.

Good of the Order:

Mike Dingle, DCSO-EM, reported that there were about 120 people involved in the Pangborn exercise. The FAA said that they were impressed with the exercise.

Phil Moser, CCFD-1, reported that Trish Stender is building a training program for MyState USA. It will allow emergency text messages to be sent to cell phones. The text messages are free to send. There may be a nominal fee to the cell phone user if they do not have text messaging as part of their cell phone package.

Shawn Ballard, Ballard Ambulance, said he is working on the MCI plan along with Misty, Bob and Phil.

Karl Jonasson, CCPHD-2 EMS, reported that Doug Williams will be retiring. Doug currently holds an Ex-Officio position as the representative for the EMS transport agencies. Karl will facilitate a meeting of the represented agencies to discuss the vacancy.

Mike Dingle, DCSO-EM, said the trailer that will replace their communications bus has been approved. EOC training is scheduled for March 3 – 5, 2009.

The RiverCom Administrative Board meeting has been changed from January 14, 2009 to January 7, 2009 at 10:30 at the Wenatchee City Hall. It was decided that the User Board would move their meeting to January 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

****Please Note Meeting Change****

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.