

RIVERCOM USER GROUP MEETING
RiverCom Conference Room,
140 S. Mission St. 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, Washington
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Present: Rusty Stamps, CCFD#7; Karl Jonasson, CCPHD#2 EMS; Mike Dingle, DCSO-EM; Phil Mosher, CCFD#1; Dan Craig, Ballard Ambulance; Stan Smoke, WFD&R; Tom Martin, CCFD#8; Rod Fountain, CCFD#9; Arnold Baker, CCFD#5; Bill Horner, CCFD#3; Millie Tirapelle, Director, RiverCom.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Karl Jonasson at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes for the January 6, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Directors Report:

Director Tirapelle said that the RiverCom technicians have primarily been working on internal maintenance projects. Today they are in Chelan installing an antenna previously used at Round Mountain, but much newer than the one currently being used in Chelan.

Jerry Corder and Jackie Jones are attending a Spillman Northwest User Group meeting in Yakima. They will be discussing future Spillman upgrades and the system modifications needed for our local law enforcement agencies to access statewide "LINX" records and information files. Currently the LINX system is free to agencies that contribute law enforcement records. If Spillman agrees to wave their maintenance fee for 2009-2010 the RiverCom Spillman Administrators and Managers Group (SAM) may also decide to continue using INSIGHT, the local (4 county) records and information system.

The Board has requested that RiverCom keep track of transactions that are currently not billable. An Excel spreadsheet is being prepared delineating the tasks performed for each of the User entities. The Board will use this information for budgeting decisions and may revisit the billing procedure. Director Tirapelle presented a bar graph showing how traffic stops have increased from 2006 to 2008 and a graph of the change in phone messages for our law enforcement agencies.

1/10th of 1% Funding Agreement

At the January meeting the Board requested that Director Tirapelle make the following modifications to the funding agreement: 1) Remove the "salary assistance" language; 2) Remove the reference to reducing user agency costs; and 3) Reference that the joint ballot must pass in both counties. Director Tirapelle said that in the Funding Agreement "operations" includes salaries. After the January Administrative Board meeting Commissioner Goehner discussed the

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draft with the Chelan County Commissioners and they felt that a sunset clause was needed. Director Tirapelle passed out a copy of the new draft agreement that contained a 2020 sunset clause.

Phil Mosher commented that with salary assistance being eliminated and the Sparling study showing the urgent need for replacement of obsolete equipment, it may be better to periodically review the Funding Agreement, rather than have a sunset clause.

After discussion by the group, Karl Jonasson called for the question; the members unanimously approved a recommendation to the Board that the agreement include a periodic review rather than a sunset clause.

State 911 Funding

Director Tirapelle said that State 911 will be gradually reducing State reimbursable items (including salary assistance) over the next two years. The 911 Bill will increase local phone fees from \$0.50 to \$0.90 and state fees from \$0.20 to \$0.25. The telephone companies want the salary assistance provided to the counties, over and above the "one-position" stipulated in the WAC, to be eliminated by mid 2009. That would mean an \$800,000 loss in revenue to RiverCom. The only leverage the counties have is the telephone company's desire to have one pay point statewide, which would save them significant processing costs.

Director Tirapelle handed out the job description for Wendy Perry's position at RiverCom. The job will be advertised in the newspaper beginning on Saturday. We hope to have Wendy's replacement on-board by early April.

Anne Rowe will be starting as an Emergency Services Dispatcher next week. RiverCom will then be fully staffed.

Vince Ward, the Stehekin Firefighters Communication Liaison to 911 contacted RiverCom requesting the ESN routing number for 911 calls from VoIP telephones in Stehekin; he currently has nine customers. RiverCom will be providing addressing and maps to Mr. Ward.

Phil Mosher reported that the Board would like to retain the Transport Agency Ex-officio position. The position can be filled or left vacant. Karl Jonasson said he will take this information back to the transport group.

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Committee Reports

Phil Mosher said that Fire/EMS TAC had not yet met. He will be working with Shawn, Bob and Misty on 2nd and 3rd alarm responses to mass casualty incidents.

Good of the Order

Phil Mosher asked the group to educate the public that the real “users” of 911 are those who dial the number.

After discussion, Mike Dingle motioned to change the committee name from the RiverCom User Group to the RiverCom Operations Group. The motion was seconded by Arnold Baker and approved unanimously.

Rusty Stamps, Chelan County Fire District #7, was introduced and welcomed as a new member.

Mike Dingle said there is NIMS IS-400 training today and tomorrow. There will also be a class on February 11, 2009; he may be contacted if anyone is interested in attending.

Arnold Baker said they did not receive the fire grant applied for in December. The group discussed regional grant funds and possible collaboration.

Members discussed interagency communications and making a decision on the frequency that local groups could use. They will discuss this further at the Fire Chief's Association meeting.

Director Tirapelle said that RiverCom has filed a formal complaint with MACC regarding the dispatch of an emergency call to a Grant/Douglas border area that MACC said was not on their map. Phil Mosher suggested that RiverCom print a response map for the area and forward it to the MACC Director.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**