

RIVERCOM OPERATIONS GROUP MEETING

RiverCom Conference Room,
140 S. Mission St. 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, Washington
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Present: Rusty Stamps, CCFD#7; Karl Jonasson, CCPHD#2 EMS via phone; Phil Mosher, CCFD#1; Stan Smoke, WFD&R; Tom Martin, CCFD#8; Rod Fountain, CCFD#9; Jeff Middleton, CCSO; Jim Brown, WPD; Bill Horner, CCFD#3; Jerry Corder, IT Manager and Millie Tirapelle, Director, RiverCom.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. Phil Mosher lead the meeting as Karl Jonasson was unable to attend, but participated via phone conference.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes for the February 3, 2009 were reviewed and approved unanimously with a correction to include attendance of Bill Horner, CCFD-3.

Directors Report:

Director Tirapelle said that the RiverCom managers attended a mandatory State meeting in Port Angeles last week. The State has cut \$50,000 of State 911 funding. The State has also required auditing of all equipment. In the past the State has bundled RiverCom's budget for Chelan and Douglas County. They are now auditing which county funds can be used for withdrawals. Jerry Corder will become the Chelan County Coordinator so that he can attend phone training and Millie Tirapelle will become the Douglas County Coordinator.

The State will be paying \$86,000 for a new CAD hardware. The State has been postponing payments for improvements because if the 911 tax bill passes, they will no longer have to pay for improvements. Spillman will be here to load software and Jerry Corder, It Manager will do as much as possible ahead, but there may be two days of down time, and is scheduled for May 11 – 13, 2009. This should not affect people in the field. Dispatch will have WEBMS as backup. Records people will be affected, as ACCESS will not be working. Wenatchee Police Department will only have two positions that can run record checks.

State 911 Funding

Director Tirapelle handed out the spreadsheet given by State at the recent meeting in Port Angeles forum. RiverCom receives \$629,700 in revenue from the current \$.50 tax rate. If the tax bill passes, the tax will increase to \$.70 and after deducting the 1% DOR administrative the net increase will be \$243,064. This revenue must be used for telephone hardware. The County Commissioners will need to pass an ordinance to increase the telephone tax to \$.70. Without the ordinance, counties will not qualify for any state funding.

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1/10th of 1% Funding Agreement

At the February meeting Director Tirapelle presented the draft funding agreement with the following revisions: 1) "Salary assistance" language was omitted; 2) No reference to reducing user agency costs; and 3) A reference was added that the joint ballot must pass in both counties. At the Board meeting Phil Mosher argued for the omission of the sunset clause, however both county entities wanted it included. Two Board members were absent, so the item was tabled until the next meeting.

Jackie Jones has created a map for MACC that included Grant and part of Lincoln counties. It includes all addresses and remedial instructions. RiverCom has sent it via registered mail to the MACC director and to Commissioner Mary Hunt. If MACC is not willing to dispatch in these areas, RiverCom will send our people.

Stehekin has been testing 911 lines and radio systems. Jerry Corder said the antenna lead, radio and power supply have been replaced.

Sgt. Jim Brown reported that LINX has been installed but the full upload is not yet complete.

Jerry Corder reported there was radio interference from RiverCom to Lower Badger. Spread Spectrum microwave can be used by anyone and can interfere with RiverCom transmissions. The power was turned up to compensate for the interference. RiverCom plans to replace VOIP to Lower Badger. The plan is to do about one per year at a cost of \$7,400 per replacement.

Ron Kuch, IT Technician for RiverCom has resigned and Director Tirapelle is in the process of deciding whether to fill the position or contract with Day Wireless for time and materials.

Bill Horner reported that during the fire in Tumwater Canyon last week, radio communication was poor. There was further discussion about problems with communication in that area. RiverCom will be installing a larger antenna on Blag this spring, which will reduce interference. The group raised some questions about radio interference. Director Tirapelle said she would take the group's questions to John Fleckenstein, RiverCom Technician and his responses were as follows:

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Question: What happened at Blag a couple weeks ago?

John and Ron used snow-cats to get into Blag. The door to the facility was jammed. They did a lot of rattling and banging on the door. Once they got the door open, the problem corrected itself. The assumption is, there is a loose connection in the circuit box on the wall just inside the door. The techs did not have the equipment with them to check the circuits. The problem has not reoccurred, but maintenance of the circuit box is on the top of their list when the snow clears.

Question: Why was the reception so poor at the Candy Shop fire?

Round Mountain is a receiver (not a repeater). When transmitting in the area, most of the time Round and Blag are both being activated. At the present time, the fire receiver at Round Mountain is not operating. John believes this is a power supply problem. Most of the snow is gone, but patches of the road on the shady-side are still not passable. John has coordinated with DOT to go up there as soon as we can get through safely.

Committee Reports

Phil Mosher said that the Fire/EMS TAC group rescheduled the meeting for later this month.

Good of the Order

Director Tirapelle handed out a flyer from the Ridge to River group. They are having a meeting involving all agencies on March 25, 2009.

Phil Mosher said there will be an Apple Blossom type 3 meeting at 1:00 p.m. on March 26, 2009 at Fifth Street and Western.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**