

RIVERCOM OPERATIONS GROUP MEETING

RiverCom Conference Room,
140 S. Mission St. 3rd Floor
Wenatchee, Washington
Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Present: Karl Jonasson, CCPHD2 EMS; Tom Martin, CCFD#8; Rod Fountain, CCFD9; Rollie Schmitt, CCFD9; Mike Dingle, DCSO-EM; Doug Jones, WPD; Jeff Middleton, CCSO; Stan Smoke, Wenatchee Fire & Rescue; Jackie Jones, Operations Manager; Millie Tirapelle, Director; Susan Nova, RiverCom.

Karl Jonasson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Introductions were made of meeting attendees. The new Commissioner of Chelan County Fire District #9, Rollie Schmitt, was introduced.

Approval of the Minutes: Tom Martin motioned to approve the May 12, 2009 minutes, seconded by Jeff Middleton and approved unanimously.

Directors Report:

Site Updates – The power supply at Round Mountain has been repaired. An invitation to bid was placed for a portable shelter at Upper Badger and one bid was received. The RiverCom Board Meeting has been moved to June 17, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.; bids will be awarded at that time. Moving out of the Hickman building will save RiverCom \$18,000 annually. The shut-off date for the power line at Keystone has been extended to July 1, 2009. Lonnie England needed additional time due to a delay in shipment of equipment. A contractor will be putting a new roof on the facility once all of Lonnie's equipment is removed. RiverCom will use solar power and will work with the DNR to establish a new power source. RiverCom is continuing to work with DAY Wireless regarding technical support at Blag.

Staffing Update – Probationary ESD Rowe has resigned due to health concerns. The Administrative Services Manager position has not yet been filled. RiverCom will contract with Wendy Perry to work from California with dial-in capabilities if she needs to leave before a replacement can be trained.

911 Funding - The 911 Bill to increase the telephone excise tax from \$.50 to \$.70 failed in committee. At the end of the legislative session Rep. Cary Condotta introduced an amendment to the bill that would have turned-over funding oversight to the Washington State Patrol. At the May meeting the Board requested that Director Tirapelle invite Representative Condotta to the June Board meeting to explain his position and he will be attending the June 17th meeting. Representative Armstrong and Senator Parlette have also been invited.

1/10 of 1% Ballot Measure – Director Tirapelle is scheduled this month to present the ballot measure information to the East Wenatchee City Council, Entiat City Council, Leavenworth City Council and Wenatchee City Council. Director Tirapelle is hopeful some of our user's will run informational ads in the newspaper.

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RiverCom had another console fail. We now have 3 consoles out. We will need to enter into a contract by the last quarter of this year to make the upgrades. Equipment costs can be spread over multiple budget years. Director Tirapelle handed a list showing the additional cost to each agency, based on usage for 2008, if the 1/10th of 1% ballot measure fails. Director Tirapelle will contact Cashmere Valley Bank regarding a short term commercial loan.

The application for the Homeland Security Fire Assistance Grant to purchase microwave equipment is in place. The grant that the City of Wenatchee is submitting will allow them to relocate the Carmichael radio site and migrate from unlicensed microwave to licensed microwave.

911 Calls – A 90 year old man drove off the road in the Tarpiscan area and was discovered after three days by two hikers. The hikers called 911 but were unable to identify their location. RiverCom dispatcher, Jeremiah Johnson, pinged their cell phone and was able to pinpoint their location on our maps. On another call a Wenatchee woman's husband was not breathing and she dialed 911 on her VOIP phone. The call went to a dispatch center in Colorado, who tried to identify her location in order to transfer the call to local dispatch. The woman panicked and ran screaming into the street. Her neighbor, Mayor Johnson, came over and aided the man, while his family dialed 911. The man was breathing by the time EMS arrived.

The Spillman upgrade went smoothly. Chelan Butte is status quo. Our transmitter is through KOZI and the rent has doubled. RiverCom would like to move the antenna to the top of the Day Wireless tower.

Operations Manager's Report:

Jackie Jones met with Dennis Bullock of BNSF to discuss their upcoming railroad construction project from the Cascade Tunnel to Olds Station. BNSF employees have good radio contact along the railroad line who can contact the command center. The command center would then call 911 in an emergency. A picture of "Sparky", the rail car that carries water and Class A foam for firefighting, was circulated. This will only be used for fires triggered by BNSF work activity. Director Tirapelle will check with Lynn Palmer about getting maps with access roads to Rod Fountain in CCFD#9.

RiverCom Supervisor Trish Stender created a PowerPoint on how to use MyStateUSA. The PowerPoint presentation is available to all users. Contact Jackie if your agency is interested.

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Committee Reports: - none

Spillman Admin Meeting (SAM) – no members present had attended.

Fire/EMS TAC – no members present had attended.

Good of the Order:

Rod Fountain asked the procedure for dispatching illegal burns. He said they don't normally need a deputy to respond. Jackie Jones will look at the response plan. If a change is needed, RiverCom will need written notification from the Chief.

Karl Jonasson said that Phil Mosher was unable to attend the meeting today and requested that Karl bring his suggestion to the group. Instead of "updates" he felt that using the term "upgrade" would better alert Fire/EMS personnel to the fact that there were significant changes to the situation. Jackie Jones will take this to the Fire User Group and RiverCom supervisors.

Stan Smoke thanked RiverCom for their involvement in the Emergency Operations Center for Apple Blossom. He said this will be an annual exercise. Director Tirapelle said during any major incidents user agencies are invited to have a command person come to RiverCom.

Jeff Middleton reported problems with radio transmission while standing on Chelan Butte. Chelan County Sheriff's Office has an automatic license plate reader that Deputy Brian Jones is using effectively to read plates and get an immediate report.

Mike Dingle said there will be a George Sellar Bridge Meeting at 6 p.m. on June 16, 2009 at 5th & Western to plan and emergency responses for the bridge. Their working hours will be from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Boom training will be offered on June 29th. Contact Mike for more information.

Tom Martin thanked everyone who was involved helping with the recent Entiat Fire. There was discussion regarding problems that some user agencies had experienced with working with the DOT on traffic control during emergencies.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**