



## METCOM 9-1-1

### Governing Board Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021

#### Members in Attendance: Meeting Held via Zoom On-Line

Jay Alley  
Sherry Bensema  
Joe Budge  
Jack Carriger  
Mark Daniel  
Jordan Donat  
David Frisendahl  
Ed Grambusch  
Alan Hume

Adam Maurer  
Dan Mullen  
Bill Miles  
Marty Pilcher  
Richard Schmitz  
Scott Shepherd  
Jim Trierweiler

#### Others in Attendance:

Joe Kast  
Brian Nicholas  
Jeff Stutrud  
Jeff Wood

#### METCOM Staff:

Wendy Patterson  
Mark Spross  
John Thompson  
Jordan VanDyke

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**METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:01 AM with a quorum met by members present via Zoom on-line platform due to COVID-19 and absentee ballot provided by Jim Ferraris.**

The board meeting was opened by Scott Shepherd.

**Board Meeting Minutes:** The October 21, 2020 Board meeting minutes were provided in the board packet for review.

Scott Shepherd noted the title for the October 21, 2020 meeting minutes reflected Executive Board Meeting Minutes. This needs to be changed to reflect the meeting minutes of the Governing Board.

Motion to approve minutes with changes to the title: Sherry Bensema

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joe Budge

Motion carried no opposition

**Executive Board Elections:** Chief Ferraris is retiring and his position on the Executive Board will need to be filled. Assistant Chief Shepard will be retiring in June 2021 but will remain on the Executive Board until that time.

Scott Shepard will move into the Executive Chair position, Mark Daniel will move to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair will need to be filled.

Ed Grambusch voiced his willingness to serve on the Executive Board.

Motion for a unanimous ballot for Ed Grambusch as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Jack Carriger

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill Miles

Motion carried, no opposition – Edward Grambusch elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

**FEMA Process & Update:** Mark Spross provided the following update regarding the FEMA grants for both the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beachie Creek Fire and loss of Halls Ridge Radio Site. The applications for both are complete and have been submitted to FEMA for review. FEMA declined coverage of any funds associated with the temporary communications trailer at the Halls Ridge Site. Mark will continue working with the State or Oregon regarding any possible funding for the communications trailer. METCOM continues to communicate with Marion County and ODOT regarding a partnership for a new building at the Halls Ridge site.

Detroit may not rebuild the Detroit Fire Station. If that is the case, METCOM will contact Idanah regarding the placement of radio equipment that was originally housed at Detroit Fire and relocate it to Idanah. METCOM did receive an insurance check from SDIS for just under \$25, 000. These funds will be used to offset the cost of the temporary communications trailer at Halls Ridge.

**Marion County Radio Project Update: Brian Nicholas, MCPW Director**

Approval has been gained by the Marion County Board of Commissioners to move forward with a county wide radio system. A specific picture was delivered to the Board of Commissioners, outlining that METCOM did not have a lot of capital to bring to the project. Meetings will continue with Board staff to look at options regarding organization and a finance plan. The Board of Commissioners want to see a functioning system in 3 years. Jeff Wood with MCSO stated there is still a lot of work moving forward addressing the details of the project.

Q: What kind of governance would this look like?

A: The County would need to "sketch out" what a governance structure may look like and bring that back to METCOM for review.

Q: Would this be a combined VHF and 800 system?

A: The recommendation would be to have dual program capabilities.

Q: How would this project include existing systems?

A: ADCOMM's plan currently does not include taking anything currently in place off-line. It does not require anyone to give anything up to participate. However, the county would be looking to repurpose some of METCOM's VHF frequencies.

**Additional discussion:**

- METCOM needs to see details on what a governance model and representation would look like.
- We need to make sure that we step away from the terminology "up the canyon" and include all districts that have communication challenges due to topography.
- Would like to see ADCOMM look at incorporating some existing systems to keep costs down.
- Many users want to be out of the "radio business" and do not want to retain ownership or maintenance responsibilities.
- ADCOMM is recommending using Tate/Harris equipment due to the cost. This is the direction Marion County is going.
- Marion County is looking into the possibility of acquiring a bridge loan for funding the radio project.

**Simulcast Project:** Mark Spross expressed the following concerns regarding the Marion County radio project thus far:

- It has been a challenge to receive current or follow up information from the County regarding the project.
- We need to ensure how METCOM is represented in the project.
- METCOM needs information on the front side with costs, technology needed and governance.
- Has concerns regarding the dollars needed for the project and the timeline projected by ADCOMM is short.
- Need to have key members from METCOM working cohesively with the County throughout the project (specifically having police & fire users involved in planning and rollout).
- Some METCOM agencies have still not been contacted by ADCOMM.

- A governance needs to be discussed sooner rather than later in the process. METCOM needs to have representation at the table. Feels like ADCOMM is dismissing METCOM users.
- It is critical that our communication stay intact with MCSO.

Brian Nicholas (MCPW) stated he understood this is an urgent need. Reiterated that the County Commissioners are on board with the needs of the project, including the needs of rural agencies. Brian said he has from the Board what they need on a county wide level. He did not want to make promises the Board of Commissioners would not support. He is committed to make sure the process is collaborative. Intends to:

- Set some schedule milestones
- Lay out an interim schedule
- METCOM may need to be ok with this being a county service until it migrates to a different governance service.

Additional discussion:

Ed Grambusch – Did ADCOMM contact all Marion County agencies?

Brian Nicholas – No. We need to go back and get everyone's input and meet with agencies we did not meet with last time.

Dan Mullen – Whatever path is selected for the radio project, St. Paul Fire won't have the ability to purchase radios twice. We can't do simulcast and then switch to a county system.

Joe Kast (MCSO) – A lot of conversation about the governance still needs to occur. However, this project is as good as I have seen so far. We would like to continue to move this forward.

Brian Nicholas – Hopes to have access to some Homeland Security dollars and OEM. This may help offset some radio costs.

Mark asked the METCOM Governing Board how they wish to move forward with the current simulcast project.

Scott Shepherd – concerned that three years is a long time to wait.

Jack Carriger – The system is functioning much better now. Put the METCOM simulcast project on hold, but have a clear timeline on the county project, would need reports to the board and METCOM involvement, input and representation. With those items being met, I recommend a "pause".

Joe Budge – Do we move forward with the METCOM simulcast system or pause? Joe proposes a brief pause to see if the concerns that Mark brought forward to the board are addressed as well as METCOM representation established. Joe stated he thought we have stabilized the current radio system to allow for a short pause.

Jim Trierweiler – Agrees with Joe Budge. Suggested to use the current dollars to help purchase subscriber units.

Q: If the group wanted to go to a 190 and the Commissioners said no we don't want to relinquish the project, than that would not happen; correct?

A: Brian Nicholas – That is correct. That is why we want to stay in step with the Commissioners so everyone understands what each other is thinking.

Mark Spross understands that METCOM will place a brief pause on the simulcast project and will not move forward with the contract with Day Wireless. He will however continue to work with the budget committee to move forward with the \$1.5 million projected costs for the simulcast system. Hope to have some communication and guidance from the county soon on how we can plug in some METCOM key members to ensure that ADCOMM is understanding our needs both in the field and operationally in the dispatch centers.

**2020 Stats Review:** The 2020 call stats were sent out to the Board. Overall call volume was down slightly, most likely due to COVID.

**Open Agenda:**

- Mark Spross – The dispatch staff was able to receive the COVID vaccines in the 1a group. We have a little over half of our staff who have elected to take the vaccine. First rounds were complete and second shots will start to be administered the week of January 25, 2021. Thank you to all who helped to recognize us in the 1a group.

**Future Board Meetings:**

February 16, 2021 – Budget Presentation at 10:00 am via Zoom

March 9, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom

June 1, 2021 – Adoption of Budget / Public Hearing

September 28, 2021

**Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.**