



# METCOM 9-1-1

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2024

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jay Alley  
Joe Budge  
Mark Daniel  
Todd Engstrom  
Damian Flowers  
Danny Freitag  
Mark Gaither  
Alan Hume  
Bill Miles  
Jim Trierweiler  
Keith Veit  
Jim Walker

### METCOM:

Wendy Patterson  
Mark Spross

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Garbotin – MCPW  
Patrick Hoover – MC Radio PM  
Daniel Krider – Day Wireless  
Dennis Mansfield - MCPW  
James Montgomery – Day Wireless  
Brian Nicholas - MCPW  
Michael Pierce – MCPW

### ATTENDING REMOTELY:

Sherry Bensema  
Jordan Donat  
Levi Eckhardt  
Brandon Hamilton  
Gwen Johns  
Michael Kahrmann  
Don Parise  
Andy Shadrin  
Don Taylor  
Josh Williams

**METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:00 AM with a quorum met by members present and via Zoom.**

The Board meeting was opened by METCOM Director Mark Spross.

The June 4, 2024, Board meeting minutes were provided to Board members via email and available in hard copy form or by request at the meeting. Board Chair, Mark Daniel asked members asked if there were any changes to the minutes provided. None were voiced. The motion to accept the minutes were made as follows:

- Alan Hume made a motion to accept the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board Meeting minutes.
- Second by Joe budge
- Discussion: None. Motion passed, no opposition.

### **Radio Project update:**

Patrick Hoover, Marion County Radio Project Coordinator, and Brian Nicholas, MCPW Director, provided the METCOM Board a presentation regarding the status of the Marion County Radio Project. A copy of the presentation has been provided in lieu of meeting notes.

Tate Communications has been selected to provide the project components. Vendor selection was completed on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with negotiations anticipated to be completed on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. It is anticipated a Notice to Proceed will be issued on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Continued input from the METCOM user group is requested. METCOM agencies will be contacted to confirm the number of radio units they have and/or will need on the new system.

Q: Will there be room for negotiation once the price of the final project is known?

A: MC plans to continue price negotiations. Believe money that has been collected will be enough to deliver the radio system and initial subscriber units. The goal is for user fees to operate the system.

Statement by Patrick H: Tate proposed 8 "talking" paths. It is anticipated that paging can be done over 700 and VHF. There is lots of design work to be done over the next few years, but not a lot of cost effect overall. It has been verified that it is a requirement that all systems will still work throughout this process and will work next to the existing VHF system. It was asked for 95% coverage, but the system will not be able to provide that up the canyon. This area is relying mostly on the Wipper site. Ownership of this site will need to be addressed. There will be future roundtable conversations to fine tune coverage. Currently single band radios are proposed. It is a known issue that this will not work in the canyon and that additional work on the system is needed to fill that area.

Subscriber Information:

TP900 have been proposed and would replace current radios with the new radios. Pagers have not yet been determined.

Q: Will agencies need to purchase their own radios and pagers?

A: All first radios will be provided. If you have radios you like, you may keep using them and configure them to the new system if they are P25 compliant.

Brian Nicholas stated that they are working through Tate's proposal, not the final design. He will continue to have large group meetings to keep METCOM users informed. Anyone can attend the TAC meetings to receive additional information on coverage area, etc. Ongoing conversation and participation is key and important to the success of the project.

The annual costs of the radio project are the largest concern of the METCOM group. In March of 2023 METCOM was advised an anticipated subscriber fee to be at \$58 per radio unit. This is simply too high. Brain stated that it will be less than \$58 per radio unit. He is confident that it will be below \$52.

Q: Will this be on top of METCOM user fees?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the METCOM Radio Project "Savings Account" for the radio project stay?

A: This will be a decision of the METCOM Board how to use these funds and if the collection goes away.

Brian Nicholas proposes Marion County maintains the radio sites, backhauled, radios, etc. We will need to continue conversations and see what the right fit is. Subscriber fees will be vetted by the TAC committee on the per unit user fee. Users will have three (3) years to ease into the subscriber user fee charge. The Commissioners understand that smaller agencies will need assistance with established user fees and are planning for this purpose. The Commissions have made it clear that this is a service provided by the County and will not be a property tax or Special District.

The maintenance of the radio system will either be provided by the County or through vendor contracts. This has not yet been determined and will be discussed at the TAC committee meetings. It is anticipated that any radio repairs needed under the warranty will be through Marion County. Any work required that falls outside of warranty will be the responsibility of the agency.

METCOM's role: Marion County will provide the updates to the consoles. METCOM will be responsible for the dispatching of calls but not the maintenance on the radios. It is important that METCOM and the METCOM user agencies stay engaged in the radio project communications and process.

What is needed from METCOM and the METCOM user agencies:

- Get to a finalized decision on a contract
- Gather and provide console requirements
- Validate subscriber radio numbers
- Review coverage maps
- Fleet mapping/planning, IT requirements, old radio systems
- TAC and user group move into the radio project governance
- Update console installation, talk groups, etc.
- System changes, training, radio installation
- METCOM should inventory the existence of current radio assets, systems and VHF systems and who has ownership of these systems.
- Full timeline anticipated to be about 2 years

Governance:

Brian Nicholas advised that additional conversations will still occur at the TAC committee level, however it is anticipated that the governance will land with the County as the Commissioners want this to be a county provided service. It is important for METCOM and the user agencies to advocate to keep the TAC committee ongoing through the process and after as a user advisory committee. The County is leaning toward asking METCOM to take ownership and maintenance of the dispatch systems. Users will incur the cost of future radio purchases and repairs not covered under a warranty.

The TAC committee will be contacting user agencies by July 19<sup>th</sup> to obtain and confirm counts of radios, mobile radios and pagers. They will be reviewing the coverage area data by July 16<sup>th</sup> and address coverage design by August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**First Net:**

Mark provided a handout from FirstNet from the last meeting. This will remain on the agenda for the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board meeting for further discussion and direction.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

All meetings will start at 1000 hours.

**September 17, 2024 @ METCOM**

**November 19, 2024 @ TBA**

Chair Mark Daniel Closed the meeting and adjourned @ 1207.