

**KLAMATH COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT MINUTES OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Klamath Emergency Communications District**

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chris Kaber. Representatives were present from the following agencies:

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	HERE	ABSENT
KC Emergency Management		X
Winema National Forest		X
Basin Ambulance - Larita Ongman	X	
Merrill RFD		X
Central Cascade RFD - Bradley Kahler		X
OIT Security		X
Malin RFD		X
Merrill PD		X
Malin PD		X
Kingsley FD		X
Walker Range Fire		X
OSP		X
Klamath Interagency Fire		X
ODF – Jake Barnett		X
District #3		X
Chiloquin Ambulance & Fire – Mike Cook (Chair)	X	
BLM – Blake Dornbusch		X
Harriman RFD		X
Chemult RFD		X
Bonanza RFD		X
Bly RFD – Bruce Nichols - Virtual		
District #4 – Nate Markee		X
District #1 – Greg Davis & Matt Hitchcock	X	
District #5		X
Crescent RFD – James Wilson - Virtual		X
Klamath PD – Rob Dentinger		X
Klamath SO – Chris Kaber	X	
Keno RFD – David Blair		X
Klamath Community Corrections – Dennis Holmes	X	

Guests: Joanie Rote, Holly Kessler, Jan Bos, William Behan (Lake County Sheriff Office), Shiela Strubel (Town of Lakeview), Daniel Tague (Lake County Sheriff Office)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Matt motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 17, 2024, Rob

seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Radio Interoperability: Chris said he was not at the last KIRG meeting, but he knows there is some talk about splitting channels. Joanie said 911 is adding two channels, and they have moved forward with the purchase of the equipment for the Stukel site and the Swan license. All things KIRG related are moving forward. Discussion followed regarding the use of channels. Matt said KIRG discussed maintenance contracts, the county wide communication plan and the Swan lake project at last week's meeting. Joanie said the Stukel repeaters need a maintenance plan, and it is not known yet what will happen with the Lakeview radio system, but it may be discussed later during the meeting.

B. Strategic Plan: Joanie said the board has not begun creating a new plan and is still working on the old plan that expires in 2025, but this is something they will be discussing to move forward. Chris asked who was on the 911 board. Joanie said Randy is the Chair, Jan, Brandon, Chuck, Larita, Bob and Betty Lucht although she is resigning as of today.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Acting Director Report: Joanie reported on the following.

Joanie handed out and reviewed the report she will be providing to the 911 board today. They were not able to salvage the two recent trainees. Labor negotiations are still process. The Cad project is moving along, and Holly has been putting together the fire departments response plans. There is a need for redundant internet service, and price quotes are being sought out from a couple providers. One is Cal-Ore which her son works for so that may or may not pose a conflict but he is not in sales so she does not think it will. Discussion followed on having redundant internet and current service providers.

A couple staff attended the APCO conference in Bend and at the beginning of the month and APCO national was in August. No staff attended the national conference, but the seminars were purchased for staff to watch. Joanie and Holly have completed the APCO EMD management class needed for APCO Intellicomm guide cards so they can do the training in house. Five positions will be purchased for the guide cards and may be increased if Klamath consolidates with Lakeview. The purchase of the equipment to add the new channel at Stukel has been ordered by Day Wireless and they would like an inventory of the PD and SO's equipment to be performed for capabilities.

Reviewed snapshot of September calls.

Joanie was contacted by OEM while at the APCO conference and informed that the Lakeview 911 director would be laid off as of Oct 9th and they requested Klamath to consider taking over their dispatch. Klamath crunched numbers and determined it would be feasible to provide services to Lakeview based on receiving their user fees and state funds. This is something that has been in the districts strategic plan in the past and something they would like to do. OEM has confirmed the redirect of Lakeview 911 funds to Klamath. Joanie reviewed the call volume and staffing increase needed to handle Lake County calls. Lakeview has announced to OEM and Klamath that they will no longer be in the 911 business effective December 31, 2024. This will be presented to the 911 board today for consideration.

Things that would need to be addressed now would be how to transmit and dispatch their phone calls because as of right now the only way to do this is to call their responders directly. Discussion followed regarding Lakeview dispatch, integration, programs and compatibility with Klamath's current system.

Joanie said she contacted other state centers that have combined but those have been for different reasons so this is new and would be written it up as it moves forward. Chris said this is not their decision to make rather a board decision. Joanie agreed but she would like to know how the advisory group feels about it to inform the board. Group discussion followed regarding the process of absorption of the LC 911 organization, dispatch staff and business. Chris said his immediate concern is that Klamath's dispatchers are already stretched so thin and that the service will decrease even more than it already is. Chris asked if the consolidation of Lakeview was specifically indicated in the strategic plan or was it a generalization of consolidation. Joanie said it was for Lakeview. Matt said his concern is there is a lot going on right now with KIRG, the CAD upgrade, staffing challenges etc. and the ability to do it all. Joanie said everyone is stretched thin. This was unexpected and they do not have the band width to add more so other projects like accreditation may be put on hold. Chris asked what the other options are for Lakeview. William said there is no other plan. Lakeview has suffered a major budget cut and the whole county is in that position and cannot take it over. They do not have a backup plan. William said their dispatch service will decrease from now to the close at the end of December.

Group discussion took place regarding the Lake County radio project and grant funding already awarded. Chris asked if this would impact KIRG in the same way adding the Tribes would. Joanie said no because Lake County has their own radio system and would not be part of or added as a KIRG user.

Chris said historically he sees the relationship and thinks this probably should happen. Discussion followed regarding the radio interoperability benefits the absorption would provide. No decision for KIRG to approve; this will only require the 911 boards approval. Daniel said this has never been done and they will be approaching it one thing at a time. It will require some figuring it out but as of right now they need the 911 board to make a decision so they can take action. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of the takeover and 911's ability to absorb it. No objects from the advisory group on the absorption of Lakeview dispatch.

IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

Chris formally resigned his position as vice-chair because he will not be the sheriff by the next meeting.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2025, at 9:00am

Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting, Matt seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.