

**KLAMATH COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT MINUTES OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Klamath Emergency Communications District**

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Mike Cook. Representatives were present from the following agencies:

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	HERE	ABSENT
KC Emergency Management - Brandon Fowler	X	
Winema National Forest		X
Basin Ambulance - Lorita 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 – Randall Baley		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		X
District #4 – Larry Woodruff		X
District #1 - Matt Hitchcock, Greg Davis, Dylan Webb	X	
District #5		X
Crescent RFD -	X	
Klamath PD –		X
Klamath SO – Chris Kaber (Vice-Chair)		X
Keno RFD – John Ketchum		X

Guests: Keith Endacott, Joanie Rote, Robert Moore, Larita Ongman, Jon Wanzer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Larita motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 18, 2023, Matt seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Radio Interoperability: Keith said this group is working on the same things reported every time. Dispatch is getting close to needing the radio dispatch consoles replaced which will modernize them to being IP based and create sites we do not have currently. Dispatch consoles have two parts. One is what the dispatchers use and the other is the critical part of the system and how it operates. This would be the IP controlled repeaters with remote-controlled access. Avtec is the company being considered for equipment replacement and they should be providing a quote soon so we can move forward with this project. Discussion followed regarding the partnership of KIRG and cost sharing with 911 for the upgrade.

Mike asked about interoperability fees and if they are something that in the future would affect 911 user fees. Keith said 911 does not charge user fees and does not intend to do so in the future. KIRG user fees are determined by the governing board of KIRG which has representation from the main user agencies. Keith explained the radio group is a separate entity from 911 and was established for the sharing of radio infrastructure. It is separate from 911 in governance but gets confused because of 911's active role in managing it. 911's Business Manager manages the financial business and state reporting for the group, the Operations Manager handles the radio communications functions and troubleshooting system issues between dispatch and users and the Executive Director oversees these efforts along with management of radio licensing and service contracts. Brandon said theoretically some of the radio fees could be passed through to 911 if they agree to the cost share of dispatch radio console upgrades. Keith explained the history of KIRG user fees, how the fee structure was created and works. Large user agencies pay a flat amount, middle user agencies fees are based on calls for service and small user agencies which fall below the middle call volume pay a minimum fee. This is about \$300 per year for smaller agencies. Mike thanked Keith for sharing and said he has been asked about the user fee structure and thought it may be good for the ambulance advisory to have an overview of this.

B. Strategic Plan: Keith said succession planning for staffing and equipment life cycle replacement is ongoing. This plan has been in place for about 14 years with 3 to 4 updates since its beginning. The board reviews and modifies it as necessary to meet the service needs of the district. Staffing has been a continual effort for retention as it rises and falls. The board is aware it needs to fund the positions to keep positions filled and he thinks they will schedule a review within the next few months.

Matt said the separation between 911 and KIRG with the cross over of radio dispatch consoles makes sense for KIRG in cost sharing the project. Keith reviewed the historical funding of the initial grant that purchased the system and the necessary hardware replacement needed now after 15 years of use. Discussion followed regarding the project and integration between 911 and KIRG. Brandon explained the radio console is equipment to control the mountain tops unlike a handheld that is user based. Keith added that the system located in the 911 tech room functions like another mountain top location that runs the rest of the mountain tops.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Director Report: Keith reported that he is in his last term of previous past president for the APCO chapter that will end in December. Chapter participation is down post COVID but they are still working successfully on projects. Legislation has changed background check requirements for dispatch centers. The initial rule was to be effective July 1, but this has been extended to Jan 1, 2024. The psych eval will be required to show no bias towards any group of people. Keith said DPSST also put together a mandatory questionnaire that must be asked as written and issued with every background investigation. This is for law enforcement and dispatch although there are a few differences in the process. Keith reviewed the statute which states when backgrounds must be done and agency sharing of backgrounds. It does not have any change to the mandatory disqualifications and standards are set at the local level.

Keith informed of a bill that if passed will add a new category for telecom to PERS which will have similar benefits as law enforcement but will be a category of its own. This will not be retroactive.

CAD Project: This began in November when a firm notification from the current vendor was received that they would not be upgrading the system. Demos and quotes have been received from vendors and one fits to be the best option. The City, County and Fire District 1 have been looking at to cost share the upgrade for what CAD, mobiles and record management are provided in a corporate system and combine this into one project. This combined effort has made the vendor able to give a 40% discount instead of 10% because of the add-ons each agency will use. This will be cloud based, which will cost more but also less because it will cut internal costs for IT and additional system management. City IT has committed their manager Jeremy to assist in leading the project. Mike asked if the system chosen is compatible with PCR Image Trend. Keith asked if this is the state used program. Mike said yes. Keith said it is the intent to make it compatible and interface the state program and with CAD so it will integrate into that system automatically. Mike said he has worked with Joshua the Image Trend State Technician, and he said there have been some systems they thought would integrate and now have not. If it is not compatible, they will not lose anything, but nothing will be gained either. Discussion followed regarding compatibility and integration. Keith said he does not have a direct answer, but he will make sure that part of the project is to make it compatible. The project is not in a definitive state, but these topics will be the objectives of project deployment.

B. Operations Manager Report: Joanie said that one person resigned on Monday leaving a vacant position but there are no available trainers so hiring will be delayed. Joanie thanked all those who participated in showing the staff appreciation last week during Telecom Week.

March Call Status: 8602 total calls of which 3985 came in on a 911 line, 1050 were Fire & EMS, 773 were medical specific, 6071 were law enforcement incidents and 1482 were law enforcement initiated.

KCC job fair is May 3rd. Greg said they were introduced to a software program called Spark Hire that does a lot of the pre-vetting of candidates. He thinks it will be a good screening tool for the pre - interview process and will let Joanie know how it goes.

Mike again said to pass on his thanks to the dispatch staff for the work they do.

IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Brandon thanked everyone for their participation.

Matt said there was a meeting last week regarding priority dispatch that they are looking into and in the beginning phase. Tony is their point of contact for gathering information. Matt reviewed how priority dispatching would work for them. They are in the information gathering stage right now. Keith said this is not offered in the CAD upgrade but if the outcome gives a structure for assigning a call and it works for everyone it could be used. We must make sure from a workflow standpoint it is a solid fit for dispatch. Mike said this would really help them county wide.

Greg thanked everyone again for the positive working relationships and the job of the dispatchers.

Mike said one of the things discussed within KIRG was for a countywide education roadshow to overview what the radio system is and how it works and asked if this committee would be able to

assist. Keith said there is not one committee that fits the face of that, but KIRG is the best for it. Things work best when the core of agency representatives work together for this type of training. Discussion followed regarding who is best suited and the window to accomplish it as traffic continues to increase. They need to address a new radio plan and radio etiquette.

Brandon said part of the building block is challenges with KIRG having a radio interop mindset and for KIRG to be the vehicle used for these issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John said nothing brings out where those needs are more than doing an interagency exercise. Discussion followed regarding these types of exercises, past experiences from ones that have been done and their productivity. Mike said he thinks they have momentum now and does not want to lose that.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Next Meeting Date: July 19, 2023, at 9:00am

Brandon motioned to adjourn the meeting, Larita seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12am.