

**KLAMATH COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT MINUTES OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Klamath Emergency Communications District**

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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 - 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 – 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	X	
District #4 – Nate Markee		X
District #1 – Greg Davis	X	
District #5		X
Crescent RFD – James Wilson - Virtual		X
Klamath PD – Rob Dentinger	X	
Klamath SO – Chris Kaber (Vice-Chair)	X	
Keno RFD – David Blair		X
Klamath Community Corrections – Dennis Holmes	X	

Guests: Joanie Rote, Holly Kessler, James Moore (Tribal Officer), Vernon Alvarez (Tribes Police Chief), Rachele Escatel (Tribes Emergency Manager)

Chris opened, and introductions were made from participants.

Chris asked Joanie if she could explain the purpose of the advisory group. His understanding is that it is a requirement of ORS and intended to provide guidance and input to the 911 board. Joanie said in the past this meeting has received the same information as the board report. She asked for input on what the group would like to see or if they felt there were things missing. Chris said the 911 board is missing. Rob asked if there was an update on the new director. Joanie said she has been offered the position and is in the background process. She is also the current acting director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Rob motioned to approve the meeting minutes from Jan 17, 2024, Matt seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Radio Interoperability: Joanie said that KIRG is separate from 911 but the radios seem to continue experiencing issues on Odell with it losing power and not coming back up. A call type has been created to send notification messages out for when an outage takes place. The purpose is to have two ways of notification. One to the KIRG E-board and one to smaller fire agencies if it is expected to take longer to resolve. Discussion followed regarding the issues created county wide from the outages happening. Chris said the same people are part of KIRG as this meeting and Day Wireless is not always available to respond. Joanie called him yesterday to inform him that the power went out last Friday. Day Wireless can respond but will charge KIRG for the service call to flip the switch back on and it will take about a month to get the replacement part to fix it. SAR has the capability to go up and reset the switch which they are on their way up to do now. The interoperability requires everyone to pitch in and help where they can. Discussion followed regarding the battery back up and how it works when power goes out.

Strategic Plan: Joanie said it is something that 911 has had for five years and set to renew in 2025. Funding is a primary issue, and the district is going out for an operating levy. Chris asked about the expiring levy and the new ask. Joanie explained the levy which is currently at .08 cents and the new ask is for .19 cents. We are currently down in an administrative position but if the levy doesn't pass we may reallocate tasks and not fill that position to save funds. Staffing is another issue that we are always working on to increase and retain. One trainee just obtained solo status and two others are still in training. If the levy passes we will begin recruitment in June but if it does not the vacant positions will be unfilled. Paying off the building loan has been another priority of the strategic plan, but Joanie is not sure where the board stands with this. However, this would also be affected by the levy.

Matt asked about KIRG and 911 combining and if this has been looked at. Joanie said the board would have to thoroughly review and look to see if it is an option. Greg asked if there is anything the partner agencies can do to support that. The system needs to work, and they need to know how to help to get this accomplished. Joanie said the board is in control of funding and went on to explain the board's efforts to obtain district funding through the levy. Chris asked if Joanie felt confident that the levy would pass. Joanie said yes. Rob asked if there were flyers or anything that they can use to pass out of put on their social media pages. Joanie said there are no flyers. Greg said he knows this directly impacts every agency and they want to be able to help support it. Holly said they could attend the board meeting for discussion.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Acting Director/ Operations Manager Report: Joanie reported on the following.

Labor Negotiations: The districts former attorney retired, and we have contracted a new attorney through Miller Nash. Opener was received and Miller Nash has responded on behalf of the district to begin

negotiations.

Radio Project: Installation of the new AVTEC radios discovered they had not been built into a simulcast system which has caused some issues with them working right. KIRG may need to do some things to make this work and Joanie will be discussing this with the group at the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding the issues with hearing radio traffic and callers. This is a drawback to the new system and priority listening. It feels like a step back as opposed to a step forward. Day Wireless has proposed some resolutions but these need to be addressed with KIRG.

Phone Upgrade: Vesta workstations are in the configuration and setup process. Training will be provided, and we expect to cutover on May 6th. This is going very well, and the new system will integrate with rapid SOS and include a map update as well.

Logging Recorder: Hardware has been upgraded and a new UPS is on order to finish out this project.

CAD Project: Weekly team meetings are occurring, GIS data and CAD build will begin onsite May 13th-17th from 8am to 5pm. Fire District #1 will be in attendance to represent the fire side of things and they will also be part of the mobile build when that takes place.

National Telecomm Week: Joanie wanted to formally thank the dispatchers for what they do and noted that a google search showed that the job of a dispatcher consistently came in at the top 7 to 10 highest stress job.

Matt asked if the priority dispatch program is contingent on the passing of the levy. Joanie said yes it is and briefly explained the program she is looking at.

IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Matt said they hear staffing is the biggest problem and they need to spread the money to make it work. Chris added that they need to always have three people on and obtain a minimum staffing model. Discussion followed regarding historical and current efforts to staff with three people always on and the challenges faced. Holly said she had been with the district for fifteen years and it used to be three on and then when money got scared it dropped to two. We currently have good trainees and have had success with retention of the past five hires. with no one dropping out.

Chris asked if Paid Leave Oregon has affected 911. Joanie said not really. We have one out on maternity leave that will create a little overtime but not much else. Chris and Greg said it has greatly affected their agencies.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Next Meeting Date: July 17, 2024, at 9:00am

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.