**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADVISORY BOARD (EMCAB)**

**Minutes of EMCAB Meeting**

**January 9, 2020**

Chair Rocky Eastman called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Bob Clendaniel, Otis Garbe, Joe Klundt, Rocky Eastman, Scott Bieber, David Winter, Larry Hector

**Non-Members in Attendance:** Liz Jessee, Patrick Purcell, Steve Ruley, Heather Lee, Barb McKinney

**Absent:** Bob Yancey, Troy Tomaras, Greg Tompkins, Jim Ruffcorn, Don Schwerin, Brent Tompkins, Mike Wickstrom, Jeffrey Williams

The minutes of December 12th were reviewed. A motion was given by Larry Hector to approve the minutes as submitted, and a second was given by Scott Bieber. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing to report.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Walla Walla County Fire District 5 stopped paying Wescom user fees back in 2012 because they chose to be dispatched through Franklin County and now SECOMM. Their position is that since we do not dispatch for them directly, and because 911 phone taxes pay for communications centers to route calls that are received in error, they owe nothing, and the bills should be rescinded. The issue was discussed during the Executive Committee meeting in August of 2019, and the EC believes that calls received for a Walla Walla County agency by the Walla Walla County PSAP are not received in error, because District 5 is located within Walla Walla County, and, depending on the location of the caller and the service used, many calls are directed at the Walla Walla County PSAP. It was also noted that District 5 had previously indicated a willingness to pay a flat fee which was less than the consortium established fee schedule, so was not accepted because it would create an inequity issue between agencies that receive services from WESCOM. The County assumes legal liability and responsibility for the proper receipt, triaging and forwarding of those calls to District #5. Even though District #5 chooses to be dispatched by an agency in another county, it does not eliminate the services that must be provided in the receipt and processing of their calls. Greg Tompkins requested copies of all the documents relating to this issue and they were sent to him for review. It was also noted that Waitsburg/District 2 pays their minimum user fees but are dispatched by Columbia County.

**DISPATCH UPDATES:**

Arrangements have been made by Walla Walla IT to have a virtual VPN installed at Wescom so that West can install and maintain the necessary software to allow Text to 911 to operate. Once this is accomplished, the VPN must be maintained for both general maintenance and software upgrades. This will result in a new monthly charge of approximately $100. This installation should be finished by the end of this week. When this is completed, we still must await final instructions from the State Office prior to making notifications to both the FCC and the wireless carriers.

On Friday, December 27th, paperwork was signed to request initiation of RapidSOS service. This is a process which takes about 4-5 weeks to complete, and they will send us a special access code which will allow dispatch to use their database to run cell phone numbers and receive stored data. RapidSOS has partnered with many of the IOT companies and the public can choose to input their data into devices which will, in the near future, communicate directly with the RapidSOS servers and ultimately with the CAD system. Before this will work automatically with New World, we need to be at the next upgrade version, which is expected to happen sometime in 2020. Until then, call data will need to be checked manually.

The newest dispatcher, Kara Thonney, continues to make slow but steady progress in learning the complexities of the dispatch job.

Supervisor Tammy Smith continues to be out on medical leave and will likely be out for at least another month.

Wescom is still awaiting financial quote information from Leonardo on the ASIP platform change for our system, both as a standalone, and as a joint venture with surrounding counties. At this point, Leonardo has not received the final approval for P25 operation on their radios. If they cannot get that necessary paperwork, they may be eliminated from the competition. Also, Tait is being given another chance to present their proposal for the multi-county ASIP platform, with RACOM as the technical team. Codan offered a finance plan along with their quote to allow Wescom to pay for the equipment over a five-year period, rather than all at once. There have been no finance options received yet from Leonardo or Tait.

Following a suggestion that perhaps Wescom might withdraw the offer for Richland Fire/Benton County to use our Wallula/Hatch Grade remote site, Steve received information that a Richland Deputy City Attorney is now in the process of reviewing the sublease agreement which was provided to them back in September of last year.

As of yesterday, Pike’s Peak has been fully converted to a full simulcast site with the transitioning of the Fire channel. Additionally, the ERP and Law Primary channels have been turned up to full strength, and the results have been even better than expected. Signal strength has increased significantly, particularly in the eastern portions of the County. Also, the overlap issues have been much improved. Currently, there is some overlap in the Lowden area, and the radio techs will be working on additional signal shaping to fix this. There may also be a need to adjust the power output as the fine-tuning proceeds. Please let Steve know of any radio issues, preferably in an email that can be sent on to the radio technicians.

Marti from the USDA grant office confirmed that our grant application is first in line. Marti and the State Office have been checking with the government frequently as to when those funds will be released but have not received a timeframe yet.

**ADDRESSING:**

Nothing to report. Barb is continuing to work with the State on getting addresses updated in the system.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Liz Jessee distributed the Walla Walla Emergency Management Department (WWEM) Director’s Report from October through December 2019. One of the items discussed was:

* When a 911 outage occurred in the Eureka area Emergency Management posted “What you would do if you called 911 and didn’t get an answer?” infographic in English and Spanish on the Facebook page. Everbridge notifications were sent to the affected area. To comply with Washington State Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements, email and text messages sent using Everbridge were bilingual (English/Spanish).

The budget for Emergency Management has been approved and includes funding for new enhancements to the Everbridge system, including the addition of cell phone numbers. In February, an implementation team will work on uploading cell phone numbers and refreshing the phone book data. This will be done twice a year going forward.

**SUBCOMMITTEES:**

Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The WWPD has a new drone program which includes two drones and three FAA licensed drone pilots. These drones could be beneficial in emergency situations, so if anyone needs aerial footage, contact the WWPD.

The land that the Coppei remote radio site sits on is up for sale. A copy of the lease agreement was sent to Hansen Harvester by request on December 17, 2019.

**SUMMARY OF DIRECTED ACTIONS**

Nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 am. The next meeting will take place on February 13th at 8:30 am.

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