

**STATE OF COLORADO  
COUNTY OF ROUTT**

**ROUTT COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD  
October 26, 2006**

Bob Struble, Steamboat Springs Fire and Rescue, called the regular quarterly meeting of the Communications Advisory Board to order. Faith Mendoza, Routt County Communications; Bryan Rickman, West Routt Fire Protection District; Chuck Wisecup, Oak Creek Fire Protection District; Chuck Vale and Cheryl Dalton, Emergency Management; Bob Reilley, North Routt Fire Protection District; Ed Corriveau, Hayden Police Department; Tyler Whitmore, Yampa Valley Regional Airport; Bob DelValle and J. D. Hays, Steamboat Springs Police Department; Dave Hill, Routt County Search and Rescue; Tom Sullivan, County Manager; and Doug Monger, County Commissioner, were present. Dee Bolton recorded the meeting and prepared the minutes.

**EN RE: PRESENTATION OF 911 HERO AWARD / FAITH MENDOZA**

Tyler Arroyo and Alexis DeLaCruz, Steamboat Today, and Lena Barker, her father, and brother Jason were also present for the following agenda item.

Ms. Mendoza presented the Routt County 911 Hero Award, commendations, and gifts from several organizations to Lena Barker for her rescue efforts in time of crisis and her assistance to rescue responders.

**EN RE: REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**MOTION—APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Rickman moved to approve the minutes of the Routt County Communications Advisory Board for July 27, 2006. Mr. Wisecup seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

**EN RE: COMMUNICATIONS REPORT AND RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE  
/ FAITH MENDOZA**

Ms. Mendoza reported that a six-hour system failure had occurred the previous day on the Mount Werner site due to construction of a ski lift. No explanation of the power outage was available as yet. She noted that Mount Werner had no back-up generator on site at present. She said that West Routt was also down for a portion of the outage time due to less power being available.

Mr. Wisecup asked whether the County had plans to hire a communications technician to attend to the County's radio equipment and sites. Mr. Sullivan stated that a new position, Assistant Communications Director, was budgeted for 2007. That position would be responsible for the County's technical systems.

Ms. Mendoza noted that the Routt County Communications Number of Calls Report by Department for the time periods January 1 through September 30, 2005 and 2006 were included in the handout packet.

### **EN RE: ROUTT COUNTY'S RADIO SYSTEM**

Mr. Vale said that the WIN grant project cost \$2 million. He said that Farwell Mountain was the most complicated site. A new building had been constructed there; a generator and five radios were installed; the elaborate wiring for the solar panels had been completed, and new batteries had been installed. The radios will be turned on within the next week. He said that Hayden had a new building and a new propane generator and tank, and power would be connected the following week. King Canyon had a new building, a new generator, and a new propane tank. New wiring would be installed within a few days. The State would assist in the replacement of radios at the latter site. Barring weather challenges, he anticipated that the three sites would be fully operable by Thanksgiving. He said that a microwave issue between Mount Werner and Walton Peak would be addressed by State technicians. He stated that when all work was completed, Farwell, Hayden, and King Canyon would have back-up power; Mount Werner, Emerald Mountain, and Oak Creek would not. Emerald would be extremely difficult to back up due to the number of users; grant funds were available to purchase a generator for Mount Werner.

Mr. Wisecup asked about radios. Mr. Struble said that Health Care Foundation funds had been deposited in a Yampa Valley Foundation account. The EMS Council would apply for funds in the March, 2007 granting cycle.

Ms. Mendoza provided information and sample templates for the Colorado Communications Network of Colorado, Inc. (CCNC) application process to acquire 800 MHz radio equipment. She asked that all agencies contact her prior to submitting an application so that she could assist agencies in the application-completion process. She said that the needed number of channels, the agencies that would be connected to other agencies, the establishment of a uniform naming system, and what was currently in use were information to include in an application.

Mr. Hays asked whether individuals would have to carry a VHF and an 800 MHz radio or whether a radio was available that had both capacities. Mr. Rickman said that either type radio would provide communications availability, but the 800 system had no paging capability. Also, when trying to talk to a party without the 800 system, the VHF system would be essential. Ms. Mendoza added that 800 system coverage might be unavailable in some locations, and the Communications Center as yet did not have the capability to dispatch on the 800 system.

Mr. Vale stated that the 800 system was an effective tool when communicating with the State Patrol, from around the State to Routt County's Communications Center, in regard to command control, for State-wide ambulance use, and for Detention Center

transports around the State, but those uses, while helping the State initiate the 800 system, were not important for intra-County law enforcement use. However, the trend for the future was State-wide use of the 800 MHz digital trunk radio system. If Routt County intended to gradually transition to the 800 system, for example by starting with equipping all ambulances, a standardized template must be in place from the outset. Mr. Wisecup added that a Homeland Security goal was interoperability for mutual aid incidents.

Ms. Mendoza said that a County-wide template had to be developed. She had created a five-year timeline covering tasks, needs, and priorities for the VHF system, the 800 MHz system, the paging system, and the microwave system. Tasks to be added to the list included on-location testing before purchase and determining the equipment that had to be added in the Dispatch Center. She asked for agencies' input as to whether all tasks had been included on the list presented and asked which items were agencies' priorities. She said that as the hospital, schools, public works, and the airports were added, the template would change. Mr. Struble thought that the paging system should be addressed first. Ms. Mendoza said that the paging system was scheduled for 2007. Mr. Struble stated that addressing/mapping was a critical issue as well. Mr. Sullivan noted that addressing was changing from the County Planning Department to the GIS Department, and a new position to focus on addressing and mapping had been budgeted for 2007.

Commissioner Monger asked about the communications band. Mr. Sullivan said that a meeting of all stakeholders should be held to discuss the manner in which a communications band would be funded. Mr. Vale explained that the regional philosophy had been to equip one type of vehicle, but grant funding for equipping all ambulances in the region had been denied for three years. He then had tried to obtain funding for radios for law enforcement vehicles through a Garfield County grant application, but that was also denied, although Garfield County's grant request had been awarded. He reiterated that a plan/timeline was the first step in accomplishing the County's ultimate goals.

Mr. Struble asked about schedules. Ms. Mendoza said that agencies were responsible for submitting schedules to the Communications Center.

In regard to the CAD system and upgrades, Ms. Mendoza said that the CAD system would probably be changed, but not in 2007.

Mr. Hill asked about GPS for cell phones. Ms. Mendoza said that that was a wireless issue.

Mr. Vale noted that at a prior CAB meeting, a Templating Committee had been discussed, but it had not met to date, perhaps since the membership was unclear. He stated that a template had to be in place before applying for CCNC grants. Mr. Rickman said that each agency had to state the number of talk groups that it wanted on

the system. Ms. Mendoza said that sharing channels required inter-agency agreements through CCNC.

Commissioner Monger said that Ms. Mendoza should develop the template and assign each agency a certain number of channels. If an agency objected to its assigned number of channels, it should contact Ms. Mendoza.

#### **EN RE: ROUTT COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM EQUIPMENT**

Ms. Mendoza said that she could help agencies program radios in a crisis, but she could not program pack sets or the Steamboat Police Department's radios. Given that situation, the goal was to have a consistent radio system throughout the County. She had information to share regarding radio equipment and noted that the MCS 2000 and the MT 2000, models that the County used, were no longer available. The Motorola XTL 2500 and the XTS 2500 were the upgraded replacement mobile and pack set models for VHF, but some coordination with VHF and 800 was recommended. She said that it was not mandatory that all agencies buy Motorola equipment, but she urged that all agencies purchase the best quality equipment available since public safety was at stake. She recommended that all agencies agree on purchasing certain brands.

#### **EN RE: TIERED RESPONSE FOR AMBULANCES**

Mr. Struble stated that the Communications Advisory Board had nixed the concept of tiered response for ambulances. Ms. Mendoza said that Dr. Cionni had repeatedly raised the issue at Emergency Medical Services Council meetings so she was reporting on those discussions. Mr. Struble said that he had advised Dr. Cionni that the concept was not one that the CAB wished to pursue.

#### **EN RE: NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Mendoza said that the Communications Center had received more than one hundred 911 calls at all times of the day and night from cell phone number 308-539-8149, a disconnected number. She has been attempting to locate the owner of the phone through a court order.

Ms. Mendoza said that the 2007 CAB meeting schedule should be established.

#### **MOTION—COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD 2007 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Rickman moved to set the 2007 Communications Advisory Board meetings for the following Thursdays, to be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room of the Courthouse Annex: January 25<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, and October 25, 2007. Mr. Wisecup seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wisecup expressed his appreciation for Faith Mendoza's and Leslie Hockaday's participation in an on-site dispatch DUI exercise at Soroco High School. The exercise went well and was a learning experience for all involved.

Ms. Mendoza announced that information concerning the framework, changes, and the future of the 911 system could be obtained on the puc911 taskforce website.

**EN RE: NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Communications Advisory Board will be held on January 25, 2007, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. Agenda items should be submitted to Sue Heineman.

No further business coming before the Board, same adjourned sine die.

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Dee Bolton, Recorder

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Bob Struble, Chairman