

**STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF ROUTT**

**ROUTT COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
April 28, 2005**

Chairman Pro Tem Chuck Wisecup, Oak Creek Fire Protection District, called the meeting to order. Faith Mendoza, Routt County Communications Director; Krista Check-Hill and Tim O'Brien, Routt County Search and Rescue; Doug Monger, County Commissioner; Tyler Whitmore, Yampa Valley Regional Airport; Dan Allen and Scott Delto, Yampa Fire District; Chuck Vale, Emergency Management; Bob Reilley, North Routt Fire Protection District; Bryan Rickman, West Routt Fire Protection District; J. D. Hays, Steamboat Springs Police Department; and Rob Ryg, Coroner, were present. Dee Bolton recorded the meeting and prepared the minutes.

EN RE: REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION—APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rickman moved to approve as submitted the minutes of the Communications Advisory Board for January 27, 2005. Mr. Reilley seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

EN RE: COMMUNICATIONS REPORT / FAITH MENDOZA

Ms. Mendoza reviewed the handout, Routt County Communications Number of Calls Report by Department, and answered questions regarding the categories and ways in which the statistics were compiled. She discussed the 211 calling system in relation to the report and noted that it would relieve some calls to the Dispatch Center. She added that welfare checks were not within the purview of 211; a physical check by a law enforcement officer was required.

Ms. Mendoza reported that the radio system was working well. One problem had been resolved. Mr. Vale said that he had had no complaints about the system. He stated that the lease details for the Farwell tower were being finalized.

Ms. Mendoza said that she had three dispatchers in training; the supervisor's position was still open, and another dispatcher position would be open on July 1, 2005.

EN RE: UPDATING THE CENTER FOR WIRELESS 911 CALLS / FAITH MENDOZA

Ms. Mendoza said that GPS cell telephones had phases: Phase I, which provides tower area information, should be skipped; Phase 2, using coordinates, provided actual locations. She said that she was working with Nextel to finalize

reception and would then work with Verizon, the second largest company, then proceed through other smaller companies.

EN RE: HELICOPTER REQUEST PROTOCOL FOR DISPATCH / FAITH MENDOZA

Ms. Mendoza said that a call guide and protocol for contacting or using a helicopter was needed for the Dispatch Center. Dr. Cionni had told her that only an on-scene EMT could call for a med-flight helicopter. Mr. Vale said that part of the protocol should be that the incident commander, Sheriff, and Emergency Manager are specified. He added that the system had to be generic and broad.

Mr. Rickman said that circumstances have changed. He noted that Steamboat Springs did not want to pick up flight crews at the Steamboat Airport. He recommended that the situation be discussed with the Hospital or with Mel Stewart.

Mr. O'Brien noted that some crews would not fly at night.

It was the consensus of those present that Mr. Rickman, Mr. Vale, and Mr. O'Brien should constitute a subcommittee to further develop a protocol system and call guide and that the question should be presented at the next Emergency Medical Services Council meeting.

EN RE: SALE/DISPOSAL OF RADIO EQUIPMENT

Ms. Mendoza reported that she had compiled a list of surplus radios, chargers, and other equipment. Four agencies had already submitted requests for some of the equipment. Hot Sulphur Springs, outside Routt County, had asked for four mobiles and twelve hand-held radios. Suggestions were made as to other small agencies outside Routt County that she could contact that might be interested in the equipment.

EN RE: FUTURE OF THE ROUTT COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM AND 800 MHZ

Ms. Mendoza said that she had recently met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the 800 MHz system and the future of Routt County's system. She stated that Moffat County was changing solely to the 800 system; Jackson County was not, and Eagle County was connected to the State's system. She said that Routt County's options were to stay with the existing system; add on the 800 system, or go with both systems. She said that it would cost all agencies in Routt County collectively \$13,000,000 to install the infrastructure of the system. She said that the 800 system was installed at the Communications Center but was not connected to the dispatchers.

Commissioner Monger said that cost was a major concern. Also, he asked whether changing to the 800 system was solving the State's problem. He suggested

applying for a planning grant to study the issue. He stated that at a recent AGNC meeting, he had voiced his displeasure in the use of local mineral and lease severance tax funds to solve a State problem. He did not anticipate that the grant would be approved.

Mr. Vale said that a 2004 Homeland Security Grant was approved. He noted that the hospital and ambulances would have 800 system capability. He stated that Routt County would be eligible to apply for grants to install the 800 system; the hospital would be on talk groups and eligible for 800 within the hospital. He was concerned about interoperability and claimed that the federal agencies, including wildland fire fighters, would not switch to the 800 system for the next ten years or more. He recommended keeping VHF in the Sheriff's Office and the State Forest brush fire trucks. He stated that Grant County also was not going to use the 800 system. He added that in the Annual Operating Plan, it stated that no Routt County assistance would be dispersed unless Communications had given confirmation of communication interoperability prior to departure. He said that WIN grants could be obtained.

Mr. Rickman thought that securing grant funds would be easy. He said that a plan needed to be devised so that the smaller agencies did not become islands. He said that a committee or task force was needed to help Ms. Mendoza research the issue further. Dan Allen, Chuck Vale, Bryan Rickman, Tim O'Brien, Joel Ray, and Bob Reilley volunteered to form that committee.

EN RE: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Brien asked about the Search and Rescue stationary repeater.

Mr. Vale thanked Ms. Mendoza for providing food for the fire fighters at the Rest Area fire. Mr. Rickman echoed Mr. Vale's appreciation.

Ms. Mendoza thanked those who attended the recently held Communications Center picnic. She noted that in May, she will have been the Director of the Communications Center for two years.

Mr. Wisecup asked about dispatchers and controlled burns. Mr. Vale will speak with dispatchers and provide training.

Ms. Mendoza noted that it was difficult to get all of the fire districts together on callout policy for smoke reports and controlled burning issues.

Mr. Vale discussed fire preparedness levels. He stated that when a red flag warning came up, it should be inspected. He said that in 2005, digital radios should be purchased—it would soon be an FCC mandate.

Ms. Mendoza announced that the Board of County Commissioners had recently adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of April 10th as Routt County Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

EN RE: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Communications Advisory Board will be held on July 28, 2005, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. Agenda items should be submitted to Sue Heineman.

EN RE: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION—ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Reilley moved to adjourn the Communication Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Allen seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

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

Dee Bolton, Recorder

Chuck Wisecup, Chairman Pro Tem