

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Spokane Regional Emergency Communications Governing Board  
October 21, 2021

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call 7:30 a.m.**

Chief Bryan Collins called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. The following Board members were in attendance:

Board Members – via Zoom

Chief Bryan Collins – Spokane Valley Fire Department (Chair)  
Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Vice Chair)  
Chief Randy Johnson – Spokane County Fire District 4  
Chief Cody Rohrbach – Spokane County Fire District 3  
Chief Brad Richmond – Airway Heights Police Department  
Chief Dave Ellis – Spokane Valley Police Department  
Scott Simmons – Spokane County  
Gayne Sears – Citizen Representative

Staff – via Zoom

Lori Markham, Executive Director  
Kim Arredondo, Deputy Director  
Jeff Tower, Human Resources Manager  
Tim Henry, Finance Manager  
Bob Schwent, Technical Services Manager  
Randy Langford, System Manager  
Brad Kane, Dispatch Operations Manager  
Heather Wood, 911 Operations Manager  
Jon Adams, Training Manager  
Patrick Erickson, Communication and Media Manager  
Cherell Yates, Office Manager  
Jenni Folden, Finance Analyst

Auxiliary Partners / Guests – via Zoom

Lt. Alan Arnzen, SPD  
Laura McAloon, McAloon Law Offices  
Chief Brian Schaeffer, City of Spokane  
Deputy Chief Shawn Arold, Spokane Valley Fire Department  
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Sheriff's Department

**2. Consent Agenda**

Randy Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2021 regular meeting. Brad Richmond seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Action Items**

a. Resolution 2021-06, SREC 2022 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Lori Markham explained the budget was presented to the Board last month. The major changes from the 2021 to 2022 budget is the addition of four new Communication Officers and the addition of the Training/QA Supervisor position the Board previously approved. The Training/QA supervisor position has already been filled and would like funding for the position to continue. Tim Henry added there have been no changes from the draft version presented to the Board last month. The 2021-06 Resolution has been included to approve the 2022 budget. Tim furthered the budget has been reviewed

significantly by the Finance Committee. Ozzie Knezovich motioned to approve Resolution 2021-06. Brad Richmond seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

b. Bid P0001 Aircraft Radio Purchase Recommendation

Bob Schwent stated replacement for the aircraft radio purchase was included in the 2021 budget. Bob worked with the user agencies and established a list of requirements needed for the aircraft radio. The aircraft radio purchase was sent out to bid and two vendors responded with the same equipment. Configuration and equipment proposed by both vendors were identical. The recommendation is to approve the EDMO bid for \$141,141.50 as this was the lower bid. The Board was in favor and no one opposed moving forward and entering into contract with EDMO for the purchase of the aircraft radio.

**4. New Business**

a. ADCOMM Site Project

Lori Markham stated the strategic plan includes a new communications facility as SREC expands. Lori explained SREC is already out growing the current facility and there are concerns surrounding the facility's current location, i.e., proximity to airport, railroad tracks, and current construction of the North/South corridor. There has been discussion surrounding the construction of the Sheriff's Department new firing range and training facility in Airway Heights, and the possibility of adding a new communications building at the same location. ADCOMM conducted a preliminary site study to see if the location was feasible for a communications building; the report was included in the Board packet. There were two risk factors found, flight path and noise factor that were addressed in the report. The noise factor could be mitigated through proper construction and the flight path was not a huge concern as, WSP has a tower at Geiger which is in a flight path and similar proximities as SREC's would be. Lori asked the Board if they would like her to pursue looking into this option and having ADCOMM continue their studies. Additionally, the recommendation would be to not build onto the Sheriff's facility, but rather build a stand-alone communications building and radio shop.

Dave Ellis explained the new Sheriff's facility is a joint project with the Air Force and has an eighteen-month construction time. The benefits of collocating with the Sheriff's facility is it is designed around air force security standards and is more economical as utilities and fiber will already be going to the site. The runway mentioned in the report does not currently exist, about ten years out, but the designs are being done as if it exists now. Dave continued he likes the idea of collocating as it is added personnel and security for the employees. The Sheriff's Department has contracted with Clark Nexsen and is at the 95% design phase, planning to go to bid about December, opening the bids in January, and start construction shortly thereafter. The Department has already connected Clark Nexsen with SREC. Bryan Collins reminded the Board of the work ADCOMM did a few years ago with regards to another location for the BUC. At that time the best option for such a critical infrastructure facility was FD9, where the BUC is, there really was no better option. This is a very positive report and path for a new facility. Bryan likes the idea of collocating on a campus with the Sheriff's Department, security wise and economically it makes a lot of sense. Todd Mielke added that something to keep in mind with this kind of project are FAA requirements, including lighting issues and possible radio interferences that could occur. Brian Schaeffer explained similar discussions were had with regards to a tower and the proximity to Felts Field when the CCB was built and a major concern was the microwave aspect. The Board agreed to move forward with further planning and conversations with ADCOMM.

## 5. Old Business

### a. EMD Review

Jon Adams went through a power point presentation, outlining the progress SREC staff has had since the implementation of the EMD process. The presentation was included in the Board packet. Jon explained Ryan Caiazzo with Priority Dispatch is on site once a quarter to check on the agency's progress. Echo calls have had the biggest success, with a 29% decrease in call time. Overall, all calls have had a 9 second faster call time which equals an 11% decrease in call time from September 2020. Staff has become more familiar with the software and being able to handle difficult/frantic callers on the phone. In September, there were 32 out of 53 calls where CPR was initiated with a bystander without barriers. In those 32 calls, CPR was started an average of 8 seconds into the call. Jon explained, 25 of the cases where it was obvious from the initial statement of the caller it was a potential CPR call, that the call receiver was going from the description of the case to cardiac recognition in 6 seconds. Ryan stated that was an amazing time, it would not get faster, and that no other agency (new or seasoned) has experienced those results. In summary, 71% of the calls had hands-on-chest initiated by SREC call receivers. Patients who suffer a cardiac event are receiving an increased likelihood of survival when calling 911 and the calls are processed by SREC EMD certified and trained call receivers. Jon furthered the processes SREC has in place to train call receivers are working and the call receivers are working hard at getting good at what they do. Call receivers receive monthly training and QA/QI on EMD. The hard work of the call receivers, training and the QA process is showing measurable in; faster alerting of EMS and Fire Responders, quicker recognition of the need for bystander CPR, better patient care, and higher chances of survival and better outcomes when there is a need for EMS.

Gayne Sears commended SREC on the training and capability of the staff, but also the willingness of the public to initiate CPR and if that would be a good story or public education piece; encouraging people to keep up with their CPR training. Jon explained he is working with Patrick Erickson on some social media pieces to educate the public on what to expect when they call 911 and the need for CPR on the bystander side. Bryan Collins stated hands only CPR has increased the willingness of the public. He congratulated the SREC staff on their work and continued education to the public on citizen CPR; it represents a major difference in outcome and survival. Randy Johnson thanked the SREC staff, stating he knows it has been a long and hard process and has been waiting for this data. He commended the staff for powering through and persevering over some large obstacles.

### b. CCB Remodel

Lori Markham explained there was a meeting with ADCOMM and Evans to review the initial design and power usage. There were some changes needed and those were sent back to Evans, which were received earlier this week. The plans still need some additional changes to the design before forwarding to ADCOMM. SREC is looking at first quarter of 2022 to get the build done.

### c. CopLogic Update

Heather Wood stated for Spokane County and Valley, 330 reports have been processed since go live and for the City of Spokane, 425 reports have been processed. The Liberty Lake go live date has been pushed back a week and will go live on November 1, 2021. Work on Airway Heights will be next.

## 6. Staff Reports

### a. Operations

Kim Arredondo reminded the Board that the successes the call receivers have had with EMD was also done with vacancies; they have been working very hard while short staffed and producing such great results. There are currently 11 vacancies in 911 and 4 new hires scheduled for the November academy. The goal is to have 6 new hires in the January academy, but a few more CTO's need to be trained in order to take on that workload. Operations is implementing a workload shift and putting CO2's on a hybrid schedule which has been presented to staff and awaiting feedback. This will not only aid in staffing issues but cross-training as well. Fire is fully staffed which is allowing for the workload shift. Law dispatch is still down 3, but one supervisor is training along with 2-line staff.

Kim explained the staff has been briefed that legislature will be presented again to reclassify telecommunicators from a clerical designation to a public safety sector. Gayne Sears asked why the bill struggled the first time. Kim explained there was an inclusion of early retirement which the labor groups had an issue with since it has a fiscal impact on each County/City and had not been reviewed. This time, it will be a two-part process, reclassification being first and then if that passes reviewing the fiscal impacts and possibility of offering early retirement. This is being brought forward and pushed through by the State's APCO-NENA group.

### b. Technical

Bob Schwent stated fire programming has been completed. There was a paging problem in Fire District 3 due to a timing issue in the simulcast system, which has now been resolved. The requirements for the Rockwood Retirement Center have been completed as well as the last push for the GeoPrime project. The kickoff for the Motorola pilot project AWARE is scheduled for today. The new portables have been received and the shop is working with Cheney Fire to ensure the Bluetooth capability is working before issuing the radios.

### c. Finance

Tim Henry stated the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report was included in the Board packet. Tim explained revenues and expenses are tracking with expectations. Supply issues are affecting some capital projects which are resulting in delays and the possibility of moving some projects into 2022.

### d. Human Resources

Jeff Tower explained HR had their annual review with Alliant and medical claims are trending lower than budgeted for. Megan Schneider is preparing for open enrollment that will begin in November. Jeff met with WCIA and SREC has met all of its training requirements. There will be a significant increase in premiums since SREC falls within the law enforcement sector. The increase will not be as significant for SREC, as SREC does not actually employ law enforcement officers. In regards to Union negotiations, there have been three meetings with the Supervisor group and they are still exchanging information. The first meeting with the base unit is today.

### e. Administration

Lori Markham explained everything had already been addressed.

## 7. Open/Public Comment

Ozzie Knezovich stated there have been some discussions with SPD regarding radio encryption. Ozzie explained he is against it, and that the radio system was built to be interoperable and this request damages the systems capabilities. Ozzie furthered it is a training issue and can be solved with a stronger training program. The agency can simply ask dispatch to move to an encrypted channel. Bob explained the LCAB group has requested the primary channels be encrypted. Bob furthered there are encrypted channels (Bravo Group) already in place for these types of events. The technical solution to the request results in a 20 to 30 minute delay on the primary channels, but this topic has created outcry from the public where this practice is in place. Technically, Bob said he has found a solution to accommodate the request, but there are channels already in place for agencies to move to an encrypted channel when needed. Making this delay happen on the primary channels would mean having to touch every single law and fire radio. Ozzie reminded the group, the system was built with these events and encryption in mind, and this is merely a training component. Bob reminded the group this would be an agency decision, not a SREC decision. Ozzie explained if the LCAB group decides to move forward with encrypting the primary channels, the Sheriff's Office will not be participating. Ozzie will be making the recommendation to the LCAB group to create a better training program and policies to use the system the way it was intended, utilize the systems capabilities, and a continued training requirement included in the policy.

Scott Simmons updated the Board regarding HB 1155. Scott has had conversations with the Spokane City Administrator who is compiling a team. Once the team is compiled, Scott and the Sheriff will begin discussions with that group. Lori added that she met with the City Administrator last week to give him an overview of SREC, some history and services provided. The meeting went well and he requested some financial documents which Lori is gathering for him.

Cody Rohrbach stated he met with the SREC GIS team and was excited to see that new capacity.

## 8. Closed Meeting to Discuss Matters with Legal Counsel Related to Potential Litigation

As allowed by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

No closed meeting.

### Closed Meeting to Discuss Matters Related to Collective Bargaining

As allowed by RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a)

No closed meeting.

## 9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

The next Regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Bryan Collins*

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Board Member  
Governing Board

DocuSigned by:

*Brad Richmond*

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Board Member  
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