



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Marion County Radio Project Monthly Update

May 27, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Heather Inyama, Toni Whitler, Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Sheriff's Office: Nick Hunter.

Public Works: Brian Nicholas.

Portland State University (PSU): Grace Pointer.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:34 a.m.

Marion County Radio Project Update

- Overview:
 - Monthly work session for Marion County radio project.
 - Participants included county commissioners, public works staff, and special guests.
 - Focused on project status, design, and system configuration recommendations.
- Design Status:
 - Tate has provided updated project schedule.
 - Currently developing the final design for radio system.
 - Designing IP, backhaul and power systems.
 - Preliminary design of radio, microwave, and consoles in progress.
- Sites Update:
 - APW site added to improve northern county coverage.
 - House Mountain converted to receive-only site.
 - Reduced frequency interference and operational costs.
 - Match Creek site potentially redundant, under analysis.
 - Challenges with coverage in forest service land areas.
 - Potential seasonal repeater site considered for remote areas.
- Schedule Update:
 - Targeting bid advertisement for August 6.
 - Tate to provide preliminary of radio and microwave design by Friday June 6th.
 - Cushing to have detailed design documents by July 16.
 - Fast Tracking the bid process should allow vendor selection by August 6th.

- Construction potentially starting in mid-September.
 - Winter site construction planned, with some sites (Falls Ridge & House Mountain) waiting for spring.
- Civil Site Cost Update:
 - Estimated site improvements cost: \$4.5 million.
 - Includes 20% contingency on materials.
 - 50% contingency on field work.
 - Costs align with previous estimates.
- User Engagement:
 - Met with South County fire chiefs.
 - Discussed system configuration options.
 - Agencies concerned about monthly user fees.
- Updated System Recommendations:
 - Three-channel trunked system for law enforcement.
 - Four-channel conventional system for fire and EMS.
 - Potential cost savings of \$3.3 million.
 - Flexibility for future system upgrades.
- Governance
 - Discussed potential dispatch system implications.
 - Need for clear communication with participating agencies.
 - Potential future consolidation of radio and dispatch systems.
 - Explored inter-agency collaboration strategies.
 - Considered long-term system management approach.
- Operations & Maintenance
 - Reviewed current radio system limitations.
 - Discussed transition strategies for different agencies.
 - Explored cost-effective maintenance approaches.
 - Considered scalability of proposed system configuration.
 - Evaluated long-term operational sustainability.
 - Discussed potential challenges in maintaining multiple system types (trunked and conventional).
- Project Costs
 - Current allocated funds: \$15,225,000.
 - Estimated project need: \$16,871,000.
 - Exploring additional funding sources, including Opal Creek funds.

Future Radio Enterprise Fund

- Discussed potential funding mechanisms.
- Explored user fee structures.
- Considered long-term financial sustainability.

Other

- Potential challenges with agency adoption.
- Need for clear transition plan.
- Importance of getting all agencies on same system.

Next Steps

- Finalize system design with 3 trunked and 4 conventional channels.
- Prepare narrative explaining system transition plan.
- Schedule meeting with Met Com dispatch.

- Explore additional funding sources.
- Continue engagement with fire and emergency service agencies.

Adjourned – time: 2:34 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White