

Washington County EMS Alliance



**Washington County EMS Alliance
Governing Board – Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022**

Attendance:

Member / Delegate			Back-Up Delegate	
Present	Name	Jurisdiction	Present	Name
X	David Downey (Chair)	City of Hillsboro		Greg Espinosa
X	Patrick Wineman (Vice Chair)	FGF&R, CFD, GFD		TBD
X	Marni Kuyl	Washington County		Mjere Simantel
X	Rodney Linz	Banks Fire District		Brennan Nannenga
X	Deric Weiss	Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue		Steve Boughey

Other Interested Parties/Staff:

Adrienne Donner (WCEMS), Tim Case (WCEMS)

Opening Comments

Chief Downey opened the meeting at 12:02. Adrienne Donner gave opening comments to alert everyone that there is not a provision for closed executive session in the EMS Alliance Bylaws so notes would be taken and posted for this meeting.

Franchise Agreement Update

Alliance members shared some concerns about a return to more level zeros in the weeks since TVF&R stopped their emergency staffing project. Members asked what the expectations were of MWA going into the June decision.

Adrienne Donner said that the expectations for MWA are to meet the compliance metrics in the Franchise Agreement. There is no mechanism for special requirements outside of what is in the Franchise Agreement.



Members requested an update on the process of developing a recommendation for the Board of County Commissioners on the Franchise Agreement and what happens after June if the BCC decides to leave the FA.

Adrienne Donner said that WCEMS is gathering information from stakeholders, assessing if there are 911 transport agencies who would respond to an RFP if one was opened. Concern has been voiced by partners that after 2 years of COVID, agencies may not be in a place to expand/reply to an RFP.

If the BCC chooses to leave the FA and go out for RFP, the current FA stays in place with MWA providing same level services through current 18-month period which ends June 2023.

Members asked questions about how we can address metric and system changes if no RFP.

Adrienne Donner under normal conditions if we do work within the EMS Alliance, where MWA is actively at the table, that end in needed change to metrics that are in the FA, the County would negotiate that change with MWA.

Marni Kuyl asked for more details about the metric or system changes of interest.

Members listed a few items:

- metrics that are more clinical
- structure that moves EMS Alliance from advisory to a position of more authority in the system

Discussion about other jurisdictions that have an "EMS Authority" was had. Marni stated that the authority is granted to the county and the BCC. Discussion about working with the BCC to see EMS Alliance as the SMEs who will develop recommendations for final approval by the BCC or similar structure that allows the EMS Alliance to have the authority to make the system changes needed.

Adrienne said Fitch was making recommendation about metrics and that work would be taken into consideration for the FA or the RFP. These are the options that she sees:

- significant change to the FA to address current issues, recommendations by Fitch and system needs
- go out to RFP but this is only an option if there are transport agencies out there who will apply

Members talked about looking at different models. The opinion was voiced that with the level of changes needed in FA to make the system work well the only option was to go out to RFP. The current FA would be a barrier.

This is not an indictment of the private provider, MWA, rather an indictment of the system and a clean slate provides us with the most latitude to make necessary improvements. We can include all the things the system needs to function well in an RFP from the start and then whomever applies knows what the expectations are.

MWA is welcome to apply and if they are chosen it will be with a clean slate of expectations and a new FA.

In closing group decided:

- to bring conversation back to the March EMS Alliance meeting with more information about proposed system changes and a formal recommendation for the Board of County Commissioners.
- pull Tim into conversations about structure changes with the EMS Alliance
- pull together another special meeting to discuss structure change options

Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Adrienne Donner and Tim Case