



Newsletter

October 6, 2017 Volume 1, Issue 1

What's Going on in Helena?

Summaries of State 911 Meetings

After the legislature passed HB 61, which APCO supported, the real work has now begun. Most of the hard labor is going on in two subcommittees of the 911 Advisory Council: The Statewide Plan/GIS Subcommittee and the Administrative Rule Making Subcommittee. The September Advisory Council meeting was a report on the work of the subcommittees. Are you interested in attending the subcommittees either in person or via conference call? These meetings are public, yet please be mindful that you are a guest and not a voting member of the committee. The schedules of the meetings and the members of the subcommittees can be found [here](#). Also note that the agendas for the meetings are posted on the main Programs page for the Public Safety Communications Bureau located [here](#).

Statewide Plan/GIS Subcommittee Summary

The goal of this subcommittee is to develop procurement documents to hire a consultant to develop a statewide 911 and GIS plan that we can follow to achieve NexGen911. This is a huge undertaking and once the contractor is hired, PSAPs should be prepared to provide information or attend regional meetings when requested. For now, the subcommittee is concentrating on a couple of high priority items. First, satisfying the State's procurement process and second, developing a statement of work (SOW) for the procurement documents.

The subcommittee discussed hiring a consultant off the State contract. Two methods of procurement were discussed: release an RFP for a nationwide search; or use a Contractor Engagement Proposal (CPE) which would only target the 101 vendors on the State Master Contract for IT services. The members of the subcommittee agreed to use the CPE mainly for two reasons. First, the CPE process takes one month rather than a minimum of three months; and we have two very qualified vendors on the State Master Contract in Mission Critical Partners (MCP) and Federal Engineering (which merged with LR Kimball).

The main objectives for the consultant which will be outlined in the SOW are:

1. A comprehensive PSAP equipment inventory of hardware and software.
2. A comprehensive GIS equipment inventory of hardware and software.
3. A GIS data assessment.
4. A network diagram and inventory of the network hardware.
5. A statewide standards recommendation to determine a standard level of service for PSAPs.
6. A prioritization list: technological roadmap to get everyone to the same level of service at the same time if possible (keeping grants in mind as a funding source).
7. An estimate of costs for PSAP and GIS updates according to the prioritization list.

Chris Lounsbury is the Chairman of this subcommittee so APCO members can direct any questions to him if needed. Other APCO members on the subcommittee include Brian Chernish, Zach Slattery, and Wing Spooner.

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First Edition!

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Montana APCO Newsletter. With all that is going on around the State of Montana, many APCO members believed it was time for an official newsletter.

This newsletter will likely come out quarterly with the possibility of special editions in between if warranted.

Let us know what you think! You can contact any members of the Executive Committee, or contact Editor Kerry O'Connell directly at kerry.oconnell@theaegisarray.com.

Elections Happening Now!

Ballots went out and most were received this week. Make sure you get your ballot mailed by October 23rd or it won't be counted! It is wonderful to see so many names on the ballot. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to run and to all of you who nominated them. If you haven't received your ballot yet, contact Peggy Glass at pglass@livingstonmontana.org.

Results will be posted 1-2 weeks after the closing date. Don't delay! Your vote counts!

Conference Committee Update

Many were disappointed that we decided against having a conference in 2017. The decision of our Executive Committee was based on the likelihood that a conference put together too quickly would be of a lower quality. This would offer less value to our members who attend and also to our vendors who support us. With that in mind, we have started planning for a conference which will take place in Bozeman in October of 2018. We should be able to confirm the dates in the next week or two. Chances are excellent that the conference will be held the week of October 15, 2018. The pre-conference training may include an active shooter class or one of several valuable classes offered by Cheryl Greathouse who is the former president of APCO International. We are also working on a keynote speaker who would appeal to members of law enforcement and fire. Stay tuned for the committee's planning progress. We will send out a save-the-date announcement soon. Current members of the committee are Susan Bomstad, Michele Blais, Christy Eichenlaub, Heather Hopkins, Wing Spooner, Dorothy Gremaux and Kerry O'Connell. If you are interested in helping to make the 2018 Montana APCO Conference the best one yet, please let Chris Lounsbury know. We can always use more help!

What's Going on in Helena? (continued)

911 Administrative Rule Making Subcommittee (ARM) Summary

The goal of this subcommittee is to develop draft administrative rules to present to the 911 Advisory Council in January or February of 2018. The Council would then send a draft to the Secretary of State's office (possibly in April) to start the formal rule-making process which includes formal hearings and the opportunity for public comment.

This subcommittee has many challenges and at their first meeting started to discuss items such as:

- Who is eligible to receive 911 funds/defining "eligible recipient." (At the September 21st Advisory Council it was noted that Tribes who have PSAPs will need to enter into inter-local agreements with Counties to receive these funds.)
- Defining a PSAP (ensuring that no language in the rules discourages consolidation of PSAPs)

Many more meetings will take place before the end of the year. Remember that the schedule can be found [here](#). Geoff Feiss is the Chairman of this subcommittee and APCO members who are participating include Adriane Beck, Kimberly Burdick, Liz Brooks, and Wing Spooner.

Billings City-County 911 Center Breaking New Ground

In this edition of the Montana APCO Newsletter, we are highlighting the Billings City-County 911 Center which serves Yellowstone County. Director Anne Kindness says that their biggest project is now underway. They broke ground on July 31st for a \$6 million facility replacement project. The new 911 center will be located across the street from the current center which not only means that 911 staff can watch the progress firsthand, but also that it will be easier to relocate the current infrastructure. Ease of moving equipment and other infrastructure also translates into cost savings.

The new facility will be 9,100 square feet or triple the size of the current facility and will initially be equipped with 12 dispatch positions. The dispatch staff will enjoy the enhancements of a dedicated kitchen/living room area, a conference room, exercise room, showers, and dormitory sleep rooms that will double as quiet rooms.

Anne reports that Billings is accomplishing this project through a decade and a half of frugality as they channeled no less than 25% of their 911 funds into a building reserve account. No mill levies or special assessments were required to accomplish the goal of a new communications facility. The result of this long-term sacrifice will be an expanded modern facility that will serve and support Yellowstone County residents and responders well into the future. "We've been planning for this for a very long time," Anne says, "and sometimes we can't believe that construction has finally begun."