



**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
**June 5, 2024 at 06:00 pm (Note special earlier start)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88258295793?pwd=14IR7jELAT6veCUIvBbrT1tCQi7OZT.1>

Meeting ID: 882 5829 5793

Passcode: 585534

1. Call to order  
Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.  
Members present: Craig Hange, David Hoos, Rita Crawford, Mary Bastian, Jackie Vaughn, Jeff Olinger  
Guest: Bob Hess
2. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of May 1, 2024  
(The March 27 meeting was canceled at the last minute, due to technological difficulties. The May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 meeting went 'off-agenda' We had extensive discussion about the linkage of equipment and the condition of the repeaters.)
3. Discussion items:
  - a. Old Business:
    - i. SafetyNet Controller sign-up for May – October is available on the web-site  
Need SafetyNet Controller on repeater #2 for next week. Craig will announce tonight on Net.
    - ii. ~~Spring TOP workshop~~ completed - Craig will write something up about it
    - iii. Linking repeaters update (The purpose of the extended meeting)  
Background: Bob Hess [El Dorado County group] is here at the meeting to offer his expertise. He has a non-internet solution to propose. LNRW member Jeff is also here to offer expertise & assistance. Jackie wrote the grant to fund the repeater project and needs information for the grantor. (Funding cycle ends in September.)  
What El Dorado Co. currently uses: EDC decided 5 years ago when they started up, that they would NOT use internet. Internet goes down in disasters, and it did in Caldor Fire. They currently use microwave links & line of sight with converter boxes on each side. They also use radio links, but those are difficult to use on GMRS band, need proper antenna placement & filters. They are in process of moving their system to commercial channels.  
Joe's original plan for linking repeaters: Use Raspberry Pi and internet.  
Bob's recommendation: Bob has talked with Joe about our current setup & Joe's linking plan, and he has checked out our coverage maps. He says that if we went microwave, it would require a 3rd repeater site. Also, looking at our path profile, it seems virtually impossible to link using microwave. Lockwood #2 is really in a hole compared to L#1,

(but the sites do compliment each other well). If we wanted to stay on GMRS, finding a midpoint that can "see" both L#1 & L#2 would really help, but that signal would have to be rock-solid. A possible AWA site was briefly discussed, but apparently Joe has already checked it out and it is not a good site. Jackie mentioned the Ryans at daffodil hill as another possible site. Also, Jeff lives near Ernie and is putting up a 40 ft tower. He can talk between sites at his place. Bob recommends moving to commercial channels, and that if we set up a system that relies on internet, we'd probably regret it.

Details about using commercial channels:

\*No need for users to get licenses.

\*We'd need to make sure we are using Kenwood radios or Tate 8200. Not all radios will work on commercial.

\*Going commercial means no more GMRS, but it does offer more possibilities for linking.

\*If we need to upgrade repeaters to accommodate commercial, EDC's non-profit could hook us up with some recent model repeaters.

\*Approximate costs: License L#1 \$400; License L#2 \$400; Link \$200; FCC/Coordination fees \$1000; Link Radios (2ea@\$100) \$200; Controller L#1 \$300; Controller L#2 \$300; Yagi antennas (2ea@\$100) \$200; Racks can be donated by EDC, or by Jeff (he has a 4-ft & 8-ft to donate. Also need mouse-proof enclosures.

Details about setting up a commercial system: Jackie looked up the model of repeaters we currently have, and it looks like we'd need external controllers for those. The 1225 would need to be replaced, and EDC has a better repeater they could donate to us. (EDC has taken all their 1225's out of service.)

Other concerns addressed:

\*Lockwood #2, the site may become under jurisdiction of AFPD. Also there may be a 5G cell tower going in 300 ft away, would there be interference with our current system, or with the NEW equipment being discussed? – Not a problem with either.

\*Lockwood #2 has frequent interference from other users, would this happen on commercial channels? – No, there is coordination that protects you from interference.

\*If we went commercial, would we be able to communicate with Fiddletown? – Only if Fiddletown also went commercial. Commercial cannot be linked to GMRS. EDC is going commercial, not sure what Fiddletown is planning.

\*Would coverage area change with commercial? – Coverage will be the same, but without interference.

\*Possibly move the L#1 tower, it's on a tree.

\*How to move forward for commercial (expertise, labor, etc): – Bob said he can do the tech stuff and will not charge for it. He'd need help with installation. Jeff said he would be the "new Joe" (THANK YOU JEFF!!) and he would work with Bob on the linking project. Lee Gravesen has also said he'd help with the project. As far as timing, it is important to schedule the change in winter (not fire season). It is a big undertaking that requires a lot of time.

\*Bob also offered his opinion on the structure of Neighborhood Radio groups in general. He likes the model of multiple small radio groups with a single non-profit acting as an umbrella. It gives autonomy to the groups, while offering a more solid structure for funding. He also likes that the smaller groups can very easily be tied together when an emergency does occur.

\*Committee for repeated linkage is formed - Jeff, Lee, Craig & Jackie. Anyone else who would like to join is very welcome to. Bob can be contacted for questions, maps, etc.

To-do's:

*\*Jeff, please send your home coordinates to Bob.*

*\*Bob will work up a cost spreadsheet for us.*

*\*Bob would like to visit our repeaters. Jackie will set that up.*

*\*Craig will talk to Lee to see if he'll be the project manager for the linking project. If not, Craig will take charge.*

*\*Jackie will update Amador Community Foundation on what we've talked about, and that we're actively working on it.*

*\*Committee will meet on June 20 via Zoom and will report to the Core Group at the July 3rd meeting.*

*\*Decision to make - are we going to stick with GMRS, or move to something else?*

b. New Business:

i. LNRW options going forward - to be discussed by the Committee, with report to be made to the Core Group on July 3.

ii.

4. Treasurer's Report: no changes, same as last month

a. Revenue:

b. Expenditures:

c. Total Funds Available:

d. Discussion:

e. Applications for Grants:

5. Marketing Report:

6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting: July 3, 2024