

Item #4 – iPads for Board members and Staff

Several board members asked that this item be placed on the agenda. There was a discussion by the Board of Directors in 2013 to find an avenue for displaying background materials for permit and board meetings without having to hand deliver packets to board members.

District staff worked with Jeff Skelton to develop a secure portal held within the District website accessible to board members. The portal became operational before the February 12, 2015 board meeting. The “File Browser” holds all pertinent materials for board, permit, and subcommittee meetings. It also archives all materials from previous meetings for ready access at any time.

An extension of this portal is the use of iPads by board members during any meeting. The materials can be accessed by:

- Connecting to any WiFi network and downloading current files to the iPad prior to the meeting.
- Connecting to District WiFi network and accessing the files during the meeting.
- Connecting to District WiFi network with files previously downloaded. Materials from previous meetings will be immediately accessible to review if questions arise.

Having talked extensively with Jeff, there appear to be two appropriate options:

- 1. iPad Air (16 GB) with radio receivers with no purchase of cellular service.**
The iPads would connect via any accessible WiFi network allowing the user to view and download information.
 - Cost: \$400/unit or less
- 2. iPad Air (16 GB) with radio receivers and purchase of cellular service.** The iPads would connect via any accessible WiFi network or internet connection allowing the user to view and download information.
 - Cost: \$430/unit
 - Cellular service: Approximately \$30/unit/month

There could be a need for as many as nine (9) iPads if all board members and staff received one. We already have one Carlos will use for field data collection. Some board members may opt to use their own iPads, tablets, or laptops.

Protective cases are also recommended. Cases that adapt for easy table top viewing can likely be purchased for about \$30/case.

It is the recommendation by the General Manager to purchase up to nine (9) iPads with radio receivers, protective cases, but without cellular service for use by board members and District staff.