



**Dave Freudenthal**  
Governor

**Steve DeCecco**  
Chairman

# State of Wyoming

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## Public Safety Communications Commission

**Meeting December 12, 2006**  
**Casper College**  
**Casper, WY**

### Minutes

Chairman Steve DeCecco called the Public Safety Communications Commission meeting to order at 10:00 am on December 12, 2006. Chairman DeCecco welcomed those in attendance. Introduction of members and guests.

#### **Roll taken and members in attendance:**

Steve DeCecco – Game and Fish  
Lanny Applegate – Wyoming Fire Marshal  
Mark Joiner – Federal Agencies  
Doug Noseep – Tribal  
Mark Harshman – Wyoming Fire Chief's Association  
Jerry Kennedy – County Government  
Neal Kourbelas – Municipal Government  
Sam Powell – WyDOT  
Jimmy Siler – Wyoming Livestock Board  
Bill Westerfield – State Parks and Cultural Resources  
Billy Janes – Police Chief's Association - Phone  
Robert Wyatt - Public at Large  
Earl Atwood – Executive Director PSCC

#### **Members absent:**

Robert Dean – Department of Health (excused)  
Kebin Haller – DCI (excused)  
Kim Lee – Office of Homeland Security (excused)  
Russell Christiansen – WAEMSA

#### **Others in attendance:**

Robert Symons – PSCC Administrative Support  
Tim Hibbard – WyDOT  
Robert Wilson - WyDOT  
Tom Mahon – WyoLink Project Manager  
Martin McCoy – WyoLink  
Larry Sheridan – WyDOT  
Bill Fleming – Motorola  
William Walter – FBI

Gary Caprioglio - Motorola  
Ed Lofland – Collins Communications  
Kent Drummond – WyoLink Project Team  
Dave Adsit – Gillette Police Department  
Edward Lake – Saratoga Police Dept.  
Margaret Spearman – Motorola  
Glen Crumpton – Laramie County Sheriff’s Office  
Jim Archerd – Wyoming Homeland Security  
Stephanie Painter – Ryan Electronics  
Greg Ryan – Ryan Electronics  
Mike Moore – Casper Police Dept  
Steve Stone – Relm BK Radio  
John Lawson – Bureau of Reclamation  
Greg Zabel – Carbon County EMA  
Lauri Wempen – Fremont County EMS  
Anthony Juarez – Bureau of Reclamation  
Giouvanni Gomez - Bureau of Reclamation

**Special Guests**

Hord Tipton – Department of the Interior – Chief Information Officer  
Chris Lewis – Department of the Interior

**Proposed Agenda – Changes, Deletions, and Approval:**

The proposed agenda was reviewed. Hearing no additions or deletions the proposed agenda was approved.

**Minutes from September 26, 2006 and November 17, 2006**

The draft Minutes from the September 26, 2006 and November 17, 2006 meeting were reviewed. **Commissioner Lanny Applegate made a motion to approve the September 26, 2006 minutes and Commissioner Bob Wyatt seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Commissioner Bill Westerfield made a motion to approve the November 16, 2006 minutes and Commissioner Jerry Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote.**

**Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of the Interior**

Robert Symons provided a background on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of the Interior. The PSCC and the Department of the Interior has been working since May on developing a MOU for the sharing of federal spectrum for the WyoLink project. This MOU will allow for the WyoLink Project to use federal spectrum provided by the Department of the Interior. Robert Symons introduced Hord Tipton the Chief Information Officer for the U.S. Department of the Interior and Chris Lewis, Public Safety Communications Manager for the Department of the Interior.

The memorandum of Understanding was signed by Hord Tipton and Steve DeCecco.

Mr. Tipton stated that interoperability is very important to the Department of the Interior and to better manage the ability to talk with each other - federal, state and local agencies. The sharing of federal spectrum is a key element in helping provide the interoperability.

Chris Lewis stated that the Department of the Interior takes the signing of these agreements seriously and the agreements are framed and put on display at the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington, DC.

Chairman DeCecco recessed the meeting for 5 minutes to allow the news media time to ask questions to the Department of the Interior and the PSCC chairman.

### **Recognition of New Member**

Doug Noseep, Tribal Representative, was recognized and welcomed as a new commissioner. Doug is the Chief of Police for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Fort Washakie.

### **Working Group Reports**

#### WyoLink Operations Work Group – Commissioner Kennedy

The WyoLink Operations work group met on October 30, 2006 in Cheyenne with the Laramie County Sheriff, Cheyenne Police Department and Cheyenne Fire Department. The work group reviewed the Cheyenne request for portable radio coverage in Area D. The costs for the coverage area could be up to \$5 million. Commissioner stated that the WyoLink budget does not have the funds to provide that level of coverage. Motorola has been requested to provide options and costs for providing enhanced portable radio coverage. The engineering report is not expected until after January 1, 2007. In the Project Meeting notes of November 27 it states “there are a number of issues around this that will postpone action on the issue. This issue will be resolved with the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County, no longer an active project issue” “action – cancel”. Commissioner Kennedy stated that the cancel action did not come from the WyoLink Operations Work Group and he felt that there are other items that should have appeared in front of the Operations Work Group. It is Commissioner Kennedy’s opinion that the Pilot project needs to be completed including the low level site. Commissioner Kourbelas asked for clarification on the costs for the portable radio coverage and what is the portable radio coverage they expect. Commissioner Kennedy stated that the budget does not have the funds to provide every city with portable radio coverage that they want, which may be different that what is achievable. Marty McCoy will be working on checking for possible radio sites in Cheyenne and provide some testing on those sites. *Commissioner Kennedy’s report is attached for reference.*

#### Spectrum Work Group and Federal Representative Report – Mark Joiner

Commissioner Joiner participated in the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) meeting this morning (12-12-06) via phone conference call. The FPIC has released a draft “Interoperable Assistance Work Plan for the State of Wyoming”. There was some discussion on the revised plan.

Bob Symons and Commissioner Joiner attended the Midwestern Interoperability Summit October 26-27, 2006 in Chicago. Eleven states attended this summit and gave a brief presentation on what the states were doing to improve interoperability. Three of Wyoming's bordering states attended this summit – Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Montana and South Dakota either have or working on developing VHF trunking systems and Nebraska is leaning toward using 800 MHz frequencies for handhelds and VHF for mobile radios. Nebraska is trying to coordinate the use of existing frequencies using a regional approach.

Commissioner Joiner stated that the 700 MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees met in Casper on November 13, 2006. The draft 700 MHz plan was given to the Commissioners. The plan needs to be reviewed and comments sent back to Commissioner Joiner. Mark Joiner was elected Chairman of the 700 MHz RPC, Bob Symons the Vice Chairman and Bill Fleming the Secretary.

WyDOT has made a request to see if the Spectrum Work Group could get a copy of the frequencies issued to the Civil Air Patrol. The frequencies have been received and were forwarded to WyDOT. *Commissioner Joiner's report is attached for reference. The 700 MHz plan is available on the PSCC website under the spectrum work group at <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>.*

#### SALECS Work Group – Commissioner Westerfield

The SALECS Work Group has not met and the 2006 SALECS statistics through October were included in the meeting package. *The SALECS 2006 Statistics through October are attached to the minutes for reference.*

#### Interoperability Executive Committee – Billy Janes

The Interoperability Executive Committee did not meet. The committee will be meeting in January.

#### Executive Committee and Administrative and Funding – Commissioner DeCecco

The Executive has met twice by phone conference call to review the rules and work on getting the rules ready for adoption. Chairman DeCecco asked Bob Symons to provide a quick overview of the rules comments. Another project completed by the Executive Committee was the Annual Report to the Governor. The other items reviewed by the Executive Committee were the grants to dispatch centers and the WyoLink Phase 4 construction, which will be discussed in Old Business later in the meeting. *The Annul Report to the Governor is available on the PSCC website under Commission News at <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>*

#### Executive Director's Report – Earl Atwood

Mr. Atwood reported on a couple of items, Sheriff Mattis has resigned from the Commission as he will not longer by a Sheriff. The Sheriff's Association has submitted a name to the Governor's Office for appointment. The budget for the PSCC and Mr. Atwood has no issues of concerns with the expenditures.

### Administrative Support Report – Bob Symons

Mr. Symons also reported on the Midwestern Interoperability Summit and the travel costs and summit costs were provided by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center. This was a good opportunity to network with other states and there may be an opportunity to attend a western summit in the future.

The PSCC web site has been upgraded in the past couple of weeks and is currently up-to-date. After the action today on the work group structures, the organizational chart and work group web pages will be changed.

Bob Symons will be attending the Motorola Factory Staging December 18 – 21, 2006 for the factory staging of the WyDOT console, Zone 2 controller and some radio sites. Also attending from WyDOT will be Marty McCoy, Kent Drummond, Larry Sheridan and Patty Bauer. Dan Perko will also be attending.

### WyoLink Project Manager's Report – Tom Mahon

Motorola has completed the engineering of the WyoLink frequency plan and it was delivered on December 11, 2006. All of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) frequency pools have been included in the planning process. Application documents are being developed. Some risks are still associated with the frequency plan and licensing. Waivers will be necessary for using frequencies within the pools outside of public safety. Another risk is from the review by the frequency coordinators.

Work on the installation of the Casper Zone Controller and upgrade of the Cheyenne zone controller is progressing on schedule. The installation of the Casper building should be completed by the first of the year with the installation of the radio equipment by the end of February 2007.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 equipment installations and site construction are progressing. There have been a couple of issues on some of the towers due to the structural engineering and antenna installation.

Site Acquisition is moving forward for the remaining Phase 4 and Phase 5 sites. Monthly status meetings are being held on site acquisition. *A copy of Tom Mahon's report and map is attached to the minutes for reference.*

### WyoLink Support Managers Report – Martin McCoy

Martin McCoy introduces himself as the new WyoLink Support Manager. Mr. McCoy was with the WyDOT Telecom as the Microwave Operations and Lead Specialist. The WyoLink office has been moved to the basement of the WyDOT Planning Building. Marty introduced Mark Coler as the new WyoLink Network Specialist and he has a vacancy for another network specialist. Mark Coler was the WyDOT Telecom District 1 Supervisor and will be working with the system monitoring.

## **New Business**

### Phase 4 WyoLink Construction Proposal

Tom Mahon provided a summary of the Motorola proposal for the completion of the Phase 4 radio sites. The original proposal in the PSMC plan called for the construction to be completed in 2011 and the Motorola proposal for the construction of the WyoLink system during contract negotiations called for the construction to be completed in 2007. The Motorola proposal would have Motorola complete the radio site civil construction instead of WyDOT completing that work and have the Phase 4 construction completed in 2007.

Tim Hibbard, Assistant Chief Engineer for Engineering for WyDOT, reviewed the risks associated with the construction of Phase 4. WyDOT is currently the contract administrator with Motorola and is providing the civil construction work for site development. Currently WyDOT is realizing a 30% reduction in employees in the Telecom program. Mr. Hibbard does not see any relief in the very near future to fill the vacant slots. The WyDOT fear is that they may not be able to complete the project with the current number of employees. The employees that WyDOT Telecom has are doing an excellent job and accomplishing more than expected, but with some of the future projects that WyDOT is obligated to complete, the work load will become even more aggressive. The Motorola option is very timely and does the PSCC feel that it is in the best interest of the WyoLink project to accept their offer. The Motorola option will cost more than the current WyDOT work plan, but will reduce the time to complete the project and reduce the risk to WyDOT. Although this option has a higher cost, it is within the current WyoLink budget and will not require having to ask the legislature for more funding. Having the project completed in 2007 will be a boast to the project and in the best interest of the state. Part of the costs for the Motorola option will be from the \$2 million credit that was part of the original contract with Motorola for the sales of end user equipment over \$14.8 million. WyDOT recommends the PSCC consider awarding the change order to Motorola.

Commissioner Wyatt stated that having the project completed within the proposed Motorola time line and within the current budget is worth supporting. Commissioner Kennedy feels that keeping the WyoLink project on schedule and completing the project with Motorola will be good for the PSCC and the project. Mr. Atwood stated that WyDOT is asking for a consensus of the Commission for the support of awarding the construction of Phase 4 radio sites to Motorola. It is difficult to know what the actual cost will be for WyDOT to construct phase 4 and their construction costs may rise and reduce the cost difference between the proposal and the current contract. Commissioner Janes feels it is important to keep on schedule. Commissioner Westerfield felt we need to keep a perspective on the whole project including low level sites for portable radio coverage.. A Commission resolution in support of the WyDOT recommendation of awarding the WyoLink Phase 4 civil construction to Motorola would be appropriate if the Commission so desired.

WyDOT will be making the decision on the change order and then Mr. Hibbard would be informing the Wyoming Transportation Commission. This would add credibility to the decision and show that there was discussion on the decision and it was made using the best information that was available at the time of the decision. **Commissioner Wyatt made a motion to have the Executive Committee create a document in support of the WyDOT recommendation to**

**accept the proposal from Motorola for the completion of WyoLink Phase 4 construction. Commissioner Joiner seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Commission.** *Copy of Tom Mahon's report on the Motorola proposal for WyoLink Phase 4 Construction is attached for reference.*

### **Public Comments**

William Walter of the FBI stated that the FBI has been using the WyoLink pilot phase and that Mr. Kent Drummond has been very helpful in setting up the FBI radios. Mr. Walter presented Mr. Drummond a letter from the FBI director thanking him for his assistance, a plaque and provided Mr. Drummond a Wyoming FBI cap. Chairman DeCecco also thanked Mr. Drummond for his work.

Captain Jeff Shultz of the Cheyenne Police Department stated his concern on the current progress on solving the portable radio coverage in Cheyenne. Cheyenne is concerned that the WyoLink project will not provide an improvement in portable radio coverage over the current system and is progressing on the status quo. He is hoping that he will be reassured by the end of this meeting that there will be progress made on improving the portable radio coverage in Cheyenne.

Dave Adsit, Gillette Police Department, thanked the Commission for the decision on accepting the Motorola Phase 4 construction proposal. Gillette is trying to decide on their direction on providing coverage within Campbell County and Gillette. Mr. Adsit asked what the plan is for addressing portable radio coverage as the WyoLink system migrates across Wyoming. He also asked if there will be radio frequencies available if an area needs more than one low level site.

Chairman DeCecco stated that some of the concerns that have been raised may be discussed later in the meeting and if not a direction will be discussed on how they will be carried forward, either during the meeting or by having one of the work groups work with the interested parties. Commissioner Kennedy stated he has asked two of the Laramie County Commissioners for input and they felt that the Commission needs to do what they need to do and they will work within the framework provided.

Chairman DeCecco recessed the meeting at 11:45 for lunch.

Chairman DeCecco reconvened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

### **Old Business**

Chairman DeCecco stated that the Annual Report to the Governor was provided to the governor's Office on October 31, 2006. *A copy of the annual report is attached for reference and is available on the PSCC website. <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>*

### Working Group Appointments

A list of the current work group appointments and recommended appointments was presented to the Commission.

Executive Committee: Steve DeCecco, Bill Westerfield, Jerry Kennedy and Earl Atwood  
Administration and Funding: Steve DeCecco, Bill Westerfield, Jerry Kennedy, Kevin Hibbard, Joe Evans and Dave Johnson

WyoLink Operations Work Group: Jerry Kennedy – Chair, Sam Powell, Kim Lee, Mark Harshman Bob Wyatt, Dan Perko, Pat Byrne , Patty Bauer, Jim Archerd, Tom Mahon and Martin McCoy

Spectrum Work Group: Mark Joiner – Chairman, Russell Christiansen, Doug Noseep and Larry Sheridan

Interoperability Executive Committee: Billy Janes – Chairman, Mark Harshman, Kebin Haller, Lanny Applegate, Bob Dean, Craig Post , Dale Pawling, Jim Archerd, Tom Mahon and Martin McCoy

SALECS: William Westerfield – Chairman, Steve DeCecco, Jimmy Siler, Dick Bolin and Patty Bauer

Having no further comments on the recommended appointments, Chairman DeCecco made those appointments to the work Groups. The PSCC web page will be revised to include these appointments.

### Dispatch Center Grants

Bob Symons provided an update on the dispatch center grants that the Administrative and Funding work group approved on December 6, 2006 for \$150,000 each. The dispatch centers that were awarded grants are: Powell Police Department, Laramie County Combined Communications Center, Green River Police Department, Laramie Police Department, Gillette Police Department, Niobrara County Sheriff's Office, Douglas Police Department, Washakie County Sheriff's Office, Teton County Sheriff's Office and Converse County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Powell stated the Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch Center will be removed from the grant requests. WyDOT and The Wyoming Highway Patrol has secured the funding for their dispatch center upgrade and felt it was in the best interest of all parties not to apply for grant funding from the PSCC.

Another five (5) grants have been received since December 6, 2006. Thirty eight (38) grants are expected. The process for a second round of grants was discussed. The first round of grants has a maximum award of \$150,000. The original grant application will be used to determine second round grants. The Commission will need to decide on the selection criteria for the second round of grants. There was discussion on equal awards to all applicants that requested funding over the \$150,000 threshold, or by the number of radios served. There is \$6,450,000 available for the dispatch center grants. The deadline for the grant applications is December 31, 2006. Each dispatch center was sent a grant package and each of the County Coordinators was sent a grant package. Commissioner Kennedy stated that he has reminded the County Commissioners at every state County Commissioners meeting. Bob Symons stated that he also provide a grant update at the November Wyoming APCO convention. Earl Atwood made a suggestion to have the Administration and Funding Work Group work on developing



plans for a second round of grants. Chairman DeCecco confirmed the suggestion for the Administration and Funding Work Group and that if any Commissioner had any ideas to present them to that work group.

## **New Business**

### Larry Sheridan Report

Larry Sheridan, WyDOT Telecom provided an overview on a current initiative by WyDOT Telecom to address radio coverage in the Wind River Canyon. Radio coverage is poor in the canyon and WyDOT is looking at using low power repeaters on the state mutual aid frequency along with the national interoperability frequencies to see if they can improve the radio coverage in the canyon. This project is being funded developed by WyDOT. WyDOT thanked Roger Cox and Vernon Hill from the Wind River Indian Reservation for their assistance on helping provide locations for the low power transmission sites. This will be an intercom type system and would be available to the state, tribal, and county agencies. Commissioner Applegate thanked WyDOT for looking at developing this tool for the public safety agencies. Commissioner Noseep expressed his appreciation for looking into providing coverage in the Wind River Canyon. Mr. Mahon stated that upon the completion of the WyoLink project an enhancement could be added to the WyoLink coverage by using outdoor bi-directional antennas if this initiative is successful.

### Discussion on Public Comments

Commissioner Westerfield brought to the Commission a discussion that was held during lunch that testing is continuing on portable radio coverage in Cheyenne. Mr. Westerfield stated that it is important to keep all of the parties informed on what is happening. Earl Atwood led a discussion on providing an acceptable method of addressing the portable radio coverage. Communication with the local agencies will be key in helping understand the needs for portable radio coverage and in developing plans and solutions to providing portable radio coverage. Each area has different needs and differing solutions but it is important to have the communications with the local agencies. Commissioner Wyatt suggested using grants to help study the local public safety communications in local areas. Commissioner Powell stated that the best forum for reviewing the portable radio coverage is within the work groups. The working groups may need to meet more often to address the needs of the local agencies. The working group may provide a better environment for addressing the issues.

### Next Meeting

Discussion on where the next PSCC Meeting will be held. It was decided that the next meeting of the Public Safety Communications Commission will be held in Gillette on March 13, 2007 and Bob Symons will forward the final meeting details to the Commission as they become available.

## **General Discussion**

Bob Symons has received some correspondence between WyoLink and the City of Casper on connecting the Casper 800 MHz system into WyoLink. Having the discussion with

Casper parallel the re-banding effort is important. It was suggested that this item be given to the WyoLink Operations Work Group.

A request was made by WyoLink to have the Commission provide a letter of support for the acquisition of radio sites on federal property. It was discussed that having a cover letter from the Governor would also be helpful. Chairman DeCecco stated that the draft letter will be reviewed by the executive committee.

**Motion by Commissioner Wyatt to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Siler.  
Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons  
PSCC Staff Support

### **Action Items**

1. WyoLink Operations Work Group – Portable Radio Solutions and Costs
2. Inter-Operability Executive Committee – Handbook and Agreement
3. Dispatch Center Grants – Wireless connectivity form and letter

### **Attachments**

1. Commissioner Kennedy's WyoLink Operations Work Group Report
2. Chairman Joiner's report
3. SALECS statistics January 2006 through October 2006
4. WyoLink Project Manager's Report
5. Tom Mahon's report on the Motorola proposal for WyoLink Phase 4 construction
6. PSCC Annual Report to Governor