



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Mark Harshman
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

Meeting of September 9, 2014
Laramie Police Department and Phone Conference Call
Laramie, WY

Mark Harshman called the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Members in Attendance:

Mark Harshman — Wyoming Fire Chief's Association
Dave Johnson — Municipalities
Jim Latta — County Commissioner - Phone
Bill Westerfield — State Parks and Cultural Resources
Capt. Perry Jones – Wyoming Department of Transportation
Brian Eggleston – DCI
Billy Janes — Police Chief's Association
Mark Young — Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office
Jimmy Siler — Wyoming Livestock Board
William Walter — Federal
Jonathan Downing – Public at Large

Members Absent:

Skip Hornecker – Sheriffs– Excused
Brandon Kelley — Department of Health – Excused
Vernon Hill — Tribal - Excused
Kim Lee — Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - Excused
Steve DeCecco — Game and Fish - Excused

Others in Attendance:

Robert Symons — PSCC Administrative Support
Martin McCoy - WyoLink
Marian Schulz – Motorola
Troy Babbitt – State of Wyoming
Dave Riegert – Motorola
Robert Wilson – WYDOT
Neil Clatworthy – Motorola
Wes Chisnel – WAC
Dan Perko – State Forestry
Tim McGary – WYDOT
Cy Cass – Laramie Fire Department
Paul Newman – Motorola
Jose Crespo – Motorola

Mitchell Cushman – Laramie Police Department
Dale Stalder – Laramie Police Department
William Fleming – Wireless Advanced Communications
Scott Hannum – Rawlins Police Department
Russ Dalgarn – Converse County EMA
Dan Hawkins – DHs – Office of Emergency Communications
Murray Hill – WYDOT
Jim Archerd – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Meeting Agenda:

Chairman Harshman asked for any changes, additions, or deletions to the draft agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted

Minutes from March 20, 2014:

Chairman Harshman asked for discussion on the June 18, 2014 minutes. *Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes and the motion was seconded by Dave Johnson. The motion passed on a voice vote.*

WyoLink Operations Work Group - Brian Eggleston

The WyoLink Operations Work Group met by phone on September 8, 2014 to review the WyoLink Applications for membership includes Federal Highway Administration and Platte County school District #2. An application from Converse County for a portable enhancement site in Glenrock was also discussed. Converse County will be building the new 800 MHz site and will have a budget addition of \$6,900 to the Software Upgrade Agreement. The WyoLink Operations Work Group approved the WyoLink Applications and is forwarding them to the PSCC for their consideration.

Administration and Funding – Mark Harshman

The Administration and Funding Work group did not meet in the past quarter.

Spectrum Work Group – William Walter

The Spectrum Work Group has not met but will be meeting during the Wyoming APCO meeting in November.

SALECS - Steve DeCecco

SALECS has not met.

Interoperability Executive Committee – Billy Janes

Billy Janes stated the Interoperability Executive Committee has nothing to report.

Broadband Work Group – Troy Babbitt

Troy Babbitt has been following the activities of the FirstNet Board and participating in the WestNet calls. The State Consultation with FirstNet has begun with Maryland. Three other states have been scheduled. Wyoming turned in the pre-consultation checklist in May.

Troy Babbitt stated he wants to work with the public safety agencies represented by the PSCC to develop a plan for presenting the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) at their meetings. Bob Symons and Troy Babbitt presented at the Wyoming Trauma Conference, along with Kevin McGinnis – FirstNet Board member, to approximately 300 attendees. This was the first conference in Wyoming to hear about the NPSBN and FirstNet.

Troy Babbitt invited the PSCC to the third Governor’s Broadband Conference at Little America on October 21, 2014. On Monday, October 20, 2014 there will be an ice breaker reception at Little America

Staff Reports - Bob Symons

Mr. Symons reported on his activities for the past three months. First, helped with the communication plan for Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) for the interoperability between CFD and Laramie County public safety agencies and the on-park communications for CFD. Attended the Carbon County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in Rawlins to answer questions about WyoLink.

The Governor has created a School Safety Program which includes communications for the schools. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security has ordered radios for the School Safety Program. The PSCC and WyoLink web pages have been updated including the vendor pricing on the equipment page.

Bob Symons and Marty McCoy have been working together to create and send out a “Tip-of-the-Month”. The tips have included the MAT and CAT talkgroup usage and how to receive updates on WyoLink using the GovDelivery system. Along with Troy Babbitt, Mr. Symons has been participating in the WestNet and State Point of Contact (SPOC) and Statewide Interoperable Coordinator (SWIC) calls with FirstNet and NTIA.

Mr. Symons has been working with the Wyoming Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)/National Emergency Number Association (NENA) on a proposed legislation for adding the pre-paid phones to the 911 surcharge. This legislation is being supported by the County Commissioners Association.

Mr. Symons has been participating in the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) Local Control Work Group, SAFECOM Technology Policy Committee and the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications – Encryption and P25 Standards.

WyoLink Support Managers Report-Marty McCoy

Marty McCoy presented the WyoLink Support Manager's Report. Sixty nine sites are operational with the three additional sites scheduled for completion in 2014 or may be delayed until spring 2015, depending on weather; White Pine in Sublette County, Signal Mountain in Teton County and Black Mountain in Idaho (which will provide coverage in the Alpine/Hoback area. WyoLink is still exploring additional sites in the Hoback/Bondurant/Alpine area.

WyoLink has completed over 2650 codeplugs in 2014 with an average wait time of 11 days. Currently there are 113 codeplugs on the schedule and the wait time is about 2 weeks.

WYDOT continues to update the coverage testing map with the testing results. Approximately 30% of the coverage testing results needs to be uploaded and the completion has been delayed until the end of 2014. Mr. McCoy encourages any agency with communication needs or issues to contact WyoLink Support Office at 307-777-9565.

WyoLink has updated the software from Version 7.11 to Version 7.15. Dispatch consoles are in the process of being updated and should be completed by the end of October. There are over 17,667 radios programmed to use WyoLink and there to date in 2014 there have been over 14 million radio calls logged on WyoLink. Due to the software upgrade the top 20 talkgroup chart is not available, but will be included in the December report.

The tower on White Pine is completed and the building is under construction by Sublette County. Hopefully this site will be completed this year. The road to White Pine was improved by Sublette County.

Mr. McCoy's report to the PSCC is attached for reference.

Old Business:

WYDOT/WyoLink Budget

Bob Symons reported on the proposed WyoLink budget for the 2015 Legislative Session includes the Console Sub-System Interface for \$430,000, which will allow for multiple vendor consoles on WyoLink. The Governor's Office note to agencies for the supplemental budget stated the supplemental budget should be for those items which are of an emergency or exceptional need.

The proposed date for updated to Version 7.16 is August 2016. The Gold Elite Consoles will need to be updated before the update to Version 7.16. The update to Version 7.16 could be delayed for a short period of time before degradation of the system occurs, to allow for the completion of the console update. The WyoLink exception budget request will include a cost share for the dispatch console replacement. There are no guarantees the legislature will fund the console updates. **A motion was made by Bill Westerfield to send a letter to all Gold Elite console users stating the need for console replacement and the proposed schedule. The motion was seconded by Brian Eggleston and passed on a voice vote.**

Teton County

Teton County has sent an email to Martin McCoy about the concerns they have on the development of sites in Teton County. Mr. McCoy will be changing the format of the WyoLink Status meeting to assist in identifying the actions taken during the past month. Mr. McCoy will be sending a reply to Teton County. It was suggested the minutes include status and action items to further clarify what has happened. The WyoLink Status Meeting Agenda is sent to the PSCC and County Commissioners and the agenda includes the phone conference number for the status meeting.

New Business

Approval of WyoLink Application

The applications received include: Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and Platte County School District #2. **Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the WyoLink applications for Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and Platte County School District #2. William Walter seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

Approval of WyoLink Application for New Connection

Converse County/Glenrock submitted an Application for New Connection to WyoLink for an enhancement site in Glenrock. Converse County will be building the 800 MHz site to enhance coverage in Glenrock. The additional cost to the WyoLink budget for the Software Upgrade would be \$6,900. **Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the Converse County Application for new Connection to WyoLink. Bill Westerfield seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

Wyoming Communication Field Operations Guide

Bob Symons submitted a request to print 300 Wyoming Communications Field Operations Guide for \$1139.13. The Wyoming Field Operations Guide is a pocket sized spiral bound guide of the Wyoming Interoperability plan including the interoperable conventional channels and WyoLink talkgroups.

Bob Symons will contact the WYDOT printing shop for a printing proposal. The lower proposal will be used. **Bill Westerfield made a motion to approve the printing of the Wyoming Communications Field Operations Guide. The motion was seconded by Dave Johnson and passed on a voice vote.**

PSCC Strategic Plan – Statewide Interoperable Communication Plan (SCIP)

The original Wyoming Statewide Communications Interoperable (SCIP) Plan was developed in 2007. The Department of Homeland Security – Office of Emergency Communications has created an electronic framework for a revised plan. The Interoperability Continuum identifies five critical success elements that must be addresses to achieve an interoperable communications solution.

1. Governance

2. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
3. Technology – split between land mobile radio and data
4. Training and Exercises
5. Usage

The plan includes goals for each of the lines of the Interoperability Continuum. The goal for governance will explain the direction of the governing body (PSCC) and its membership. The SOP section identifies the framework and process for developing and managing SOPs. The technology section outlines the State's plan to maintain and upgrade existing technology and implement new and emerging technology solutions. Ensuring public safety personnel are and remain familiar with interoperable and emergency communications equipment and procedures is included in the Training and Exercise section of the SCIP. Transitioning to daily use of communication systems is within the Usage section. Goals will also need to be created for Outreach and information Sharing and Life Cycle Funding.

Discussion on the Annual Report to the Governor. Bob Symons will create a working draft of the goals and the annual report to the Governor. The draft will then be sent to the PSCC for their review and comments. The annual report to the Governor must be delivered on or before October 31.

General Discussion

Work Group Assignments

Bob Symons led a discussion on the PSCC Work Groups and their membership. Mr. Symons will prepare a summary of the work groups for the PSCC and the Commissioners will let Chairman Harshman know their intentions for serving on the work groups.

Next Meeting

Bob Symons will work with the Executive Committee to plan the December 2014 PSCC meeting in Cheyenne. Suggested dates are the week of December 8th. The December meeting will include a demonstration of the Uberconference video and audio conferencing.

Comments for the Public

Cy Cass, Laramie Fire Department, spoke about some of the gaps in coverage in southern Albany County. Cy would like to have more testing completed and planning for a potential new site. Martin McCoy stated he will review the coverage testing results. If the testing information is incomplete, then additional bit error rate testing and can you hear me now testing. Mr. McCoy will have test results by the December meeting.

Dan Perko, WY State Forestry Division, commented he had some concerns with the discussion of console replacement and the Vision and Mission of the PSCC as stated at the meeting. His concern with the console upgrade was linked to the affect on interoperability communications. The WyoLink System has back-ups or redundancies at sites and the controllers. It also goes into site trunking if a site loses connection to the system to continue to provide local communications. An end user relies heavily on their dispatch center, and at times other dispatch operations for information and

assistance, often related to their safety. All sites do not have direct connectivity to a dispatch center, so they rely on the System for connectivity. If some dispatch operations do not/cannot upgrade and they leave the WyoLink System, it will have the effect of reducing coverage to and from a dispatch center by creating additional holes or gaps in user coverage to a dispatch center. This should be a consideration in the console upgrade decision.

A lot of focus has been on cost, but little if any has been to evaluate the savings, and system function and efficiencies to users. Some considerations he noted were the decision to use VHF as the main backbone since it provides greater coverage range per repeater site (cost savings) over 700 or 800 MHz systems. Also, because nearly all public safety radio users at the time of the decision to select VHF were VHF users, and another spectrum band would have also eliminated backward compatibility to all other users (loss of instant interoperability).

Perko said he believes anything we do that limits or reduces interoperability is contrary to the Vision and Goal of the PSCC.

Being no further business, Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons
PSCC Administrative Support

Attachments

1. WyoLink Support Manager's report to the PSCC

Action Items

1. Governor's Broadband Conference – October 21, 2014
2. Letter to Gold Elite console users pertaining to WyoLink proposed schedule
3. Work Group Appointments
4. Printing WY-Communication Field Operation Guide
5. Annual Report to the Governor – Due October 31, 2014
6. Statewide Communication Interoperable Plan