



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Mark Harshman
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

Meeting of
March 11, 2015
Teton County Commissioners Chambers
Jackson, WY

Mark Harshman called the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call and Members in Attendance:

Mark Harshman — Wyoming Fire Chief's Association
Jim Latta — Wyoming County Commissioner Association
Bill Westerfield — State Parks and Cultural Resources
Capt. Perry Jones – Wyoming Department of Transportation - Phone
Brian Eggleston – DCI
Dwane Pacheco — Police Chief's Association
Jimmy Siler — Wyoming Livestock Board
William Walter — Federal
Jonathan Downing – Public at Large
Skip Hornecker – Sheriffs
Brandon Kelley — Department of Health
Steve DeCecco — Game and Fish – Phone
David Gier – EMS - Phone

Members Absent:

Mark Young — Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office -Excused
Vernon Hill — Tribal - Excused
Kim Lee — Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - Excused

Others in Attendance:

Robert Symons — PSCC Administrative Support
Martin McCoy - WyoLink
Troy Babbitt – State of Wyoming - Phone
Carl Freeman – Fremont County Sheriff's Office
Dave Riegert – Motorola
Jose Crespo – Motorola
Wayne Peterson – Motorola
Jerry Glasscock – Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office
Rich Ochs – Teton County EMA
Russ Dalgarn – Converse County EMA
Kent Connelly – Lincoln County Commissioner
Leah Lassige – ComTech

Robert King – Lincoln County Commissioner
Ralph Knepper – Jackson Hole Airport
Steve Jenper – Jackson Hole Airport
Paul Newman – Motorola
Aaron Clark – Clark Wireless
Paul Vogelheim – Teton County Commissioner
Smokey Rhea – Teton County Commissioner
Bill Jepsen – Teton County
Jessica King – Teton County Search & Rescue
Alyssa Watkins – Teton County
Tim Ciocarlon – Teton County Search & Resuce
Lynda Rudolph – Teton County
Slade Ross – Teton County Sheriff's Office
Willy Watsabaugh – Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
Barbara Allen – Teton County Commissioner
Tomb Combs – Teton County Sheriff's Office
Jim Whalen – Teton County Sheriff's Office
Dale Deiter – U.S. Forest Service
Deidre Witsen – U.S. Forest Service
Terry Sherman – Teton County
Glen Crumpton – Laramie County – Phone
Lester Loving – U.S. Forest Service – Phone
Tim Gilk – National Park Service – Phone
Robin Etienne – Sweetwater Combined Communications – Phone

Chairman Harshman recognized Dwane Pacheco as the new appointed representative of the Chiefs of Police.

In Remembrance:

Chairman Harshman spoke about the passing of PSCC Commissioner Dave Johnson, Wyoming Association of Municipalities in January. Chairman Harshman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dave Johnson.

Meeting Agenda:

Chairman Harshman asked for any changes, additions, or deletions to the draft agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes from December 15, 2014:

Chairman Harshman asked for approval of the December 15, 2014 minutes. *Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the December 15, 2014 minutes and the motion was seconded by Jim Latta. The motion passed on a voice vote.*

WyoLink Operations Work Group - Brian Eggleston

The WyoLink Operations Work Group met by phone on December 12, 2014 to review the WyoLink Applications for membership includes Sublette County Unified Fire and U.S. Forest Service – Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.. The WyoLink Operations Work Group approved the WyoLink Applications and is forwarding them to the PSCC for their consideration. The work group also reviewed and approved the WyoLink application for New Connection to Laramie County for a new seven channel 800 MHz site at Archer and increase the Fox Farm site from five channels to seven channels and forward to the PSCC for consideration.

Administration and Funding – Mark Harshman

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

Spectrum Work Group – William Walter

The Spectrum Work Group met on March 2, 2015 to discuss the 800 MHz request from Laramie County for two additional channels at the Fox Farm 800 MHz site and the new seven channel 800 MHz site at Archer. The Spectrum Work Group approved the nominated channels and will be sending Colorado a concurrence request letter.

SALECS - Steve DeCecco

SALECS has not met. SALECS team at Wyoming Highway Patrol is currently going through some staff changes.

Interoperability Executive Committee – Bob Symons

The Interoperability Executive Committee has nothing to report.

Broadband Work Group – Troy Babbitt

Troy Babbitt stated the Broadband Work Group has not met, but the Wyoming FirstNet pre-consultation workshop was held on February 25, 2015. FirstNet provided information about the data collection. The data collection request has been finalized and will be presented to the States and Territories soon. FirstNet will be providing some GIS maps of the current cell coverage in Wyoming and identified site locations. Wyoming will be able to identify the fiber backhaul network, which is currently being built in Wyoming through the unified network.

Flint Waters, Wyoming CIO provided an update on the Unified Network and the potential for use on the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) during the consultation workshop. There are still many questions which need to be answered. Part of data collection will include the number of potential Wyoming users and devices on the NPSBN. Troy and Bob Symons will be working on the data collection and outreach. A sampling of potential users may be completed and used as a baseline for the number of users.

Troy Babbitt is working on the summary of the FirstNet Consultation workshop and upon completion and approval, the summary will be provided to the PSCC.

Staff Reports - Bob Symons

Mr. Symons reported his activities for the past three months was mostly based around the WyoLink Needs Survey and the development of the PSCC recommendations. Bob Symons recognized the work provided by Kevin Hibbard, State Budget and Economic Analysis Division Director along with Tegan Carter and Emily Johnson on the survey results and the development of the PSCC recommendations.

Bob Symons, and the two Wyoming Office of Homeland Security Communications Technicians, Jim Archerd and Jim Frank, assisted the Wyoming National Guard at Camp Guernsey on servicing the mobile and portable radios. After optimizing the radios, replacing antennas and replacing bad batteries, the radios greatly improved the usage on WyoLink.

Bob Symons and Dave Riegert, Motorola, assisted the Crook County Sheriff on completing the migration to WyoLink. They also stopped in Weston County to offer any assistance to the Weston County Sheriff on the migration to WyoLink in April.

Mr. Symons assisted Troy Babbitt with the FirstNet Consultation workshop and both have been participating on the WestNet conference Call. West Net is a group of State Points of Contacts and Statewide Interoperable Coordinators from the sixteen western states including Alaska and Hawaii. This group meets every two weeks by phone conference calls to discuss and assist each other on FirstNet and NPSBN activities.

The PSCC has approved the Communications Unit procedures and Mr. Symons as the Communications Unit work group held a meeting to start the process of completing the recognition of communication unit leaders and communications technicians. Mr. Symons worked on the coordination of the proposed 800 MHz channels for Laramie County.

Mr. Symons will be completing the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) snapshot and will be providing the snapshot to the PSCC for approval. Bob Symons has accepted an invitation to be a speaker at the International Wireless Communication Exposition, March 17th pertaining to Wyoming use of the Project 25 Standards on WyoLink.

WyoLink Support Managers Report-Marty McCoy

There are 70 WyoLink sites in operations with three additional sites (Black Mountain, Signal Mountain and White Pine) currently under construction with completion in 2015. Since the completion of the two additional channels at the Cheyenne Water Tank and 85 South sites, the busy rates have fallen to an insignificant busy rate by time of 0.00015%. Mr. McCoy has changed the WyoLink Usage chart to an annual chart. Mr. McCoy will continue to provide the WyoLink usage by the quarter in his future reports. The 2014 WyoLink calls were 20,870,121, WyoLink was operations 99.995% of the time and busy indications have been 0.009% by time. *Mr. McCoy's report to the PSCC is attached for reference.*

Old Business:

Wyoming Communication Field Operations Guide – WY-CFOG

Mr. Symons stated the WY-CFOG has been printed. The WY-CFOG, will be distributed to the public safety agencies through the County Coordinators.

WyoLink Needs Survey

Mr. Symons presented the WyoLink Needs Survey and PSCC recommendations through a power point presentation. The plan is for a five year plan including the fiscal years 2017/2018 and 2019/2020. This presentation will be the repeatable story on the needs for WyoLink and will be presented to the Joint Appropriations Committee and the Joint Transportation and Military Affairs Committee during the Legislature interim.

The PSCC recommendations include core towers in the Alcova, Bondurant and Northern Goshen County in BFY 2017/2018. In the BFY 2019/2020 the plan is for towers in southern Big Horn Mountains/Ten Sleep area, Northern Big Horn County and Orin Junction. The presentation includes coverage maps with the addition of the new towers.

The recommended portable enhancement towers include Rock Springs, Evanston, Jackson, Buffalo and Newcastle in BFY 2017/2018. In BFY 2019/2020 the recommendations include Sundance, Greybull, Lusk and Wright.

A question was asked about the planning on the Bondurant area of Sublette County. Mr. McCoy is working with the Forest Service and Sublette County on a potential site on Monument Ridge.

Vehicular Repeater Systems are identified for use to improve rural portable radio coverage to that coverage of mobile radios, but not as an alternative to community based portable enhancement sites. When WyoLink updates to operating version 7.16, the CentraCom Gold Elites will no longer work on WyoLink, all consoles will need to be IP based operating systems. There are 13 consoles which will need to be replaced or communicate through control stations. The console sub system interface (CSSI) is included in the WyoLink budget and Mr. Symons requests to have a technology day to prove the CSSI and multiple vendors consoles will work on WyoLink.

With the update of the WyoLink operating system to Version 7.18 (BFY 2019/2020), the Quantar Base Radios will not be supported and the base stations will need to be replaced with GTR8000 base radios. There are 346 Quantar Base Station radios which need replacement.

The next recommendation is to convert the telephone T1 line connections between consoles and WyoLink to the Wyoming Unified Network. The conversion to the Unified Network could result in significant savings over the T1 lines.

The on-going maintenance and operational costs are included in the recommendations along with requesting for the on-going costs to become part of the standard budget instead of a two year exception budget. Funding for mobile and portable radios are identified in the recommendations. Training was identified during the WyoLink Survey and the recommendations include a review and

update of the WyoLink and Interoperability training program.. Frequencies must be licensed before any additional sites can be built. The PSCC will add VHF frequency coordination and licensing to the Spectrum Work Group tasks.

The recommendation for the budgets includes \$18,775,654 for BFY 2017/2018 and \$19,973,104 for BFY 2019/2020. The recommendations are the base for the PSCC to use for providing a single, repeatable story on the needs for WyoLink. The PSCC Commissioners need to become familiar with the presentation and champions for the recommendations. The PSCC commissioners not employed by the State of Wyoming are best suited for providing the presentation to the Legislature and its committees. The Wyoming County Commissioners Association and Wyoming Association of Municipalities are key players in working with the legislature.

Which agency budget will the recommendations be added to? Kevin Hibbard, State Budget Director, stated the PSCC recommendations will be presented to the Joint Transportation Committee and the Joint Appropriations Committee. These Committees will be making the policies on the agency or agencies the budget location.

Questions were received about the background information used for the needs survey and recommendations. The Commissioners have been provided with the presentations, the recommendations and the full background. The full background information presentation may be used to help emphasize the recommendations. The PSCC Commissioners and staff will need to work together to prepare the PSCC Commissioners for all future presentations.

New Business

Approval of WyoLink Application

The applications received include: Sublette County Unified Fire and U.S. Forest Service – Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.. **Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the WyoLink applications for Sublette County Unified Fire and U.S. Forest Service – Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Jim Latta seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

Approval of WyoLink New Connections

Brian Eggleston presented the application from Laramie County for the new Archer Site and the upgrade at the Fox Farm Site. **Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the WyoLink applications for New Connections from Laramie County. Jonathan Downing seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

General Discussion

Teton County was provided an opportunity to present their concerns and comments to the PSCC. Teton County Commissioner Paul Vogelheim spoke about the frustrations with the coverage of WyoLink in Teton County. Mr Vogelheim also stated Teton County would like to work with the PSCC and WyoLink to further discuss WyoLink coverage and how Teton County might be able to

assist WyoLink with the Federal agencies and their requirements or regulations. The potential use of Pow Wow as a WyoLink site should be discussed in more detail.

The concerns with the cross scanning between a trunking talkgroup and a conventional channel and the effect on operability between Teton County agencies was presented by Rich Ochs, Teton County EMA. Using two systems is problematic. So far there have been no discussions on providing coverage by WyoLink to the Idaho side of the Tetons around the town of Alta, which is located in Teton County. Mr. Ochs also spoke about the reduction in grant funding, which directly affects the ability to purchase communications equipment.

How can Teton County help the PSCC and WyoLink? Teton County needs their concerns addressed before they can fully support WyoLink. The western side of Wyoming does not have all of the WyoLink system built-out and is lagging the rest of the state using WyoLink. Teton County has been an issue for WyoLink since the inception for many reasons including topography, Federal land ownership and leasing.

What can be done to help alleviate the Teton County concerns? A discussion between all involved parties to identify the concerns and then develop solutions was stated a good start.

Lincoln County Commissioner Kent Connolly stated the concerns on the WyoLink budget and how the western part of the state was not funded to the level required to make the WyoLink system as robust as other parts of the state.

Chairman Harshman stated the PSCC is fully aware of the concerns of the western Wyoming counties. Chairman Harshman stated he wants all of the stakeholders to have a discussion on the issues. The PSCC will be working on setting up the discussion between Teton County, Lincoln County, Sublette County, Federal agencies, WyoLink and the PSCC. WyoLink has received the permits for construction of Pow Wow, but not the funding.

Commissioner Appointments

The following PSCC Commissioner's terms will expire on June 30, 2015: Mark Harshman – Fire Chief's, William Walter – Federal, Steve DeCecco – Wyoming Game and Fish, Skip Hornecker – Sheriffs, Vernon Hill – Tribal, and Jimmy Siler – Livestock Board.

Next Meeting

Discussion on where and when to hold the next PSCC meeting. Bob Symons and Mark Harshman will work on the meeting details for the June PSCC Meeting. It is suggested the PSCC Meeting be held in the western part of the Wyoming.

Being no further business of the PSCC, Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons
PSCC Administrative Support

Attachments

1. WyoLink Support Manager's report to the PSCC

Action Items

1. Teton County, Sublette County and Lincoln County discussion on WyoLink
2. Commissioner Appointments
3. Distribution of Wyoming Communication Field Operations Guide to Counties