



**Matthew H. Mead**  
Governor

**Mark Harshman**  
Chairman

# State of Wyoming

---

## Public Safety Communications Commission

Meeting of  
September 3, 2015  
Wyoming Fire Academy  
Riverton, WY

Mark Harshman called the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission meeting to order at 10:02 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 - Phone  
Jimmy Siler — Wyoming Livestock Board - Phone  
Jonathan Downing – Public at Large - Phone  
Skip Hornecker – Sheriffs  
Brandon Kelley — Department of Health - Phone  
Kim Lee — Wyoming Office of Homeland Security  
William Walter — Federal  
David Gier – EMS - Phone  
Mike Choma — Game and Fish  
Leslie Shakespeare – Tribal  
Shelley Simonton – Wyoming Association of Municipalities

### **Members Absent:**

Mark Young — Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office

### **Others in Attendance:**

Robert Symons — PSCC Administrative Support  
Martin McCoy - WyoLink  
Troy Babbitt – State of Wyoming  
Dave Riegert – Motorola  
Jose Crespo – Motorola  
Russ Dalgarn – Converse County EMA  
Robin Etienne – Sweetwater Combined Communications - phone  
Cari Southerland – Motorola - Phone  
Craig Post – ComTech  
Blaine Jolley – Big Horn County Sheriff's Office  
Ron Salyer – Big Horn County Sheriff's Office

Carl Freeman – Fremont County Sheriff’s Office  
Justin Scott – Converse County Sheriff’s Office  
Clint Becker – Converse County Sheriff’s Office  
Russ Dalgarn – Converse County EMA  
Bruce Rouwell – Glenrock  
Wes Chisnel – Wireless Advanced Communications  
Robert Wilson – WYDOT  
Tony Tolstedt – City of Douglas  
Leroy Kingery – City of Douglas  
Chad Holler – Douglas Police Department  
Ron Casalenda – Douglas Police Department  
Kevin Hibbard – State of Wyoming – Phone  
Kebin Haller – Wyoming Highway Patrol - Phone  
Bret De Young – Yellowstone National Park - Phone  
Dale Osborne – Montana Highway Patrol - Phone

**Meeting Agenda:**

Chairman Harshman asked for any changes, additions, or deletions to the draft agenda. Chairman Harshman added the Wyoming Highway Patrol Association letter to New Business ***Jim Latta made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill Westerfield and passed on a voice vote.***

**Minutes from June 10, 2015:**

Chairman Harshman asked for approval of the June 10, 2015 minutes. ***Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the June 10, 2015 minutes and the motion was seconded by Jim Latta. The motion passed on a voice vote.***

WyoLink Operations Work Group - Brian Eggleston

Brian Eggleston stated the Work Group met on Tuesday September 2nd to review WyoLink applications from Hulett EMS, Afton Police Department and Thunder Basin Coal Mine. Thunder Basin Coal Mine has received the support of the Campbell County Emergency Management and EMS.

Administration and Funding – Mark Harshman

The Administration and Funding Work group did meet this week to discuss the possible upgrades to WyoLink.

Spectrum Work Group – William Walter

The Spectrum Work Group has not met in the past three months. Spectrum sent a letter of concurrence to Colorado for the upgrades to the Cheyenne 800 MHz system. Natrona County was sent a letter allowing for the moving of the Alcova site to a new site adjacent to the old site.

South Dakota will be requesting information on the Region 46 – Wyoming Regional Planning Committee 800 MHz plan allocations.

SALECS - Steve DeCecco

SALECS has not met.

Interoperability Executive Committee – Bob Symons

The Interoperability Executive Committee has nothing to report.

Broadband Work Group – Troy Babbitt

Troy Babbitt stated the work group has not met, but they have been informed and involved in the data collection for FirstNet. The FirstNet data collection includes the results of the user’s survey and GIS coverage mapping, which are due on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The coverage mapping has been broken down to five phases: Phase 1 – Urban Areas – 5 mile corridor, Phase 2 – Urban Areas – 10 mile corridor, Phase 3 – Major Highways – 5 mile corridor, Phase 4 – Major Highways – 10 mile corridor, and Phase 5 – all other areas and deployables. Certain areas have been added including State Parks. FirstNet draft coverage map has been received by Mr. Babbitt, which was used as a starting point for the coverage. Wyoming is using the Mobile Data Survey Tool to help identify the current usage of mobile broadband and the identified needs of the public safety agencies.

FirstNet is continuing the development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) which indicates in is looking for cellular partners to help develop the system. The Wyoming responses will be included in the final RPF for FirstNet.

Staff Reports - Bob Symons

Bob Symons provided an update on his activities for the past three months. The National Council of Statewide Interoperable Coordinators (NCSWIC) has developed a Governance Guide for Statewide Interoperable Governance Committees. The guide provides only guidance not mandates.

Mr. Symons worked with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security Communications Unit, Crook County and South Dakota for interoperable communications during the Sturgis Bike Rally. As part of these discussions, South Dakota has completed a WyoLink Memorandum of Understanding. South Dakota will start adding WyoLink to their radios. We will continue to work on Wyoming completing the South Dakota System requirements for programming Wyoming radios onto the South Dakota System. Nebraska has been requesting to develop and MOU with them and now that South Dakota has been completed, Mr. Symons will start working with Nebraska for interstate interoperability.

Kim Lee and Bob Symons attended the FEMA Region 8 Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Work Group (RECCWG) meeting in Colorado August 18 and 19. This meeting included information on the capabilities of Auxiliary Communications (ham radios) to augment

Public Safety Communications and a tour of the FEMA Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS). The MERS unit includes significant communication capabilities.

On September 8 and 9, Bob Symons has been invited to a leadership meeting with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications for goal making for SAFECOM and NCSWIC.

The FCC has issued a Report and Order for the use of six 173 MHz Telemetry channels for use with Vehicular Repeater Systems (VRS). There will be restrictions on a couple of those channels due to use already in Wyoming. Bob Symons sent a comment to the FCC about how the VRS could help enhance portable radio coverage in rural areas during incidents or training.

The FCC and National Telecommunications Information Administration are working on an agreement to allow for the public safety use of the Federal Incident Response (IR) and Law Enforcement (LE) channels for additional interoperability resources.

#### WyoLink Support Managers Report-Marty McCoy

Marty McCoy stated there are currently 72 WyoLink sites in operations, 67 funded by WyoLink. The site at Signal Mountain will be activated in early September, waiting on the completion of the T1 telephone line from Union Wireless.

Black Mountain Idaho site became active on August 14<sup>th</sup> and the White Pine site in Sublette County became active on August 21<sup>st</sup>. There are 275 agencies approved for WyoLink use with agencies in 19 counties migrating to WyoLink for operational use. Since January 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015, WyoLink has handled over 12.1 million radio calls, WyoLink reliability is over 99.9%.

Mr. McCoy reminded the PSCC that there are security patches pushed to the local consoles on a monthly basis and the dispatch centers need to re-boot their consoles to activate the patches.

The system busy indications have been 0.012% of the total time or 0.056% by push-to-talk count. A busy rate of 1% is considered the vendors beginning point for site expansion and currently the busy rate for the highest busy site is 0.895%. *The WyoLink Support Manager's report to the PSCC for reference.*

A question was asked about the process for notification of the console patch updates. Mr. McCoy stated the WyoLink Office uses email notifications, and Gov-Delivery notifications of the updates. If a dispatch center does not re-boot during the month, a phone call reminder is provided.

#### **Old Business:**

#### Joint Highways, Transportation and Military Affairs Legislative Committee Meeting

Chairman Harshman stated that Brian Eggleston, Jonathan Downing, Kevin Hibbard and Mark Harshman presented the WyoLink Needs results to the Joint Highways, Transportation and Military Affairs Legislative Committee Meeting in Riverton on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The Legislators asked good questions and some revisions to the WyoLink Needs presentation were identified. The next

presentation will be to the Joint Appropriations Committee on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The WyoLink findings will also be presented to the County Commissioners Association in September.

### WyoLink Update to Version 7.16

Chairman Harshman led a discussion on the date of the WyoLink upgrade to Version 7.16. The current proposed date of the upgrade is August 2016 and the Executive Committee made a recommendation to maintain the August 2016 date. The current Gold Elite consoles will need to be replaced or use a wireless (radio) connection to WyoLink with the upgrade to Version 7.16.

Mr. Symons provided a summary of the current console updates: Teton County – RFP - no contract, Sublette County Contract- end of 2015, Fremont County – quote – no contract, Park County/Cody – purchase order – end of 2015, Crook County – Quote – no contract, Niobrara County – quote – no contract, Big Horn County – contract – early 2016, Sheridan – no contract, Hot Springs County – contract – early 2016, Riverton – quote – no contract, Converse County/Douglas/Glenrock – quote – no contract.

Mr. McCoy provided a recommendation to the PSCC on the date for the proposed upgrade. The recommendation requests a date of not later than August 1, 2017 with the consoles work to be completed by May 31, 2017. The reasoning for the one year extension includes an opportunity for the agencies to budget and arrange for the console upgrade, minimal impact to the WyoLink operations, and allow for the scheduling of the upgrade with the vendor.

**Bill Westerfield made a motion to upgrade the WyoLink System to Version 7.16 no later than August 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Jim Latta.**

There were questions about the timing of the upgrade, the PSCC request for the upgrade and the comments provided to the Legislature on the importance of the upgrade, the problems with the past upgrade when it was postponed. Chairman Harshman asked specifically about any adverse effects to the WyoLink System with the postponement of the upgrade. Mr. McCoy has asked the vendor about the timing of the upgrade and any adverse effects to WyoLink and there are no adverse effects. There is a concern on the credibility of the PSCC in the eyes of the legislature by postponing the upgrade. The primary reason for postponing the upgrade is to allow the dispatch centers to complete the conversion from Gold Elite Consoles. The vendor has already been paid for the upgrade to Version 7.16. The Gold Elite consoles will not work with WyoLink after the upgrade to Version 7.16, but there are work arounds, wireless connections to WyoLink using control stations. The option for the wireless connection has limitations and added usage problems for WyoLink.

Converse County representatives provided an update of their current schedule for the construction of the new law enforcement building being built in Converse County, the building will not be completed by August 2016. The Converse County concern is to purchase the console then move it into the new law enforcement building upon completion at an additional cost to the county.

Mr. McCoy stated there are no interoperability concerns with the upgrade to Version 7.16, no sites will be affected by the upgrade.

**The motion passed on a roll call vote: 11 Aye and 5 No's**

**Ten Minute Break – The meeting resumed at 11:30 am.**

A question was asked about how the vote may change the budget request for WyoLink. The WyoLink Needs analysis identified some localities which may need assistance on the console replacement. The postponement of the upgrade to 2017 could cause additional funding and timing problems.

**Shelley Simonton made a motion to reconsider the motion to postpone the WyoLink upgrade to no later than August 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Downing. The motion passed on a roll call vote: 9- Aye and 6 – No’s and 1 abstain.**

**Jim Latta made a motion to postpone the decision to upgrade WyoLink from Version 7.14 to Version 7.16 until the March 2016 PSCC Meeting. Brian Eggleston seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

### **New Business**

#### Approval of WyoLink Application

Discussion on the WyoLink System access applications. **Brian Eggleston made a motion to approve the WyoLink Applications for Hulett EMS, Afton Police Department and Thunder Basin Coal Mine. The motion was seconded by Jim Latta and passed on a voice vote with Jonathan Downing abstaining, due to a conflict of interest.**

#### Committee Assignments

Bob Symons provided background information on the PSCC Work Groups and the current membership. WyoLink Operations – Brian Eggleston Chairman, Spectrum – William Walter Chairman, Interoperability Executive Committee – Skip Hornecker was appointed the Chairman, SALECS – No Chairman. Bob Symons and the Work Group Chairman will work on the work group membership. The PSCC commissioners will be asked to participate on at least one work group. Chairman Harshman asked about the SALECS work Group and asked the SALECS members to determine the feasibility of continuing the work group.

#### Google Hangouts Demonstration

Bob Symons stated that this meeting is using Goggle Hangouts and UberConference for the phone conference call. Goggle Hangouts currently requires any user to have a Google email address. With Google Hangouts, the meetings can include video and share documents. UberConference allows for up to 100 connections at a \$20 monthly charge.

#### Highway Patrol Association Letter

Chairman Harshman noted the letter from the Highway Patrol Association has concerns about WyoLink coverage, nothing specific. The Wyoming Highway Patrol administration will be working with WYDOT and the Highway Patrol Association on the concerns listed in the letter.

A question was asked about Vehicular Repeaters. The vehicular repeaters may provide a hot spot so that the portable radios have the coverage of the mobile radios. Vehicular Repeaters are not meant to replace portable radio coverage sites identified in the WyoLink Needs document.

## **General Discussion**

Bob Symons recognized the new PSCC Members: Mike Choma – representing Game and Fish, Leslie Shakespeare – Tribal and Shelley Simonton – representing WAM.

Carl Freeman mentioned the migration to the Unified Network from a T1 Telephone line is saving the State of Wyoming approximately \$80,000 per year.

Blaine Jolley, Big Horn County Sheriff's Office spoke on the coverage gaps in Big Horn County. The WyoLink Needs document identifies the coverage gap in Big Horn County.

The Glenrock 800 MHz site should be operational by December 2015.

## Next Meeting

The next PSCC meeting will be in December. Bob Symons will work with the PSCC Commissioners on scheduling the December meeting.

Bob Symons will poll the PSCC on the contact information for the PSCC web page.

Being no further business, Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons  
PSCC Administrative Support

## **Attachments**

1. WyoLink Support Manager's report to the PSCC