

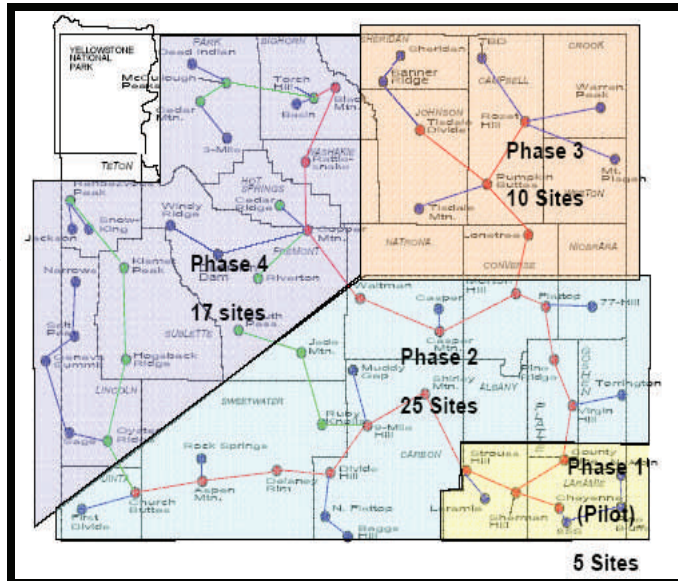
# Public Safety Communications Commission



## What is the PSCC?

The PSCC is a new entity with oversight responsibility for public safety radio communications statewide. The PSCC was created by W.S. 9-2-1101 through 9-2-1104, and the focus will be on the development and implementation of WyoLink, a statewide inter-operable trunked digital network. WyoLink will be designed to support most of the public safety radio communications in Wyoming with capabilities for linking various talk groups dynamically to insure cross-communication among various response units (fire, law enforcement, medical) in the case of an emergency. WyoLink will also insure compliance with FCC regulations for narrow-banding of frequencies over the next few years.

Regions of sites will be brought into the system as the site development and microwave upgrades are completed. The pilot phase will consist of the Master site and 5 radio sites in Laramie and Albany counties, covering the southeast corner of the state. Phase 2 will be the rollout of a large portion of the system estimated at 25 sites, covering southern Wyoming. Phase 3 continues the expansion of the system with approximately 10 more sites, covering northeast Wyoming. Phase 4 completes the system rollout with the final 17 sites, covering northwest Wyoming.



Regions of sites will be brought into the system as the site development and microwave upgrades are completed. The pilot phase will consist of the Master site and 5 radio sites in Laramie and Albany counties, covering the southeast corner of the state. Phase 2 will be the rollout of a large portion of the system estimated at 25 sites, covering southern Wyoming. Phase 3 continues the expansion of the system with approximately 10 more sites, covering northeast Wyoming. Phase 4 completes the system rollout with the final 17 sites, covering northwest Wyoming.

### Inside this Issue:

- Definition of the PSCC pg 1
- Calendar of Events pg 2
- Kelly Hamilton Interview pg 2
- PSCC Working Groups pg 3
- Lessons Learned from I-80 Incident pg 4
- New PSCC Officers pg 4



We would like to thank you for your interest in Wyoming's PSCC. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have to this publication. You may direct them to Andrea Schierwagen at 307.777.8630 or by email at [aschie@state.wy.us](mailto:aschie@state.wy.us)

<http://pscc.state.wy.us>

## Upcoming Events

Calendar posted @ <http://pscc.state.wy.us>

**7/25/05 - Project Team Meeting** 1—3 @ Qwest Building, Room 350

This is a monthly meeting held by the WyoLink Project Manager, Tom Mahon. The meeting gives an overview of the progress over the past month, what is taking place in the near future, and any problems or concerns that need to be addressed with WyoLink.

**9/13/05 - PSCC Meeting** TBA

This is the quarterly general business meeting of the PSCC. Each committee gives a standing report; any concerns or problems are discussed and action taken, if needed. A progress report on the WyoLink project is also presented.

## Outgoing Chairman of the PSCC, Kelly Hamilton, on the First Year of the PSCC

The one year anniversary of the Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) was July 1, 2005. This marked the day the 17 member Commission was formed. More than ten years earlier the question and concern of radio communication throughout the state was already an issue for the State Agency Law Enforcement Communications System (SALECS), and its long-time Chairman, Kelly Hamilton.

Hamilton was elected the first Chairman of the PSCC; a position he held for almost a year. "This has been the most rewarding professional experience I've been involved in. It all started with two or three dedicated individuals and has turned into this." Hamilton is most proud of the PSCC starting and continuing to be a grassroots effort. "It's always been about the end user," says Hamilton.

"We have a responsibility to provide a first-rate emergency service system to the end user, the citizens of Wyoming, and anyone the State opens its doors to," says Hamilton. "We want to ensure individuals within the state that they will be taken care of, by first responders, in a timely manner."

Hamilton believes the Commission will be successful, but a few things need to take place in order for this to happen. Funding needs to be continuous, a permanent position needs to be dedicated to the daily operations, the Commission needs to remain active, and the focus needs to remain on the end user and its needs. Hamilton states the greatest challenge facing the PSCC is "coming to a consensus and making sure the concerns of all Commissioners are addressed. Once this happens, the PSCC needs to take the direction and progress forward."

Hamilton credits the agencies and individuals that have taken an interest in this project. Hamilton is very excited with the progression of the PSCC and is thankful to those who have set the PSCC on the path to success.



# PSCC Working Groups

Administration and Funding Workgroup	Spectrum Workgroup	Inter-Operability Workgroup
<p>The key roles and responsibilities of the Administration and Funding Workgroup consist of the PSCC Budget Development, Grants, Rates and Fees, and Staff Recruitment and Evaluation. The workgroup is chaired by Jim Narva, representing the Wyoming State Fire Marshal; Neil Kourbelas, representing Municipal Government; and Robert Dean, representing the Health Department. Currently the committee is focusing on state budgets for WyoLink and the PSCC. Federal funding has been requested for \$2 million in 2006 and \$2 million in 2007.</p>	<p>The Spectrum Workgroup is responsible for Frequency Policy and Planning, Frequency Coordination and Interference Mitigation, and FCC Licensing and Compliance. The Workgroup is chaired by Mark Joiner, representing Federal Agency and Russ Christiansen, representing Emergency Medical Services. Currently the committee is working on a one-time reprogramming of SALECS user radios in response to frequency changes mandated by WyoLink .</p>	<p>The Inter-Operability Workgroup is chaired by Billy Janes, representing Police Chief's Association; Mark Harshman, representing Fire Chief's Association; Kebin Haller, representing DCI; and Russ Christiansen, representing Emergency Medical Services. The key roles of the Inter-Operability Workgroup include Inter-Operability Policy Development, Subscriber Outreach, PSCC Rules Development, and Contracts. Its mission is to provide a professional communications system with compatibility and availability of common communication paths for all public safety radio users. Currently the committee is working on developing talk groups along with rules, policies, and procedures for WyoLink.</p>

## WyoLink Operations Workgroup

The WyoLink Operations Workgroup is chaired by Jerry Kennedy, representing County Government; Colonel Sam Powell, representing Wyoming Department of Transportation; Kim Lee, representing Homeland Security; Dave Mattis, representing Sheriff's Association; and Mark Harshman, representing Fire Chief's Association. The roles and responsibilities of the Operations Workgroup are WyoLink User Interface Coordination, Operations Reports, Training, and WyoLink Outreach. Currently the committee is working on training issues, site selection, pilot phase operational testing, and coverage expectations.

## SALECS Workgroup

The State Agency Law Enforcement Communications System (SALECS) Workgroup's mission is to maintain the integrity and operability of SALECS through the implementation of WyoLink. The SALECS Workgroup is chaired by Bill Westerfield, representing State Parks and Cultural Resources and Steve DeCecco, representing Game and Fish Department. The key roles and responsibilities of the committee are a communication interface between PSCC, WYDOT-SALECS, existing user groups and potential new users; advise PSCC on SALECS operations, dispatch reports, membership, and coordinate and resolve issues related to WyoLink implementation; and consult with WYDOT concerning equipment replacement, upgrades, and compatibilities during the phased implementation of WyoLink.

## PSCC Members

- Chairman**  
 Jim Narva  
 State Fire Marshal
- Vice-Chair**  
 Steve DeCecco  
 Game and Fish
- Secretary**  
 Jerry Kennedy  
 County Government
- Executive Director**  
 Earl Atwood
- Bob Wyatt  
 Public at Large
- Kebin Haller  
 DCI
- Billy Janes  
 Police Chief's Association
- Mark Harshman  
 Fire Chief's Association
- Bill Westerfield  
 State Parks and Cultural Resources
- Russ Christiansen  
 Emergency Medical Services
- Kelly Hamilton  
 Livestock Board
- Colonel Sam Powell  
 Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Bob Dean  
 Health Department
- Kim Lee  
 Homeland Security
- Neil Kourbelas  
 Municipal Government
- Mark Joiner  
 Federal Agency
- Dave Mattis  
 Sheriff's Association

## Lessons Learned

The largest incident ever handled in Wyoming occurred on August 19, 2004, on Interstate 80, 16 miles east of Laramie. The dense fog and wet roads caused a 36 vehicle pile-up that claimed the lives of seven people. Numerous agencies responded including: the Laramie Fire Department, Laramie Street Department, Vedauwoo Volunteer Fire Department, Laramie County Fire Districts 1,2, and 10, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, Wyoming Emergency Management Agency, Cheyenne Fire Department, Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming Air Guard, AMR from Cheyenne, Albany County Sheriff's Office, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation, the Albany County Attorney, the Albany County Coroner, Cheyenne Salvation Army, Cheyenne chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Wyoming Highway Department.

Ann Benson Pond, an EMT with the Laramie Fire Department, was the first-arriving company officer and incident commander for the first ten hours of the incident. Pond wrote an article, in the January 2005 issue of *Firehouse Magazine*, on the lessons learned from the incident. One lesson highlighted in this article was the use of radio frequencies. "One radio frequency to which all responding agencies have access should be agreed on at the beginning of the incident," stated Pond. Given the scope of this incident and the large number of responding agencies, a radio system equipped to handle such a scenario would be ideal. This is what the PSCC and its WyoLink project hope to accomplish. If the need ever arises for a large number of agencies to communicate it shouldn't be a problem, but a solution.



Photo courtesy of WyDot Public Affairs

## PSCC Newsletter

The goal of the PSCC Newsletter is to disseminate information to all agencies and individuals interested in the PSCC. To reduce printing and postage costs, this will be the only issue mailed out. If you would like to continue receiving the PSCC newsletter please visit

<http://psc.state.wy.us>

and click on E-mail/Newsletter sign up. This will be a quarterly, electronic publication distributed after every Commission meeting.

## Newly Elected Officers of the PSCC

As stated in Wyoming Statute, "the Commission shall elect from its members a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary." When the PSCC was formed a year ago Kelly Hamilton was appointed as Chairman, Jim Narva as Vice-Chairman, and Steve DeCecco as Secretary. All three faced the difficult task of taking the idea of the PSCC and making it into a reality. After a successful first year, it was time to switch up the batting order so to speak. During the last Commission meeting in Sheridan, the members voted on new officers to lead the PSCC. Jim Narva was elected as Chairman, Steve DeCecco was elected as Vice-Chairman, and Jerry Kennedy was elected as Secretary.

Beside the new officers, a seat on the Commission is also changing hands. The Commission would like to thank Shanna Liable for her service and commitment to the PSCC. The Public at Large representative is now Bob Wyatt, of Sheridan. The Commission welcomes Bob and is looking forward to his input as the Commission enters its second year.

### PSCC Mission:

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperability with emphasis on public safety.