Public Safety Communications Commission

Interoperability Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2010
Rock Springs, WY and Phone Conference Call

Chairman Billy Janes called the meeting to order at 9:15 am on March 9, 2010

Members in Attendance: Billy Janes, Lanny Applegate, Mark Harshman, Lauri Wempen, Robert Wilson, and Robert Symons. Phone Conference: Dale Pawling, Steve Myrum, Bryan Morehouse

Others in Attendance: Kim Lee, Bill Morse, Michael Preston, Dan Perko, Bill Walter, Carl Freeman, Vernon Hill, and Dave Johnson

WyoLink Applications

Administrative Support Symons reviewed the applications that have been received since December 9, 2009. There are 33 applications on the membership list and two new applications that were received on March 8, 2010, Riverton Memorial Hospital and Powell Valley Healthcare EMS.

Discussion on a process for non-governmental agencies to become members of WyoLink should be sponsored by a public safety. An example would be a radio service shop that provides service to a governmental agency and have that agency sponsor the non-governmental. The proposed language addition to the WyoLink handbook would be: "If the governmental response to emergencies would benefit from the participation of a non-governmental entity on the WyoLink public safety interoperable communication system that non-governmental entity should apply for WyoLink Membership with a sponsorship of a cognizant public safety agency." A question was asked if the radio service shops get their own talkgroups and the answer was that they don't, they use the MAT and CAT talkgroups. Discussion on having those non-governmental agencies that have already been approved for membership meet this new requirement. Since there are only a few agencies involved, Bob Symons will send a request to those agencies for a letter requesting the sponsorship.

Robert Wilson made a motion to revise the WyoLink Handbook and application to add "If the governmental response to emergencies would benefit from the participation of a non-governmental entity on the WyoLink public safety interoperable communication system that non-governmental entity should apply for WyoLink Membership with a sponsorship of a cognizant public safety agency." The motion was seconded by Mark Harshman and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Mark Harshman made a motion to approve the 35 membership applications and forward to the PSCC. The motion was seconded by Lanny Applegate and passed on a voice vote. *Membership list attached to the minutes for reference.*

<u>WyoLink Handbook and Application</u>

Discussion on the language used to define first responder and emergency response support by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). These definitions would keep Wyoming in line with the language that is being used by the FCC for licensing of public safety agencies.

Mark Harshman made a motion to revise the definitions in the WyoLink Handbook and Membership Application to:

First Responder – Those individuals in the early stages of an incident who are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, who provide immediate support services during prevention, response and recovery operations. Emergency response providers includes: Federal, State, and local emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities.

Emergency Response Support – Those who are involved in the critical mission areas surrounding the incident response, such as protecting against the incident, preventing the incident, or recovering from the incident.

The motion was seconded by Robert Wilson and the motion passed on a voice vote.

<u>Minutes of December 8, 2009</u>

Lauri Wempen made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Wilson and passed on a voice vote.

<u>Wyoming Highway Patrol Data</u>

Captain Bill Morse of the Wyoming Highway Patrol provided an update on the use of data by the patrol. Two hundred and twelve mobile date computers have been purchased and have been involved in an extensive testing program with the assistance of the WYDOT Information Technology Department and WYDOT Telecom. The patrol is using Verizon phone cards and WyoLink. A query software is being pursued. The system is allowing for the switching between the phone cards and WyoLink and if information is not transmitted, the data is stored for transmission at a different time. The data seems to be working in the Elk Mountain area even though there are voice problems in the area. The Verizon coverage allows for all applications to be transmitted and the WyoLink transmitting only allows for certain data to be transferred due to the speed of the WyoLink data capabilities.

WyoLink is reviewing a process to determine the use of data on WyoLink and the potential loading of the system. Potential data users will have to apply for data use and describe the data that will be transferred on WyoLink. There are configuration issues that must be worked out when user desire data on WyoLink.

<u>Wireless and Broadband Data</u>

Robert Wilson made a motion to have the PSCC do a data call on wireless data currently being used in Wyoming by public safety agencies and what data agencies are planning on using in the future. The motion was seconded by Mark Harshman.

Discussion on the data call and broadband data. The Rural Broadband project of the Re-Investment in America Initiative is reviewing the usage of broadband to provide internet access to rural America. The State of Wyoming CIO has been designated by the Governor to monitor broadband access and potential broadband usage in Wyoming. **The motion passed on a voice vote.**

A question was asked if WyoLink prioritizes voice over data on the system. The answer is yes, voice has priority over data. If data is being transferred and that channel is needed for voice transmission the data traffic is stopped and the voice transmission is given priority.

Robert Wilson stated there is some discussion and opinions being developed by national organizations on the FCC broadband plan that proposes the 700 MHz D block auction and the PSCC may want to submit their comments. Mr. Wilson will send the Andrew Seybold report to the PSCC Interoperable Executive Committee.

 The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons,
Administrative Support