



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

**William
Westerfield**
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

WyoLink Operations and Interoperability Executive Committee **Minutes for September 10, 2010** **Wheatland Fire Department Training Center and Phone Conference Call** **Wheatland, WY**

The joint meeting of the WyoLink operations and Interoperability Executive committee was called to order by Chairmen Billy Janes and Mark Harshman at 10:05 am.

Members present: Billy Janes, Mark Harshman, Robert Wilson, Jerry Kennedy, Dave Riegert, Marty McCoy and Bob Symons.

Members on the Phone Conference Call: Lanny Applegate, Bill Morse, Patty Bauer, Mark Joiner, Brian Eggleston, and Bryan Morehouse.

Federal Frequency Request – Bob Symons stated that Marty McCoy and Bob Symons have been working with Chris Lewis, Department of Interior on an initiative called DIET – Department of Interior Innovations and Efficiencies Team. This initiative is a Department review of the current radio systems in Wyoming and what needs be done to improve the radio systems or if there could be a cost savings for migrating to a state-wide radio system in Wyoming and Montana.

As part of the DIET program, Wyoming was able to review the current DOI radio sites in Wyoming for potential use by WyoLink. Also as part of this program, more Federal frequencies may be used by WyoLink. A formal request for Federal Frequencies was presented to the Department of Interior and Department of Homeland Security for WyoLink sites at Hell Hole, Angles Trailhead, Duncan Lake and Pinkham Mountain. The request is for five frequency pairs at each site and the reuse could allow for the same frequencies be used at the four sites.

WyoLink is waiting on the nomination for frequencies by the Federal Agencies, and then Motorola will review the nomination list for frequencies that can be used at the sites. Upon the review, the nominated frequencies will be presented to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for approval. Upon the approval from the NTIA, a license application will be filed with the FCC. There is no timeline at this time for approval. The Federal Frequencies are a shared used with the Federal Government maintaining ownership.

Interoperability Talkgroups – County Agency Talkgroups (CAT) have been developed for each County for interoperability between agencies within the county. There are four talkgroups per county with the CAT1 being a calling talkgroup – dispatch talkgroup or command. Each Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) regional response region has four Multiple Agency Talkgroups (MAT) and one group of four MAT talkgroups has been developed as an extra group.

The use of the CAT talkgroups is for any incident that only involves local County agencies and no permissions are requested for the use of the CAT talkgroups. The MAT talkgroups are for any incident that involves multiple counties, state agencies and or federal agencies. Fremont County has been using the CAT and MAT talkgroups. Whenever Fremont County sends out County units to vehicle crashes, they request all responding agencies use MAT5 so that there is interoperability with Highway Patrol.

WyoLink has been requesting all agencies program all of MAT talkgroups, the local County CAT talkgroups and the neighboring counties CAT talkgroups. There are some radios that have a limited number of modes (96) and the talkgroup plans have been modified to include the MAT talkgroups and only the local county CAT talkgroups. As more agencies start using WyoLink, the use of the MAT and CAT talkgroups may have to be modified to better identify the use of the talkgroups. The interoperability training may need to be reviewed to improve the use of the CAT and MAT talkgroups. Incident Command has the responsibility of determining the communication plan for each incident. The dispatch centers may have a better idea on when the interoperability talkgroups are being used and could recommend talkgroups for use during an incident. The training could incorporate table top exercises for the use of interoperability training and dispatchers should be included in the exercises. The trainers should be included in the exercises also. The Federal grants and the National Emergency Communication Plan may require the development and performance of communication exercises. The exercises may lead to changes to the protocols on using MAT and CAT talkgroups.

Training - Two Communication Unit Leader (COML) classes have been held in Wyoming with limited success. The class is good, but getting people to attend them has been troublesome. The training provided by the Federal grants includes information on the local agency talkgroup plan. Training has been provided to agencies that have not completed the talkgroup plan. The WyoLink training has been good for agencies that are looking at WyoLink and provides background information.

Bob Symons is recommending bringing all of the Law Enforcement Academy, Fire Marshal's Office and the WYDOT master trainers together to review the training program. The program has been provided for over a year and it is time to review the program for potential upgrades. The Federal grant program will pay for the trainers to attend a review of the training program. The current program is basic and an advanced class may need to be developed. Discussion on the current status of Goshen County and BLM on training and WyoLink usage. The review of the training program should include all aspects of the training including usage, dragging traffic, interoperability, and agency radios.

New Members – Bob Symons provided a spreadsheet of the WyoLink Membership. *The WyoLink Applications 9-9-10 spreadsheet is attached for reference.* The list includes the current status of all WyoLink Applicants. The applications since June 2010 are listed on the final page. The only applicant that is not a public safety agency is Big Horn Airways, a contract support agency to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Game and Fish will be supplying a letter of authorization to Big Horn Airways per the change to the Membership application and WyoLink Handbook. There are concerns about aircraft using WyoLink and the possibility of the radios trying to affiliate on multiple towers and some of the towers using the same frequencies.

Mark Harshman stated all fire contract aircraft must have trunking capable radios and more aircraft may be requesting WyoLink usage. Big Horn Airways is planning on using portable radios for WyoLink usage. Discussion on restriction of WyoLink use for contractors working with public safety agencies. The WyoLink Handbook should be revised to include restrictions for contract agency use on WyoLink. Bob Symons will also modify the membership agreements for the contract agencies to identify the restrictions of WyoLink usage by contractors. The Work Groups request more information on the application from Western Wyoming Community College before approving the application. Bob Symons will be sending a copy of the western Wyoming Community College application to the Work Group members.

Marty McCoy made a motion to accept the WyoLink applicants on the WyoLink Applications Spreadsheet dated December 9, 2010 except for Western Wyoming Community College. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kennedy and passed on a voice vote.

Discussion on the current status of the WyoLink membership application process. There are many agencies that have been approved for membership, but the Membership Agreements have not been developed or signed. The WyoLink Support Office will not program codeplugs until the WyoLink Membership Agreement is completed and can help in getting agencies to sign the WyoLink Membership Agreement. Testing on WyoLink would be exempt from a membership agreement being signed.

Marty McCoy made a motion to present to the Public Safety Communication Commission a recommendation to send letters to all WyoLink Membership Applicants that have not completed the membership process giving the agencies 30 days to complete the Membership Agreement or the agencies will be removed from the membership list and will need to reapply requesting WyoLink membership. Jerry Kennedy seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Broadband and Mobile Data – Robert Wilson presented information on the 700 MHz D-Block and on the Link Wyoming study being completed in Wyoming. Through the Wyoming CIO's Office, Link Wyoming is working on a study of the Broadband usage and potential future use in Wyoming. The Link Wyoming Team is asking an agency in Wyoming to sponsor a survey on broadband and the PSCC might be the appropriate agency. There is currently many proposals and potential legislation on Broadband and the 700 MHz D-Block. Currently in Wyoming a couple of cities have developed local broadband with no interoperability and most other usage is through the use of air cards on the cellular systems.

Robert Wilson made a motion to accept Link Wyoming's offer to administer a PSCC sponsored broadband survey and forward this recommendation to the PSCC at the September 2010 meeting. Brian Eggleston seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Portable Coverage Enhancement Project – Bob Symons and Marty McCoy presented updates on the Portable Enhancement Project. Surveys were completed at Lander, Laramie, Wheatland, Rawlins, Riverton, Thermopolis, Torrington and Worland. These surveys were to review the sites prior to engineering studies that must be completed at each site. Some of the proposed

portable coverage locations will need on-the-ground portable radio coverage testing prior to determining final locations. Worland and Sundance have not had any prior portable radio testing and these locations need to have the propagation studies confirmed. WyoLink has submitted a budget request for a bit error rate test set that will be used for coverage testing.

Motorola is conducting engineering studies in Thermopolis, Lander, Laramie and Rawlins to develop the engineering documents for the construction of portable coverage enhancement sites. The site in Torrington is presently a WYDOT site and will only require the installation of an auxiliary generator and WyoLink Radio Equipment. Upon the completion of the engineering documents, those documents will be shared with the local agencies for approval before construction is started.

Hallick Ridge – Marty McCoy provided an update on the Hallick Ridge Site at Elk Mountain on I-80. Marty and BLM representatives had a site visit the week of August 30th. A category 3 environmental inventory will be required, the building exterior color must be approved by the BLM and WYDOT Right-of-Way is working on the access lease. The tower and building bids have been awarded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Symons

Attach: WyoLink Applications 9-9-10 Spreadsheet