State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

Interoperability Executive Committee
Minutes for December 9, 2011
Phone Conference Call

Members on Conference Call: Chairman Billy Janes, Mark Harshman, Steve Myrum, Lanny Applegate, Danny Glick, Bob Dean, Robert Wilson, Larry Sheridan, Bryan Morehouse, Marty McCoy and Bob Symons

Chairman Janes called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

September 8, 2011 Minutes

The minutes for the September 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the committee. **Marty McCoy made a motion to approve the September 8, 2011 minutes. Steve Myrum seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.**

Interoperability in Wyoming

The committee was sent some draft documents on Interoperability in Wyoming which were reviewed and discussed by the committee. Bob Symons has been asked by WyoLink users to develop a document on how agencies could interoperate with each other. Local agencies have asked about contacting Highway Patrol and State agencies, state agencies contacting local agencies, and clarify the use of the Multiple Agency Talkgroups (MAT) and County Agency Talkgroups (CAT).

The first document reviewed was the General Interoperability information. This document starts with an introduction on the need and desire for radio interoperability. This document identifies the authorization for using FCC and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) frequencies. The priority use levels are identified along with guidelines on radio efficiency and a communication order model which identifies the called unit identification/caller unit identification/acknowledgement/message order.

The use of plain language/clear text for interoperable communications to ensure all communications is understood. The development of incident communication plans and the integration of communications into the Incident Command Structure (ICS) are identified. The next section is specific to the interoperable channels and talkgroups available in Wyoming.

Five methods of interoperability are identified – Swap radios, shared channels, Wyoming Mutual Aid, National Public Safety Interoperable Channels and WyoLink. The Wyoming Mutual Aid channel is licensed and controlled by the Wyoming Highway Patrol. Wyoming Mutual Aid is now a repeated channel with the Wyoming Highway Patrol monitoring the repeated channel. Mutual Aid may also be used in the direct mode. Wyoming Mutual Aid channel is the lowest common denominator for interoperable communications.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security has applied to the FCC for statewide licensing of the National Public Safety Interoperable Channels including VCALL10, VTAC 11-17, VTAC17 and VTAC

33-38. The Wyoming Fire Marshal's office has licensed the VFIRE21 channel, WYDOT has licensed the VLAW31 and the Department of Health has licensed the VMED28 channel.

WyoLink has developed four County Agency Talkgroups (CAT) for each county and four Multiple Agency Talkgroups (MAT) for each Homeland Security Regional Response area plus an additional four MAT talkgroups to be used statewide or as an additional set of talkgroups within a region.

The next document discussed was the Interoperability Crosswalk spreadsheet which identifies the MAT, CAT, Mutual Aid channels, National Public Safety Interoperable Channels and the weather channels by receive frequencies, transmit frequencies, and CTCSS tones. The spreadsheet also identifies which CAT talkgroups are associated with the regional MAT talkgroups and the recommended MAT and CAT talkgroups for each county. The SALEC and Highway Patrol Talkgroups are identified by each county within each talkgroup. The recommended talkgroups and conventional interoperable channels for each local dispatch center are listed.

Bob Symons asked the committee to forward the draft documents to other agencies for comments. The more people who review the document the better the final document will become. The format of the documents may be changed. The intent of these documents is to become policies and procedures for interoperability in Wyoming. Bob Symons will also be sending the draft documents to some of his contacts for review. The content of the documents is important at this time and the final format will be developed at a later date. The documents will be revised after this meeting and then sent to the committee to have them forward to other interested parties.

Broadband Coordinator

Governor Mead has added broadband to the tasks of the Office of the Chief information Officer (OCIO) and the new consolidated Enterprise Technology Department. The OCIO is currently advertising for a broadband coordinator. Bob Symons has discussed this with the Deputy CIO Meredith Bickell and she has indicated public safety will be included in the broadband discussions. Governor Mead has made broadband capabilities to all students in Wyoming a priority. How the Governor's Broadband initiative includes public safety will be determined after the Broadband Coordinator is hired.

Bob Dean made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bryan Morehouse and passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons
PSCC Administrative Support

Attachments: