



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Steve DeCecco
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

PSCC WyoLink Operations Work Group Meeting of May 28, 2008

Attendees:

Jerry Kennedy – PSCC – WyoLink Operations Work Group Chairman
Dave Johnson – PSCC Commissioner - WAM
Mark Harshman – PSCC Commissioner – Phone Conference
Laurie Wempen – PSCC Commissioner – Phone Conference
Jim Archerd – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Marty McCoy – WyoLink Support Manager
Phil Bond – Motorola
Wayne Peterson – Motorola
Gary Caprioglio – Motorola
Margaret Spearman – Motorola
Debbi Serke – Motorola – Phone Conference
Bob Symons – PSCC Administrative Support

Chairman Jerry Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on May 28, 2008.

Marty McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2008 WyoLink Operations Work Group Meeting, seconded by Jim Archerd. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Cheyenne Water Tank Site.

Marty McCoy provided an update on the current status of the lease between Union Telephone and WYDOT for the Cheyenne Water Tank Site. Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities has approved a resolution not to charge Union Telephone for a WyoLink, sub-lease, therefore Union is agreeable not to charge WyoLink. The Lease Agreement is in the hands of the attorneys. The frequencies for this site will be federal shared frequencies and those frequencies have not been released at this time. The site should be completed by the end of this year. The City of Cheyenne will not allow WyoLink to proceed with the planning and building permits until the lease is approved. Bob Symons will provide Senator Bob Fecht with an update on the current status of the Cheyenne Water Tank site.

Portable Radio Coverage Testing and Solutions.

Discussion on the local portable radio coverage testing for enhancements. Motorola requested information on the results of any portable radio testing, process and standards so that solutions may be developed. The testing protocols will have impact on the possible solutions and the costs for those solutions.

Consideration may be made for a hybrid system – VHF and 800 MHz. There are advantages to each system and both solutions should be reviewed. The Frequency Plan does include frequencies for one additional site in each county for portable radio enhancements. The WyoLink sites that are being used with the Special Temporary Authorizations licenses are providing better portable radio coverage than what was expected.

The PSCC adopted the following goal at the June 2007 meeting and this goal should be used to define the goal of any portable radio coverage.

There is no local responder link in “WyoLink” until the goal of mobile and portable radio communications interoperability is achieved.

Therefore, the goal of WyoLink coverage enhancement is to achieve interoperable public safety communications comparable with existing portable radio coverage and in areas of critical concern, identified through testing and cooperative efforts with local public safety providers, determined after statewide deployment in an area. There is an expectation of local participation within the jurisdictional area of influence.

The testing standard should identify the comparable existing portable radio coverage that is used currently by the public safety agencies in the local area and the coverage provided by WyoLink when the core sites are operational within the same area. The gap testing should be done with side-by-side testing between the present local systems and WyoLink.

The National Fire Protection Association and the International Code Congress are currently reviewing in-building portable radio coverage and revising the building code to enhance the in-building coverage. To have good in-building radio coverage, the buildings will need to have enhancements.

Discussion on the testing procedures. What are the public safety standards for radio coverage – mobile and portable radios? Does the NPFA, National Sheriff’s Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police have standards? Is the standard a community based standard? Is the standard an industry standard? The communities will need to decide on what level of coverage will be acceptable to them. It was suggested that the Regional Emergency Response Teams (RERT) be included in the testing within each region.

The following questions will need to be answered by how the testing will be completed.

1. Side-by-side testing of the current radio systems – all agencies since each agency may have different systems at different locations.
2. Identify Test Locations
3. Identify Test Methodology
4. Identify Test Equipment
5. Identify test teams (Local, WyoLink and RERT)

Evaluate test results – where are the holes in coverage between the systems?

Design possible enhancements

- Full site (Existing and New)
- Bi-directional antennas
- Vehicular Repeaters

The Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool may be used to help identify current local systems. The local agencies will need to verify the information for correctness.

Marty McCoy offered to develop the testing methodology for the portable radio testing, allow input from the work group and then test the methodology. Barb May (Motorola) will help with the development of the testing methodology. The testing methodology will be completed by the end of June, 2008.

Marty McCoy made a motion to have Marty McCoy develop the portable radio testing methodology for the portable radio testing, have the WyoLink Operations Work Group review the methodology for revisions then complete a final test methodology. The motion was seconded by Dave Johnson. Motion passed on verbal vote.

Discussion on where the testing will be completed first The area must have the WyoLink sites up and working, even if they are in the testing licenses. . It is important that the local areas be contacted prior to the testing for their input.

Marty McCoy made a motion to test Albany County first and Platte County second upon the completion of the testing methodology. Jim Archerd seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Training

Bob Symons provided an update on the training that is being developed for the Public Safety Interoperable Communication (PSIC) grant. Joe Moore, Homeland Security Director, presented a proposal to the Wyoming County Commissioners Association for the training funds and will be working with the law Enforcement Academy and Fire Marshal's Office for providing the training. The training curriculum will be presented to the WyoLink Operations Work Group after development. The training will include the WyoLink training, interoperable communications training and communications unit leader training. Three levels of training is be looked at - master instructors, local instructors and end user training.

WyoLink Radio Sites.

Marty McCoy presented information on changing the location for a couple of the radio sites in the western part of the state.

Geneva Summit – there is no microwave path between Geneva Summit and Sage Junction. WyDOT has been working with the State of Idaho on a shared site at Hell Hole Ridge in Idaho. A microwave path has been verified to this site. The State of Idaho appears willing to share site development costs for this site.

The proposed site at Angle Mountain will not work because of the roadless area issue and it is located in grizzly bear habitat area. A new proposed site at the Togwottee Trail Head has been checked and will provide the coverage needed for Teton County.

Jim Archerd made a motion to change Geneva Summit radio site to Hell Hole Ridge and Angle Mountain radio site to Togwottee Trail Head. The motion was seconded by Dave Johnson and passed on a voice vote.

Dave Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Marty McCoy, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Symons, PSCC Administrative Support