



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Kim Lee
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

WyoLink Operations Work Group Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2009 Wyoming Fire Academy, Riverton WY

Chairman Mark Harshman called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on Thursday September 17, 2009.

Roll Call: Mark Harshman, Lauri Wempen, Dan Perko, Jim Archerd, and Marty McCoy

Others in Attendance: Bob Symons, Brian Eggleston, Robert Wilson, Lanny Applegate, Kim Lee, Dave Riegert, Andy Bellendir, Philip Bond, Wayne Peterson, Debbi Serke, and Margaret Spearman.

The minutes from the April 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed. **Jim Archerd made a motion to accept the April 20, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Marty McCoy. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

New Business

Portable Radio Coverage Testing

Marty McCoy and Wayne Peterson reviewed the Portable Enhancement Civil Work spreadsheet. This spreadsheet lists all of the counties that may need portable radio coverage enhancement. Motorola visited every location on the spreadsheet to review what is presently available within that community for potential radio sites. Each community was asked about potential radio sites for coverage enhancements. Each site was reviewed as to the potential for using the licensed frequencies owned by WyoLink. The potential sites were then reviewed as to the tower, building, generator and facility improvements and modifications may be required. Additional sites were reviewed in those counties that may require more than one enhancement site to provide coverage, particularly Fremont, Sweetwater, Park and Big Horn Counties. *The portable radio enhancement civil work spreadsheet is attached to the minutes for reference.*

Marty McCoy then reviewed the proposed coverage enhancement site in Laramie as an example of the testing that was completed and the results of the portable radio coverage testing. The City of Laramie proposed a site at Greenhill Cemetery. Motorola has a program called Voyager that can predict the coverage using parameters set by the user, for example portable radio worn on the hip with a speaker mike, building type, terrain and site information. The document provides a summary of the testing and then provides maps indicating the coverage with the current conventional system, the low level site that was used for frequency acquisition and the site that has been proposed by the local agencies. The predicted coverage in Laramie was then followed up with field testing to verify the predicted coverage assumptions. The field testing verified the accuracy of the predicted modeling.

The proposed coverage enhancement site modeling for Thermopolis, Lander and Riverton were reviewed by the Work Group. *Copies of the enhancement site coverage testing documents are attached to the minutes for reference.* Questions were asked about the testing parameters and if the local agencies included most of the stakeholders. The buildings used in the modeling are typical building type within the community – Laramie has more heavy buildings than Thermopolis. The local public safety agencies were include in the discussions during the testing and provided the potential sites for review. The Riverton proposed site is at the old Riverton High School, 400 W. Main Street and the proposed Lander site is private property north of Lander located on Hancock Hill. Mr. McCoy will be reviewing the Lander site again using the new information on the site location.

The testing parameters included having the radio on the hip with a speaker mike. This is the worst case use of the portable radio as the body absorbs radio frequency. Holding the radio at the head would provide better coverage.

Chairman Harshman stated that the work group should first decide if the testing methodology used for the portable radio coverage is valid and should be used for the determination of additional sites. **Lauri Wempen made a motion to recommend to the PSCC the coverage testing provided by Motorola as adequate for portable radio coverage enhancements. Jim Archerd seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

Robert Wilson stated WYDOT is expecting the WyoLink Operations Work Group to make the technical recommendations for the portable coverage enhancements and that the stakeholders in those areas are in agreement with the proposed enhancement site. The Grant Application will have signatures for concurrence by the key local public safety agencies.

Discussion on how the PSCC should be helping local areas make the move to WyoLink. The priority should for funding should be those areas that have indicated a strong desire to use WyoLink, have been using all available resources to prepare for the migration and can help provide an enhancement site.

Carl Freeman, Fremont County Sheriff's Office, stated Fremont County Sheriff's Office is ready to migrate to WyoLink and will migrate as soon as the talkgroup plans and radio programming is completed. They will migrate, without the completion of the portable enhancement site, because the testing on WyoLink indicates better coverage than they currently have using mobile and portable radios.

Discussion on the development of codeplugs by the WyoLink Support Office and the concerns on the turnaround time for codeplug development. Local agencies will be expecting a two to three week turnaround for their codeplugs. WYDOT is requesting additional help for the WyoLink Support office in creating codeplugs. WyoLink Support Manager McCoy will be reviewing the codeplug process and monitoring their development to provide an improved timeframe for development.

Discussion on the proposed grant process for portable radio enhancement. The WyoLink Operations Work Group will make a decision on the technical aspects of the proposed

enhancement site and the Administration and Funding Work Group will make the grant awards with the approval of the PSCC. Concerns were noted on the time it may take for the process to be completed. The work group discussed ways to keep the grant process simple yet meet the State of Wyoming requirements. The PSCC will finalize the grant process at their September meeting.

Mr. McCoy stated he expected the WyoLink Operations Work Group approve the process of determining the portable coverage technical aspects and forwarding this information to the PSCC. The WyoLink Operations Work Group may need to meet more often, as needed, to review the coverage enhancement testing and proposed site information.

Dan Perko made a motion to recommend to the PSCC that the identified potential site in Laramie, from a technical perspective, would provide portable radio coverage and should be built if an application is submitted. Lauri Wempen seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Discussion on FCC frequencies and NTIA allocations. The frequencies for each enhancement site will need to be researched. Before asking for more Federal allocations, WyoLink will need to exhaust all efforts trying to obtain FCC frequencies.

Jim Archerd made a motion to recommend to the PSCC that the identified potential site in Thermopolis, from a technical perspective, would provide portable radio coverage and should be built if an application is submitted. Lauri Wempen seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Dan Perko made a motion to recommend to the PSCC that the identified potential sites in Lander and Riverton, from a technical perspective, would provide portable radio coverage and should be built if an application is submitted. Upon review by WyoLink Support Manager Marty McCoy, the enhancement site locations for Lander would be moved to Hancock Hill and the Riverton site would be 400 W. Main and. Lauri Wempen seconded the motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Discussion on the priorities for portable enhancement site technical documentation to be completed by WyoLink Support Manager McCoy. The following counties were reviewed as to preparation for WyoLink and their desire to migrate: Goshen, Park, Platte, Carbon, Converse, Niobrara, Campbell, Washakie, Sheridan, and Big Horn. The priorities were discussed with Goshen, Platte and Niobrara Counties as Priority One, Priority two counties for review will be Converse, Washakie and Sheridan, and priority three are Park, Campbell and Big Horn.

Site Development Specifications

WyoLink Support Manager McCoy and Administrative Support Symons presented information on the specifications that are used by WYDOT for towers and radio equipment shelters. The engineering fees are part of the WYDOT \$8 Million budget for the enhancement sites. Mr. McCoy has provided specifications for a 10 by 40 foot with auxiliary generator and a 100 foot free standing tower. Due to the location of transmit and receive antennas and the spacing requirements, a 100 foot tower is the minimum required height.

Jim Archerd made a motion that the specifications developed by WYDOT for equipment shelters and towers be recommended to the PSCC as the minimum specifications for all portable radio enhancement sites. The motion was seconded by Lauri Wempen. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Elk Mountain

WyoLink Support Manager McCoy presented information on a possible radio site on Halleck Ridge that should provide the coverage required in the Elk Mountain area of Interstate 80. From this site almost all of the affected area of I-80 can be seen. Mr. McCoy will be working with Colorado Interstate Gas and the adjacent landowners for access and permission to test the coverage from this site. The coverage predictions indicate this site will provide excellent coverage. The land is owned by the BLM and if the site proves to be usable, Mr. McCoy will start working with WYDOT for formal leasing and site development. The test results will be brought back to WyoLink Operations Work Group for discussion.

Other Discussion Items

Chairman Harshman stated the WyoLink Operations Work Group will be getting busy with the enhancement site discussions and will be meeting as needed.

Being no further business, Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons,
PSCC Administrative Support