



Mark Gordon
Governor

Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission

5300 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-3340
Monte McClain, Chairman | Telephone: 307-777-4015



Darin J. Westby, P.E.
Director

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) met on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at the Best Western Downtown Hotel. Vice Chairman Monte McClain presided, calling the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Monte McClain, Vice Chairman	Karl Germain, Commissioner
Dwane Pacheco, Secretary	Cindi Shank, Commissioner
Paul Bertoglio, Commissioner	Josh Van Vlack, Commissioner
Matt Carr, Commissioner	Matt Waldock, Commissioner
Mike Choma, Commissioner	John Wetzel, Commissioner
Phillip Franklin, Commissioner	

Commissioner Rick Kaysen was absent.

III. Introductions

The following attendees participated in the meeting:

Nathan Smolinski, Chief Technology Officer, WYDOT; Neil Gardiner, WyoLink Support Manager, WYDOT; Aimee Binning, 911 Planning Coordinator, WYDOT; Matt Groth, Videographer, WYDOT; Jeff Winkelmann, Account Director, Lumen; Keith Tupper, Emergency Communications Project Development, WYDOT; Chad Saeler, Emergency Communications District 4 Supervisor, WYDOT; Kevin Parker, Account Manager, Motorola Solutions; Nora Chang, Cybersecurity Manager, Motorola Solutions; Jeremy Johnson, Emergency Communication Coordinator, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Daniel Staffan, Wyoming and Colorado Consultant, FirstNet; MacKenzie Sewell, Assistant Attorney General, Wyoming Attorney General; and Kimberly Chapman, Commission Secretary, WYDOT.

Susan Elliott and Caitlin Casner assisted with virtual meeting management.

IV. Agenda Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Bertoglio, seconded by Commissioner Van Vlack, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

V. Action Items

1. Draft Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Van Vlack, and unanimously carried to approve the August 1, 2024, business meeting minutes.

2. WyoLink Application

It was recommended by Mr. Gardiner, moved by Commissioner Wetzel, seconded by Commissioner Choma, and unanimously carried to approve the applications from Lincoln County Search and Rescue and Bear River Fire District.

3. Officer Elections

Vice Chairman McClain was nominated for a three-year term as chairman, according to the recently updated commission policies. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Franklin and Mr. Waldock were nominated for a two-year term as vice chairman, according to the recently updated commission policies. The motion for Mr. Franklin was adopted.

Mr. Waldock was nominated for a one-year term as secretary, according to the recently updated commission policies. The motion was adopted.

VI. Updates/Discussions

1. Director's Update

Director Westby, who was in Laramie attending the Governor's Business Forum, announced that WYDOT would receive an award for outstanding public-private partnerships. This award recognized the department's response to the Teton County slide and the wildfires in northern Wyoming.

Interim Committee Work and Preparation for Upcoming Legislative General Session

Director Westby reported that he and other members of WYDOT's executive staff have spent the past six months working with various interim committees on a range of bills. WYDOT is collaborating with legislators on two key funding bills to address unfunded needs and lessen dependence on federal funding. The bills propose diverting sales tax from motor vehicle sales and severance tax from the General Fund and Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund to the Highway Fund, respectively. Both measures are also intended to combat the effects of inflation. WYDOT hopes the Joint Transportation, Highways, and Military Affairs Committee will advance the bills to the General Session at its next meeting.

The director noted a busy interim period with increased committee involvement. He emphasized the importance of educating legislators on WYDOT's operations and funding needs, especially with the influx of several newly elected legislators.

2. Chief Technology Officer's Report

Mr. Smolinski presented his update, with additional information provided by Ms. Binning.

PSCC Outreach Efforts

Mr. Smolinski introduced Mr. Groth from WYDOT Public Affairs, who discussed updating PSCC outreach materials. Mr. Groth provided an overview of the Public Affairs program, the Headquarters and district staff, and their role in statewide outreach and internal communications. Public Affairs produces the Interchange magazine and the Road Work Guide, which is published monthly during construction season. The program is also responsible for responding to media requests, circulating print and video news releases, highway safety messaging, and maintaining the WYDOT website.

Mr. Groth emphasized the need for refreshed outreach materials for the PSCC and WyoLink, as existing materials, including a seven-minute video, are outdated and too long. The goal is to create shorter, two-minute videos focusing on specific topics, using case studies and testimonials to highlight successes. Mr. Groth plans to feature stakeholders and agency partners in the videos.

Mr. Groth detailed the process for developing the new materials, which included evaluating content, defining purpose, audience, key messages, and intended usage formats such as presentations, social media, websites, and print. Additionally, Mr. Smolinski will collaborate with Mr. Groth on any necessary supplementary materials.

Mr. Groth requested commissioner input on potential interviewees. He will travel throughout the state in December to conduct brief interviews and film relevant locations, including public safety answering points (PSAPs), dispatch centers, and WyoLink sites. The interviews will form the basis of the video scripts, which will also adhere to a pre-established outline of key content points. After the interviews, the scripts will be finalized, with assistance from stakeholders in content review. The final videos are expected to be published and released in early February.

Mr. Smolinski invited interested commissioners to be interviewed, noting that Mr. Groth would travel to them.

Next Generation 911 (NG911) Update

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules

Ms. Binning briefed the commission on new and existing FCC's NG911 rules. She explained that states were setting up their NG911 networks, they were experiencing increased costs due to network providers' lack of cooperation in building compatible circuits. The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) successfully advocated for FCC intervention. Over the summer, the FCC subsequently adopted rules to define the responsibilities and set deadlines for originating service providers (OSPs) to implement NG911 capabilities.

One of the new FCC rules mandates that service providers—wireline, wireless, and commercial radio—collaborate with state 911 authorities during the NG911 planning process. The rule establishes a six-month timeframe for providers to achieve "IP network ready" status in Phase I, and i3 Compliance in Phase II. Ms. Binning explained that i3 compliance involves modernizing infrastructure, including broadband redundancy, voice over internet protocol (VoIP), analog-to-digital conversion, and support for various data inputs like video, text, over-the-top messaging (including

applications like WhatsApp or Instagram), and mobile device data sharing. The goal is to ensure necessary infrastructure is in place before the emergency services IP network (ESInet) goes live. Anticipating the FCC's usual rulemaking process, Ms. Binning hopes to see this rule implemented by March 2025. Additionally, she foresees potential requests regarding NG911 funding and implementation.

In March 2024, the FCC implemented a new rule that streamlines the use of satellite technology to address wireless coverage gaps. This rule is expected to enhance emergency communication in areas where traditional wireless service is unreliable, such as Wyoming's remote regions. The FCC addressed concerns about spectrum allocation by requiring existing wireless carriers to share their spectrum with satellite companies. The interim 911 rules for device-based location remain in place, requiring carriers to provide accurate location information within a three-meter radius, even for satellite calls.

Ms. Binning briefly discussed another new rule concerning 911 outage notifications. The FCC acknowledged that existing requirements fail to ensure prompt 911 outage notifications to PSAPs, especially in rural states like Wyoming that often miss notification thresholds. Consequently, the FCC mandated that OSPs must send outage notifications via phone and email within 30 minutes. This has led to some centers receiving too many notifications and insufficient notifications for others.

In response to these challenges, the FCC has engaged with three key organizations representing the 911 community—the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), and NASNA—to solicit recommendations for improving the notification process. One proposed solution is the development of a dashboard that would provide real-time information about outages, similar to systems used by electricity providers. The dashboard would require local 911 centers to maintain accurate and up-to-date information, shifting the responsibility for communication from the OSPs to the PSAPs themselves.

Regarding text-to-911 rules, Ms. Binning highlighted the challenge of obtaining location information from over-the-top messaging services. The FCC is working to address this gap.

Ms. Binning discussed cybersecurity concerns, particularly distributed telephony denial-of-service (TDoS) attacks. These attacks involve malicious individuals overwhelming the dispatch lines with numerous calls, thereby preventing legitimate emergency calls from being answered. The FCC is collaborating with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to develop countermeasures, especially given the use of artificial intelligence in these attacks.

Finally, Ms. Binning emphasized the critical importance of compliance with 911 location requirements, particularly under the RAY BAUM'S Act and Kari's Law. She stressed that any agency using a VoIP phone system must ensure each phone line has a registered address for accurate location identification during 911 calls. This is especially crucial for multi-unit buildings, such as hotels, where callers may be unable to provide their precise location. Proactive system updates by agencies can improve the efficiency of emergency services and ensure prompt assistance for those in need.

Update on Wyoming Outage Notification Rules

Mr. Smolinski updated the commission on WYDOT's collaborative work with the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA), and the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP), focusing on improving 911 services. Initially, Mr. Smolinski and Ms. Binning collaborated with the PSC to inform the Joint Corporations Committee about the challenges with the outage notification process in Wyoming.

Subsequent discussions with the PSAPs broadened the focus to encompass additional needs, which included:

1. **Funding:** The stakeholders felt that increasing the current 75-cent funding ceiling is a top priority. Discussions are underway with the Department of Revenue to establish a single point of contact for revenue collection and redistribution to counties.
2. **Migration to NG911:** There was much discussion on planning for the migration to NG911. Mr. Smolinski believes that the PSCC will need increased authority to manage funding and provide oversight of the migration process.
3. **Reporting:** Improving the accuracy of fee collection and redistribution reporting to align with FCC requirements, and ensure PSCC access to the data.

In September, the group delivered an educational session to Joint Corporations, aiming to inform legislators about the relevant issues. The session was bolstered by impassioned testimony from key stakeholders, which led to a more focused discussion on outage notification reports at the committee's October meeting.

After the October meeting, WYDOT and the PSC were charged with collaborating with carriers to develop outage notification rules tailored to Wyoming's specific needs, as the current FCC requirements are insufficient. The aim is to refine existing rules and regulations to enhance notification systems. As discussions progress, the PSC will draft the rules and regulations, while also consulting the PSCC.

Mr. Smolinski announced the formation of a working group to collaborate with carriers. The group's purpose will be to ensure that requests for network improvements are both realistic and achievable, given the constraints of the current infrastructure. He invited commissioners to express their interest in participating in this working group.

Lumen Update

Mr. Winkelmann reported that Lumen is investing in upgrades to its Ethernet Collector Nodes (ECNs) nationwide, increasing network data capacity and improving service. The upgrade, a two-phase project, will expand the network to 100 gigabytes. Phase I is 85% complete and expected by year-end, with Phase II anticipated by Q2 2025.

In response to a question from Chairman McClain, Mr. Winkelmann confirmed that 911 traffic will be handled by this network. Lumen's ECN build-out will enable them to pass cost savings on to system users.

Local Contracts

Mr. Smolinski updated the commission on the Motorola contract, funded by the \$8.6 million biennial appropriation for WyoLink tower operations and maintenance. The state is collaborating with Casper, Converse County, Gillette, Laramie County, and Teton County to align local tower maintenance contracts with the state's pricing, aiming for economies of scale. The state would fund the local contracts, contingent upon ensuring tower accessibility for all WyoLink subscribers. Draft contracts, aligned with the federal fiscal year, will be sent to local entities by year-end, with a goal of one-year advance payment to allow for adjustments if state funding ends. This aims to ensure continued statewide interoperability.

3. Emergency Communications Program Manager's Report

Mr. Smolinski provided an update on the Emergency Communications Program. The update also included information presented by Mr. Gardiner regarding WyoLink operations.

Equipment Donations Update

Following WYDOT's and the Wyoming Highway Patrol's (WHP) equipment upgrades, many old, but usable, surplus radios were made available to local agencies. The WHP is in the final round of upgrades, resulting in the availability of about 55 mobile and 55 handheld radios. Mr. Smolinski reported that the program has received multiple requests, and he anticipates distributing these radios by the end of 2024 or early 2025. Additionally, there are still a number of 50-watt radios available.

Chairman McClain stated that the donations have had a positive impact on small Wyoming communities. Many of these communities faced barriers to obtaining funding for necessary equipment due to limited budgets. However, the donations have enabled more communities and agencies to join the network.

RAVE Alerts

Mr. Smolinski is working with the Mr. Gardiner to streamline RAVE alert notifications, ensuring consistent and predictable messaging. To improve clarity for subscribers, they are refining the notifications to use non-technical language that explains the affected system or network, the personnel addressing the issue, and the anticipated restoration timeline.

4.9 Gigahertz (GHz) Update

Mr. Smolinski and Mr. Tupper updated the commission on the FCC's progress toward national management of the 4.9 GHz public safety spectrum. Mr. Smolinski noted that he, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Tupper have received numerous communications, primarily from commercial entities, advocating for their respective spectrum usage proposals. His primary concern is maintaining local control for Wyoming stakeholders, protecting existing licenses, and avoiding future costs associated with the spectrum. A letter was sent to the FCC, on behalf of the PSCC and other local entities, advocating for local control of the band.

Mr. Tupper discussed key rules and changes stemming from the FCC ruling issued in the FCC Report 24-114 on October 18, 2024. The document details the nationwide band manager framework for the 4.9 GHz public safety spectrum. Previously, local

entities managed and coordinated their own 4.9 GHz licenses. Now, a band manager, selected by a committee appointed by the Chiefs of Public Safety and Wireless Telecommunications, will oversee the spectrum. This manager will recommend channels, bandwidth, operating power, and equipment, and hold a nationwide overlay license. This license grants the band manager control over the spectrum in areas without existing licensees, potentially limiting future local access in those areas.

The 4.9 GHz spectrum band manager will be responsible for frequency coordination, preventing interference for existing users, and promoting technological innovation, particularly regarding FirstNet deployment. He or she will manage spectrum-sharing agreements with FirstNet and existing users. While the order states the band will be primarily for public safety, the exact nature of non-public safety access remains unclear.

The band manager will file annual reports and collaborate with public safety licensees to justify spectrum use, working closely with key partner FirstNet. The FCC aims to maximize spectrum use while minimizing interference. Critically, the band manager cannot operate independent 4.9 GHz stations, maintaining separation from FirstNet.

A 30-day freeze on new 4.9 GHz licenses and modifications will follow the FCC ruling's release, with a modified freeze for entities lacking prior 4.9 GHz licenses. Mr. Tupper reported existing licensees have until the end of the week to apply for additional licenses. WYDOT has requested over 50 licenses, each covering six locations with up to eight or nine wireless links. The department is working to secure a statewide footprint and has successfully obtained licenses covering every city and town in Wyoming, in addition to their existing statewide license.

The FCC's goal is to protect existing 4.9 GHz users while allowing unused spectrum to be utilized. Existing licensees will be required to relicense, providing more granular data about their spectrum usage—frequency, bandwidth, and so on. The future of statewide and regional 4.9 GHz licenses remains uncertain, though their continuation, with band manager coordination, is likely.

Mr. Tupper outlined the FCC's key priorities for the 4.9 GHz spectrum band: safeguarding existing users, optimizing spectrum usage, and delegating authority to a band manager who will facilitate operations through an overlay license. Going forward, public safety entities will no longer obtain 4.9 GHz licenses directly; they will have to work through the band manager, similar to FirstNet. This change both protects existing licensees and centralizes future spectrum allocation.

In response to Commissioner Choma's inquiry about the license request turnaround time, and Mr. Tupper replied that WYDOT's requests have been processed quickly. Of the 42 submitted last week, 38 have already been approved. Mr. Smolinski and Mr. Tupper confirmed that Wyoming stakeholders were aware of the application deadline and the pressing need to apply for new licenses.

WyoLink Operational Updates

WyoLink System Reports

Mr. Gardiner shared WyoLink usage data from the third quarter (Q3) of 2024. There was an average of about 1.9 million push-to-talks (PTT) and 163,025 minutes of airtime for the quarter, which was notably higher than Q3 of 2023. The top 20 talkgroups for Q2 were law enforcement agencies from 11 counties, two municipalities, and a WHP division.

WyoLink System Upgrades

Mr. Gardiner announced that the 16-site project is nearly finished, with all punch list items addressed. He expressed gratitude to Motorola for their assistance and to Mr. Smolinski for his commitment to the project.

Two new WyoLink sites, at Grand Targhee and Hoback Junction, are now operational in Teton County, bringing the system total to 96 sites. A Teton Village site is expected to come online soon, increasing the total to 97. Mr. Gardiner noted slow progress at the Needles Peak site, south of Saratoga, due to disagreements with the Bureau of Land Management. In contrast, the Kern's Wildlife Management Area site in Sheridan County has progressed well, thanks to support from local residents, the Sheridan County Sheriff, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

According to Mr. Gardiner, the major system software upgrade implemented last May has prompted ongoing Ethernet upgrades at numerous sites. New Juniper routers have been installed at 43 radio sites. Additionally, Service Aggregate Routers (SARs) are being installed to enhance switching, redundancy, and bandwidth control on microwave links. These SARs have been deployed along the I-80 corridor and up to Jackson, and further installations are planned for the spring.

The 27-path microwave project has encountered tower strength issues. Structural analysis revealed foundation problems at seven sites, requiring replacement of five towers—three with foundation issues and two with both foundation and steel issues. Four additional towers have foundation issues, but potentially sufficient steel. Given the age of the towers, alternative foundation testing is being explored. Microwave equipment is slated for order this month for installation next year.

Mr. Gardiner reported that his team's efforts in patching talkgroups to LTE devices have proven highly popular, exceeding the Cheyenne server's 250 talk group capacity. To address this demand, a new gateway is being installed at the Port of Entry, doubling the capacity by another 250 talk groups. The WyoLink office has received significant positive feedback on this feature, as it is a valuable complement to traditional radio systems.

WYDOT dispatch is evaluating the cloud-based Critical Connect dispatch solution. While it lacks some features and capabilities of a traditional 911 dispatch console, it provides remote and backup dispatch functionality. This includes patching and talkgroup access, accessible via an internet connection with two-factor authentication. The potential addition of analog repeater functionality is also being explored.

Mr. Smolinski clarified that the dispatch solution is for the WYDOT's Transportation Management Center (TMC), as it would allow TMC dispatchers to work remotely and still access the WyoLink radio system. He also explained that the process of patching LTE devices to WyoLink talkgroups.

Wyoming State Fire Statistics

Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Saeler discussed the WyoLink usage statistics from the major wildfires in August-September of 2024. Mr. Gardiner reported that data from WyoLink tower sites near Wyoming wildfires showed significant increases in usage during the fires. The Elk Creek fire, which started on September 27, saw a 23 percent increase at the Banner Ridge site and a 264 percent increase at the Duncan Lake site between September 15 and October 15.

For the Fish Creek Fire, which started August 16, and Pack Trail Fire, which started September 15, data from the Windy Ridge site showed a 114 percent increase in usage compared to the same period in the previous year. The sites are geographically dispersed, with Banner Ridge south of Sheridan, Duncan Lake near Burgess Junction, and Windy Ridge covering the Fish Creek and Pack Trail fires. The increased WyoLink usage likely reflects logistical support, as the U.S. Forest Service uses their own communications.

Mr. Saeler recounted how the Elk Creek Fire impacted the construction of a nearby WyoLink tower. On October 1, road closures threatened to halt progress due to a lack of concrete delivery. However, Mr. Saeler leveraged a prior acquaintance with the Sheridan County Sheriff to get the road closure lifted, allowing construction to continue. He also advised the construction manager on safety precautions given the nearby active fire. During the incident, the FirstNet Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD) was deployed to the fire's command post, but connectivity issues required a second CRD to be brought over from Jackson.

Mr. Saeler emphasized the importance of networking and collaboration with partner agencies during these events, highlighting both the technical and personal connections that are so crucial. He shared an example of how he coordinated with a propane company to ensure the continued operation of the Duncan Lake site during planned power outages.

WyoLink System Cybersecurity

Mr. Smolinski reported that cybersecurity is a growing concern for traditionally closed land mobile radio (LMR) systems, like WyoLink. Discussions with Motorola are in progress regarding statewide system security options. These discussions include how WyoLink connects to PSAPs and what security measures PSAPs might implement. Mr. Smolinski and his team will keep stakeholders informed about any security decisions.

Mr. Smolinski invited Mr. Parker and Ms. Chang, both with Motorola Solutions, to provide more detail on the options. Mr. Parker reported that while many organizations have cybersecurity departments, radio networks often lack specific protection. Systems like WyoLink, with connections to various PSAPs, create multiple potential vulnerabilities, as demonstrated by a recent ransomware attack on a Kansas PSAP. Recognizing this risk, Motorola acquired two cybersecurity firms in 2020 to enhance

their system security. He shared that, to date, no Motorola LMR system has been breached, though attempts have been made.

Ms. Chang reviewed the proposed WyoLink security measures. She explained that Motorola's expansion into cybersecurity is a response to the evolving nature and accessibility of their technology. Rather than focusing solely on cybersecurity like specialized firms, Motorola prioritizes securing the public sector platforms they develop. Their 2020 acquisitions, notably Delta Risk, brought in both professional services, like risk assessments, and managed detection and response (MDR) capabilities. Delta Risk, founded by former intelligence officers, provided the intellectual property and technology now integrated with Motorola's proprietary cloud and on premise systems. This integration is crucial, Ms. Chang noted, because Motorola's proprietary technology requires tailored security solutions, distinct from those used for open-source systems. She emphasized the increasing number of cyberattacks targeting often fragmented public sector networks as a key driver for implementing these robust security measures.

Ms. Chang detailed Motorola's cybersecurity portfolio for the public sector, emphasizing their MDR service. MDR provides continuous network monitoring, supplementing (often) limited in-house security expertise. She explained that MDR addresses the growing need to not only prevent network intrusion but also to detect malicious activity within the network, even when valid credentials are used. This is similar to a home security system that can detect unusual activity even if someone has a key and alarm code.

Ms. Chang pointed out that LMR networks are increasingly vulnerable due to features like Smart Connect and SEER Central, citing a recent ransomware attack on a Kansas PSAP as an example. In that incident, attackers gained access through a compromised Cisco VPN password, crippling the PSAP's systems. She underscored the difficulty of simply rebuilding after such an attack and the potential for attacks to directly target radio networks. Ms. Chang stated that Motorola's MDR system has detected and prevented similar attacks.

Mr. Parker stressed that WyoLink's statewide reach, connecting to every PSAP in Wyoming, presents a significant security risk. Many rural PSAPs with limited IT resources are potential vulnerabilities, and a compromised PSAP could provide access to the entire WyoLink system. Given the sensitive personal information held by PSAPs, strong WyoLink security measures and PSAP security education are crucial.

Ms. Chang shared that Motorola has been working with the WyoLink office and the Emergency Communications program since early in the year to develop a comprehensive security plan. Breaches often originate from compromised user endpoints—sends, clients, consoles, and so on—so these are a key focus. Motorola's solution involves deploying Airs Nodes, which are Dell servers, at each site to collect logs, which are then fed to an ActiveEye server. ActiveEye uses AI and machine learning, incorporating a global threat database, to identify and flag potential threats. Approximately one million events are processed monthly, with around 20,000 escalated to Motorola's Security Operations Center (SOC) for human analysis. The

SOC analysts, who are located in two geographically redundant centers in Texas and Illinois, ensure US data remains in the country.

Ms. Chang encouraged attendees to sign up for the free Public Safety Threat Alliance (PSTA) membership on Motorola's website to receive a monthly newsletter summarizing cybersecurity threats in the public sector.

In response to a question from Chairman McClain, Mr. Parker confirmed that the 148 consoles being replaced will include access to cybersecurity tools, extending protection beyond the network wall to individual consoles. While the built-in security is a significant step, MDR will still be necessary.

Statewide Interoperability Coordination (SWIC) Updates

Mr. Smolinski provided the SWIC updates.

Cross-State Border Interoperable Communications

Wyoming is leading an effort to establish interoperable communications with neighboring states, starting with Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Initial efforts have focused on South Dakota, and a recent test successfully demonstrated cross-system communication between Wyoming and South Dakota using radios and the Critical Connect app.

The next step is to implement interoperability, allowing seamless communication for first responders crossing state lines. The goal is to eliminate the need for system switching during high-speed pursuits or mutual aid requests. Wyoming and South Dakota will serve as a model for future expansion to Montana, Nebraska, and eventually Utah, whose L3Harris system will require a different approach. This initiative will provide more technology and end-user features than current interoperability solutions. Extensive testing and user training will be crucial for successful implementation and statewide rollout.

Motorola Trunked Users Group

Mr. Smolinski reported that Wyoming is exploring the possibility of creating a user group similar to the Motorola Trunked User Group (MTUG) in Colorado. This would provide a forum for radio users and system administrators to discuss new technologies, challenges, and potential changes to Motorola radios. While Wyoming's group will ultimately differ from Colorado's due to the smaller amount of subscribers, there is a recognized need for a user-driven avenue to communicate with Motorola.

Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group

Mr. Smolinski and Mr. Kelly recently attended the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator working group meeting in Boise, Idaho. This group, which includes states from Regions 8 (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana) and 10 (the Pacific Northwestern states), facilitates collaboration and coordination between states. The meetings have directly led to enhanced interoperability efforts between Wyoming and neighboring states like South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, and Utah. By examining other states' approaches, such as South Dakota's use of Smart and Critical Connect, the group can better align its work and streamline communication regionally.

CISA Update

Mr. Johnson announced the return of the Technical Assistance Program and the possibility of a statewide 911 assessment. States may submit up to five prioritized technical assistance requests every six months, although approval is not guaranteed. A new catalog will be distributed soon, but unlisted needs can also be requested. Mr. Johnson also noted potential changes to CISA due to recent elections.

Mr. Smolinski explained the planned 911 assessment, updating the 2019 plan. Technical assistance will provide facilitators, training, and documentation for stakeholder workgroups to collect data and create the updated plan for statewide use. This could possibly combined with a commission meeting or education session.

Commercial Emergency Communications Services Update

FirstNet Update on CRDs

Mr. Smolinski introduced Dan Staffan (AT&T/FirstNet) to discuss CRDs, and interoperability with other carriers. He reported that negotiations with Verizon regarding Critical Connect have stalled, and emphasized the goal of system compatibility across carriers—Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T—to support user choice. The department will continue pursuing the Verizon agreement despite the current impasse.

Mr. Staffan discussed FirstNet's collaboration with WyoLink on interoperability and an ongoing multi-year network modernization project, including hardware replacements and possible spectrum/technology enhancements. He encouraged agencies to explore the use of CRDs, citing their success during recent fires, and offered demonstrations. Agency-owned CRDs deploy within an hour—a critical advantage compared to the 14-hour service level agreements (SLA) for requested assistance, even with rapid response teams.. He welcomed feedback on potential new sites and increased connectivity. FirstNet continues to pursue growth and believes the modernization will improve Wyoming's technology infrastructure.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Announcements

Recognition of Departing Commissioners

Chairman McClain recognized and thanked Mark Harshman and Owen St. Clair for their contributions to the PSCC and interoperable communications in Wyoming. Mr. Harshman had served on the commission since its inception over 20 years ago, including serving many years as chair, representing the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association. He stated it was an honor to represent the fire chiefs, noting the process to build the system was not always easy, but he was extremely proud of WyoLink. Mr. Harshman thanked WYDOT and Motorola for all of their efforts in building a preeminent interoperable radio communication system.

Mr. St. Clair served as the tribal representative to the PSCC for approximately three years. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the commission and the valuable knowledge he gained during his tenure.

Both Harshman and St. Clair departed the commission in June at the end of their terms.

Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Chapman reviewed the proposed 2025 PSCC meeting schedule, and provided initial details on in-person meetings. The commission approved the schedule by consensus.

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Choma, and unanimously carried to adjourn the November 13, 2024, business meeting at 11:30 a.m.