



Mark Gordon  
Governor  
K. Luke Reiner  
Director

# WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES



Mark Harshman  
Chairman  
Telephone No.:  
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## I. Call to Order

The Public Safety Communications Commission met via video conference on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Chairman Harshman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

## II. Roll Call

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Chairman Mark Harshman	Commissioner Kebin Haller
Commissioner Mike Choma	Commissioner Doug Frank
Commissioner Paul Bertoglio	Commissioner Jonathan Downing
Commissioner Frost Williams	Luke Reiner, Ex Officio Member
Commissioner Dwane Pacheco	

Commissioners Ron Gatti and Martin Armajo were absent.

## III. Introductions

The following attendees participated in the meeting:

Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer	Nate Smolinski, Emergency Communications Manager
Neil Gardiner, WyoLink Manager	Mike Kahler, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Aimee Binning, 911 Planning Coordinator	Ryan Thompson, Assistant Attorney General
Sandy Scott, Interim Commission Secretary	

Former PSCC Vice Chairman Skip Hornecker also attended the meeting.

## IV. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

## V. Action Items

Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Bertoglio, seconded by Commissioner Frank, and carried to approve the October 7 2020, business meeting minutes.

WyoLink System Access Application: Mr. Gardiner presented an application for WyoLink system access from Bonneville County, Idaho, Emergency Management. Bonneville County borders Lincoln County in Wyoming. Having interoperability would allow the counties to communicate across state lines.

It was recommended by Mr. Gardiner, moved by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Choma, and carried to approve the WyoLink and Wyoming Mutual Aid Application for System Access for Bonneville County, Idaho, Emergency Management.

WyoLink Logo Rebranding: Mr. Gardiner presented two WyoLink logo designs for Commission consideration. The purpose of the new design is to provide a fresh rebranding of WyoLink.

The first logo design depicted a buffalo head on the left side, and “WyoLink” and “Public Safety Communications” on separate lines across the middle, with a radio tower emitting a signal representing the letter “i” in the word “WyoLink.” The buffalo head, radio tower, and “WyoLink” text, including only the right half of the “W”, are in black ink, and the left half of the “W” in “WyoLink” and “Public Safety Communications” are in burnt orange colored ink.

The second logo design depicted a mountain silhouette in the background, and “WyoLink” and “Public Safety Communications” on separate lines across the middle with a radio tower emitting a signal on the top of one mountain in the center of the design. The mountains and the radio tower are in black ink, and the text is in a burnt orange colored ink.

It was moved by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and carried to approve the buffalo head design as the new official WyoLink logo.

## **VI. Updates/Discussion**

Director’s Update: Director Reiner presented the Director’s update.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Director Reiner advised that COVID-19 cases across the state and within WYDOT are trending downward.

WHP troopers have received their COVID-19 vaccinations. WYDOT’s pilots will be vaccinated in the next phase offered, followed by Driver Services and Ports-of-Entry employees.

Right now, the Wyoming Health Department plans to distribute vaccine dosages commercially, but WYDOT has offered to back up the distribution process if needed.

COVID-19 Relief Funding: WYDOT received about \$63 million for surface transportation as part of a COVID-19 relief package.

Legislative Update: Director Reiner briefed the Commission about a few WYDOT-related bills considered by the legislature January 27 through February 5, 2021.

Legislative standing committees meet February 22 through 25, 2021, and the full legislative body reconvenes March 1 through April 2, 2021. Governor Gordon has directed agency personnel to meet virtually during the legislative session, not in person.

Director Reiner shared information about bills standing committees will consider February 22-25, 2021, and some WYDOT-related bills the full legislature will consider during the month-long session beginning March 1, 2021. HB0015, Department of Transportation Communication Facilities, proposes amending WYDOT leasing provisions to permit broadband and telecommunications services on any state-owned, WYDOT-operated communications tower with excess capacity.

Former Vice Chairman Skip Hornecker Recognition: The Commission recognized former Vice Chairman Skip Hornecker for his service to the PSCC from July 1, 2006 to January 7, 2021.

Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) Representative: Mr. Babbitt asked WASCOP to recommend a candidate for Governor Gordon's consideration to fill the Commission vacancy.

Chief Technology Officer's Update: Mr. Babbitt presented the Chief Technology Officer's update.

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1): Mr. Babbitt advised that he, Mr. Smolinski, and Ms. Aimee Binning continue to work to finalize Wyoming's statewide NG9-1-1 plan. WYDOT's goal is to finalize the plan by December 31, 2021, so the document is available to apply for funding when grant opportunities arise.

Five working groups were developed to assist in the planning process, including outreach and education, technology, strategic planning, governance, and geographical information systems. The working groups hold monthly meetings as stakeholders in the working group to be a part of the process of educating citizens and elected officials about NG9-1-1 capabilities and limitations, and to assist in the planning process.

The FCC recently issued a report addressing improper 9-1-1 fee diversions in some areas across the nation. Mr. Babbitt does not believe this topic is an issue in Wyoming, but he will keep the Commission informed of any developments that affect WYDOT.

Broadband Update: Mr. Babbitt provided more information about the effects of HB0015 on the Department, and he assured the Commission that, if the bill passes, WYDOT will ensure emergency communications will take priority over other service providers using its towers.

Fees received from private service providers for WyoLink tower use will revert to the General Fund, but WYDOT will request transferring those funds back to the agency for WyoLink expenses.

Emergency Communications Program Manager's Update: Mr. Smolinski presented the Emergency Communications Program update.

16-Tower Project Buildout Report: Mr. Smolinski presented some photos the progress on some of the WyoLink tower sites.

The 16-tower buildout is progressing with five sites online, including Greybull and Teton Pass, which became operational in mid-January. The Lusk and Alcova sites will go live in March, depending on the weather. The Alva tower site in northern Crook County is receiving fiber optic placement.

A new tower installation is planned in Rock Springs in the near future. Mr. Smolinski hopes WYDOT can break ground at that site in March.

WYDOT is negotiating with landowners for necessary right-of-way for the proposed new northern Goshen County, Newcastle, and Evanston sites.

Construction on the Rock Springs 14-Mile site has encountered an obstacle during excavation. WYDOT is working through the matter to continue building at the site.

The Lovell site is waiting for Bureau of Land Management approval. The Meadowlark site is in its final approval stage. The new northern Sublette County site will break ground in the spring.

Statewide Interoperability Coordination Update: Work continues on developing WYDOT's statewide emergency communications plan. Plan stakeholders include the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECWG), federal, state, and local officials.

The Department plans to host with an auxiliary communications technical assistance program this summer. The program is open to all interested parties statewide. The meetings will be held virtually.

A weeklong Incident Communications Center Management course will also be offered in early May 2021. Wyoming Department of Homeland Security will participate in that training.

WYDOT will also host a Broadband Technical Assistance Program in late 2021.

WyoLink Inter Radio Frequency Subsystem Interface (ISSI) Connection with Sublette County: Messrs. Smolinski and Gardiner have spent a considerable amount of time working with Sublette County to make create interoperability between two separate emergency management systems. More testing is necessary to ensure the systems will work together in the future.

FirstNet Update: WYDOT, Motorola Corporation, and AT&T discussing the possibility of tying the WyoLink core into the AT&T FirstNet core. The benefit of doing so will allow WYDOT to identify

WyoLink subscribers, who is coming onboard, what systems and talk groups are used, and better manage migration.

WyoLink Operations Update: Mr. Gardiner briefed the Commission about the latest WyoLink operations.

Work continues on the WyoLink website.

WYDOT is performing compliance testing on certain radio models.

Final inspections are progressing at various WyoLink sites.

Wyoming 4.9 GHz Update: Mr. Kelly presented the 4.9 GHz update.

In March 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed an action offering greater flexibility of the 4.9 GHz spectrum. On September 29, 2020, WYDOT gathered with other Wyoming stakeholders to request a statewide 4.9 GHz license solely for public safety use. On September 30, 2020, the FCC approved Wyoming's request for the license.

On December 30, 2020, the Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA) filed a petition for a stay of the band to vacate the FCC's decision. In January, the PSSA met and filed a petition to require all states to follow the same guidelines for the band use.

Wyoming cannot use the 4.9 GHz spectrum until the FCC issues a final ruling on the PSSA's petition.

## **VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Choma, seconded by Commissioner Haller, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m., on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.