



Matthew H. Mead
Governor
K. Luke Reiner
Director

Wyoming Department of Transportation

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes



Mark Harshman
Chairman
Telephone No.:
(307) 777-4015

I. Call to Order

The Public Safety Communications Commission met via videoconference on, Wednesday, October 7, 2020. Chairman Harshman presided, calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harshman led the Commission in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Mark Harshman, Chairman	Skip Hornecker, Vice Chairman
Dwane Pacheco, Commissioner	Kebin Haller, Commissioner
Mike Choma, Commissioner	Ron Gatti, Commissioner
Paul Bertoglio, Commissioner	Doug Frank, Commissioner
Luke Reiner, Ex Officio	

IV. Introductions

The following staff members present and participated in the meeting:

Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer	Nathan Smolinski, Telecommunications Program Manager
Katie Pfister, Commission Secretary	Mike Kahler, AG's Office
Ryan Thompson, AG's Office	Neil Gardiner, WyoLink Manager
Susan Elliott, WYDOT Executive Assistant	Sandy Scott, Transportation Commission Secretary

V. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments made to the agenda.

VI. Action Items

1. Draft Minutes - July 8, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Honecker, seconded by Commissioner Frank, and carried to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2020, business meeting.

2. WyoLink Applications

It was moved by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and carried to approve WyoLink Applications for the State of Nebraska, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, and the Converse County Assessor.

VII. Updates/Discussion

1. Director's Update

Director Reiner presented the Director's update.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Agency Impacts

He conveyed that the agency is operating well during this coronavirus environment, given the rapidly increasing numbers throughout the state. He noted that roughly 20 percent of the workforce remains on telework, and that there have been no instances of cross contamination from employee to employee to date.

Employee Fatalities

He conveyed that the agency has had three fatalities, one job related, and expressed his condolences to the families. He explained that Ms. Shirley Samuelson passed away while on duty and operating a sweeper on Teton Pass, noting she stepped away from her vehicle, and although the emergency break was used, the machine rolled down the hill and over the top of her. He stressed that an ongoing OSHA investigation is underway, and that a future memorial ceremony will be held in her honor.

Federal Budget

He conveyed that an extension and continuing resolution passed for the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and that funds were also recently added to the Highway Trust fund.

State Budget

He noted that various cost saving measures are underway, including the closure of various rest areas, various cuts to cities and counties, and 11 significant project delays.

State Legislative Matters

He announced that the agency testified before the Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee on September 21, 2020. This included passage through the committee of a proposed bill that would implement a Road Usage Charge (RUC) for those traveling on the state's highway system. He explained that amendments are underway at this time based on the committee's recommendations, and that changes will be considered at their next meeting. He noted that legislation is also under review regarding employee moving expenses, and stressed the importance of this legislation in growing future WYDOT leaders.

2. Chief Technology Officer's Update

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

NG911

He announced the recent hiring of Ms. Aimee Binning in District 1, which includes training and safety oversight for the district, as well as the added role of planning and coordination of the NG911 framework moving forward. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Steve Morgan and Mr. Monte McClain for their work on the annual report, noting that they were instrumental in getting this completed.

CARES Act/Broadband

He explained that even though WyoLink did not receive an exception request for COVID-19-related expenses, that the agency was authorized to fund one-third of its original request to update equipment that is no longer under warranty. He conveyed that the partnership between WYDOT and Motorola has been exceptional, and the plan is to replace outdated equipment within the next three biennia. He also conveyed that the Broadband Task Force is discussing the possibility of utilizing WyoLink towers for broadband expansion statewide.

3. Emergency Communications Program Update

Mr. Smolinski presented the Emergency Communications Program Manager's update. The update also included information presented by Mr. Gardiner regarding WyoLink operations.

16-Tower Buildout Update

He reviewed the 16-tower buildout report, which included the following updates:

- **Buffalo:** Site active, with reported coverage in previous known trouble spots.
- **Orin Junction:** Site active, with reported coverage improvements in previous known trouble spots
- **Wright:** Site active, with reported coverage improvements in previous known trouble spots.
- **Jackson:** FNE optimization scheduled for October 19, followed by testing and activation.
- **Alcova:** Zoning hearing was scheduled August 11, and approved on August 18. Broke ground the week of August 31. Building tower on site.
- **Alva:** Broke ground on June 23; fiber installation underway. FNE optimization schedule for October 12, followed by testing and activation.
- **Greybull:** Broke ground the week of September 7. FNE optimization schedule for 10/12, followed by testing and activation.
- **Lusk:** Broke ground the week of September 7. FNE scheduled for the first week of November, followed by testing and activation.
- **Rock Springs (Blairtown to Tank Hill):** Relocation of the site was required. NEPA/SHPO underway; expected ETA by the end of October.
- **Newcastle:** Work continues with the city and a private landowner.
- **Ten Sleep (Meadowlark):** USFS agreement completed. Final submittals to the USFS being delivered.

16-Tower Buildout Update (Continued)

- **Rock Springs (14 Mile Hill):** BLM agreement completed. Tribal and BLM paleontologist will be on-site for construction monitoring. Due to antelope winter migratory route, construction may only occur between May 1 and November 15.
- **Evanston:** Right-of-Way finalizing agreement with private landowners. Scheduling construction and utilities upon agreement.
- **North Big Horn County (Little Sheep Mountain):** NEPA/SHPO underway; expected ETA by the end of November. Spring-Fall 2020 target.
- **Northern Goshen County:** New location identified on State Lands, and survey underway. Summer-Fall 2020 target.
- **Bondurant:** Holding discussions with Sublette and private landowner for a possible collocation option on Kismet Peak. Summer-fall 2020 target.

Statewide Interoperability Coordination

Mr. Smolinski conveyed that work continues with Sublette County in order to finish work on the inner-subsystem interface connection, highlighting that the connection is now in place, and the systems are able to speak to one another. He noted that they are in final testing at this time. Additionally, he conveyed that the WyoLink office is considering options for expanding the inner-subsystem interface connections outside Wyoming's borders. Discussion is ongoing with Colorado, Nebraska, and Idaho.

The Department is preparing an RFP to acquire bulk radio purchase rates for use by WYDOT, other state agencies, and local partners, with an anticipated release in early 2021.

He then announced the formation of a communications leadership technical assistance program that will add in the development of common leadership in interoperability around the state.

His final item was to announce the retirement of Mr. Larry Mayberry with Motorola, noting that he was instrumental in some of the work and partnerships on the WyoLink system.

WyoLink Operations

Mr. Gardener announced that the WyoLink office is making updates at this time, which includes a new ticketing system for tracking requests, a revamped website to reflect where the system is today, and to update outdated information such as the handbook and site maps.

FirstNet

Mr. Garrett Doyle, Colorado's FirstNet marketing manager, provided a brief presentation about the background of the FirstNet/AT&T buildout.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bertoglio, seconded by Chairman Harshman, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m., on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.