



**Matthew H. Mead**  
Governor

**Mark Harshman**  
Chairman

# State of Wyoming

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## Public Safety Communications Commission

### Meeting of March 12, 2013 Sublette County Courthouse – Pinedale, WY And Phone Conference Call

Chairman Harshman called the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Roll Call and Members in Attendance:**

Mark Harshman — Wyoming Fire Chief's Association  
Lauri Wempen — EMS  
Lanny Applegate — Wyoming Fire Marshal  
Robert Wyatt — Public at Large - Phone  
Vernon Hill — Tribal - Phone  
Jerry Kennedy — County Commissioner  
Kim Lee — Wyoming Office of Homeland Security  
Jimmy Siler — Wyoming Livestock Board - Phone  
William Walter — FBI  
Skip Hornecker — Sheriffs  
Steve DeCecco — Game and Fish  
Bill Westerfield — State Parks and Cultural Resources

#### **Members Absent:**

Dave Johnson — Municipalities - Excused  
Billy Janes — Police Chief's Association - Excused  
Robert Dean — Department of Health - Excused

#### **Others in Attendance:**

Robert Symons — PSCC Administrative Support  
Martin McCoy — WyoLink Support Manager  
Ken Schultz - WYDOT  
Jim Pobanz - Motorola  
Carol Herrmann – Clark Wireless  
Dave Lankford – Sublette County Sheriff  
Robert Wilson – WYDOT  
Paul Jenkins – Lincoln County Commissioner  
Jay Hokanson – Lincoln County EMA  
Jim Mitchell – Sublette County EMA  
Rich Ochs – Teton County EMA  
Neil Clatworthy – Motorola  
T.J. Hunt – Sublette County Fire  
Mathew Manguse – Pinedale Roundup  
Joel Bousman – Sublette County Commissioner

Andy Nelson – Sublette County Commissioner  
Jim Latta – Sublette County Commissioner  
Carl Freeman – Fremont County Communications  
Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security – phone  
Larry Majerus - Wyoming Office of Homeland Security – phone

**Meeting Agenda:**

Chairman Harshman asked for any changes to the draft agenda. Being no changes to the agenda, Chairman Harshman stated the agenda is approved as submitted.

**Minutes from December 6, 2012:**

Chairman Harshman asked for discussion on the December 6, 2012 minutes. *Lanny Applegate made a motion to approve the December 6, 2012 minutes and the motion was seconded by Bill Westerfield. The motion passed on a voice vote.*

WyoLink Operations Work Group-Jerry Kennedy

The WyoLink Operations Work Group met by phone on March 12, 2013. The minutes for the November 29, 2012 were approved. Seven applications for WyoLink membership were reviewed and a motion was passed to recommend their approval by the PSCC: Cheyenne Animal Shelter, Cordero Rojo Mine Rescue, Clark Wireless Inc., Cheyenne Veterans Affairs Police, Sheridan Veterans Affairs Police, City of Sheridan Fire-Rescue, and Campbell County Road and Bridge.

The February 25, 2013 WyoLink Status meeting minutes were reviewed. The work group heard a report on busy indications from Marty McCoy. After Laramie County Sheriff and Cheyenne Police Department migrated to WyoLink there have been an increase on busies on the 85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank sites. Discussions were held about the frequencies required to add two channels to each site and an estimated price of \$101,000 per site for an upgrade. There was discussion on the use of MAT and CAT talkgroups to try to alleviate the busies. A motion was made to approve the improvements was passed by the WyoLink Operations Work Group and recommend to the PSCC to secure funding for the upgrades.

Executive Board – Mark Harshman

Mark Harshman stated the Executive Board did not meet this quarter.

Spectrum Work Group – William Walter

William Walter stated the Spectrum Work Group did not meet this quarter

SALECS-Steve DeCecco

The SALECS Work Group did not meet this quarter.

### Interoperability Executive Committee-Billy Janes

The committee did not meet this quarter.

### Broadband Work Group – Bob Symons

The Broadband Work Group has received two resignations from the work group – Steve Myrum and Bill Morse. The state of Wyoming is working on a Federal Grant for Broadband Planning. This grant is for a three year period and only includes planning, no funds will be used for construction. This is a non-competitive grant which Wyoming will be in two phases. This grant is an 80% Federal and 20% State funds, which may be soft match. The federal share will be \$1,383,000 and the state share of \$345,750 with a total amount available of \$1,728,750. The grant will be divided into two phases with an equal amount being spent on each phase. The soft match includes wages, volunteer time for meeting attendance, office space, etc. The grant must be submitted on March 19, 2013 and the Enterprise Technology Services will be the state agency overseeing the grant.

### Staff Reports - Bob Symons

Mr. Symons reported on his activities for the past three months. There has been a conference call with the neighboring counties in Wyoming and South Dakota on interstate interoperability. A follow up call will be made soon. Wyoming will be receiving a couple of technical assistance programs from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance program (ICTAP), an AUXCOMM class on March 16 & 17, 2013 and Communications Unit planning which will include a Wyoming Communications Field Operations Guide (C-FOG) and Communications Unit Leader (COML) certification program.

A Broadband workshop was held in Casper on January 10, 2013 provided by DHS-Office of Emergency Communications (OEC). He has been working with Troy Babbitt to complete the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) application. Bob Symons and Marty McCoy met with Sublette County and U.S. Forest Service to discuss the White Pine Portable Coverage Enhancement site. Mr. Symons has been participating in the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) update conference calls. He has been working with Sheridan, Washakie, Lincoln and Sublette Counties on their talkgroup and WyoLink migration plans.

Bob Symons has been working with Dan Wilson , BLM, to help develop a fire interoperable plan for Wyoming and the Federal agencies. Nebraska and Wyoming has held one conference call on interstate interoperability between the two states. Colorado and Utah have interstate interoperability plans.

### WyoLink Support Managers Report-Marty McCoy

Marty McCoy stated there are 64 WyoLink sites in operation. The latest sites to become active is Gillette Boxelder site. There are currently 6 additional sites under construction, which should be completed during 2013: PowWow – Lincoln County, Signal Mountain – Teton County, Douglas, Green River, Powell and Wheatland.

WyoLink is looking at possible alternatives to the Pow Wow site due to the anticipated high cost, approximately \$5.5 million for construction and the high cost of maintaining the site. Three possible general locations under consideration are Black Mountain, Idaho, Snake River Canyon and the Bondurant area. The study includes a review of the available funding for construction. WyoLink is continuing the work with the Forest Service, Grand Teton National Park and Union Wireless for a WyoLink site at Signal Mountain within the Grand Teton National Park.

About 112 agencies are now using WyoLink and there are approximately 15,642 radios on WyoLink. During a typical day there are 2,500 to 3,100 radio affiliated on the system. To date this year, some 689 codeplugs have been created with another 14 currently on the schedule. The average wait for codeplugs created this year is 2 weeks and the projected wait for new codeplugs is about 1 week.

WyoLink continues to track WyoLink performance on a daily basis to ensure the system continues to operate at its best. There has been an increase in the number of busies on 85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank and may benefit from additional channels. WyoLink is continuing the coverage testing and working with WYDOT GIS program to display the testing results. The GIS map will be posted on the WyoLink Web Page in April. WyoLink has a new contact number: 307-777-WLNK (9565). This number has a menu to direct the caller to the person best equipped to answer their question. The WyoLink On Call Tech number (307-777-4885) is still valid.

The Monthly Status Meeting is usually held the last Monday of the month and the agenda and minutes are an excellent source of information. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution list, contact Marty McCoy.

To date in 2013 the WyoLink system handled 3,586,675 radio calls. Busy indications have been 0.017% of total call time system wide and WyoLink reliability has been 99.9%.

Discussion on the site selection for the possible replacement of the PowWow site. The cost of the PowWow site, due to being in a roadless area, may be prohibitive and two or three sites may be less expensive than PowWow. Marty McCoy explained the current coverage testing by WyoLink. The primary roads have been tested and not WYDOT will start testing the secondary roads and county roads. All of this information will be added to the GIS map. The coverage testing does correlate with the predicted coverage. The drive testing is much more accurate. The coverage testing will develop the basis for any additional funding for WyoLink. The County Coordinators attending the PSCC meeting agreed that the testing would be beneficial. *A copy of the WyoLink Support Managers Report is attached to the minutes for reference.*

Guy Cameron, Director, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security's role is to support the WyoLink project. They have done this with the grant purchases of radios and working with the County Commissioner's Association and Wyoming Association of Municipalities. The county Commissioner WyoLink survey identified a few issues. Have the code plug issues been cleared up? Big Horn County has stated a concern on the lack of coverage and has stated they supplied information on some potential sites, what is the status of this review. Marty McCoy stated the code plug schedule is much better, from a 4 to 6 week wait to a less than 2 weeks. Mr. McCoy will

research the Big Horn County coverage and any potential site locations. Two of the WOHS employees are available to help with code plug development, if needed.

## **Old Business:**

### WyoLink Budget and Expenditures

Marty McCoy provided three WyoLink Budget and Expenditure reports to the PSCC. The WyoLink Activity Status Summary Report was compiled by the WYDOT Budget Office. This color coded spreadsheet identifies the funding sources for the WyoLink Project and the project expenditures to date. The Yearly WyoLink Expenditures Charts show the yearly expenditures by fund source and by use. The final document is a copy of the letter WYDOT Director John Cox sent pertaining to the transfer of funds for the WyoLink Software Upgrade. Chairman Harshman had a question about the transfer of construction funds to the software upgrade and how those funds were going to be repaid. Ken Shultz stated the original intent was to use grant funds to replenish the construction funds, but the loss of grant funds due to the Federal budget cut backs will require a renewed discussion on the construction funds.

Discussion on additional funds for WyoLink. The Legislature will need to be approached to provide additional funding for WyoLink. The PSCC and WYDOT will need the support of the local agencies when approaching the legislature for additional funding. The PSCC constituents need to assist in educating the Legislature on the needs for WyoLink. WYDOT will need to have firm numbers on what is needed for the WyoLink Project completion. A coordinated effort by WYDOT, PSCC and stakeholders is required. Coverage testing is paramount in providing facts about WyoLink. Could Motorola be asked to assist with the coverage testing?

Coverage in Sublette County does need improvement. White Pine will provide portable radio coverage in Pinedale and improve mobile radio coverage in Sublette County. The McCoullough Peaks site in Park County, which should be completed in April, should provide improved WyoLink coverage in northern Big Horn County. The Powell, Cody, Lovell areas feel like they have been left out. What is the plan for this area?

Training needs to be geared toward the field operations, bring the training down to the basics. The training needs to pertain to the user's radios and less on the system. The Fire Marshal's Office provided training for every request. Unfortunately, the grant dollars for training are no longer available. The PSCC Commissioners should work through their sponsoring agencies or organizations to make sure the PSCC is reaching out to the stakeholders. The PSCC has heard, "WyoLink does not work." When this statement is made, the next question is, "What doesn't work?". WyoLink and the PSCC need to get to the root of the problem and not accept "it doesn't work".

There is confusion on who to contact when there are questions about WyoLink. The PSCC is the representative of WyoLink Project to the stakeholders. A WyoLink/PSCC background document may be beneficial and a strong coalition of stakeholders would be helpful when working with the Legislature. The Legislative Transportation Committee needs to hear from the PSCC, WYDOT and the stakeholders about the history, today, and the future plans and expected funding. Bob Symons is the PSCC Administrative Support and he will coordinate with the stakeholders, PSCC and WyoLink.

The PSCC website at <http://pscc.wyoming.gov/> and the WyoLink website at <http://wyolink.wyoming.gov/> have information on the WyoLink project and the PSCC activities. All of the meeting minutes, background information, status reports, maps, etc. are available on these web sites. The rural firefighters need to have field programmable radios, scanning, must be able to talk to the Federal fire agencies and the radios need to be able to be cloned. There are radios available which meet the needs of the rural firefighters. WyoLink does not work everywhere and portable radio coverage will not be the same as mobile radio coverage. Wildland fires will always be using conventional channels for fire operations, the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) cannot buy trunked radios or have trunking for every location the radios may be used.

If there is going to be an effort to seek additional funding, the County Commissioners Association would be willing to assist in the legislative process. The county commissioners will need more information about the WyoLink project to assist. The Wyoming County Commissioners Association will be meeting in Casper in April.

### Ten Minute Break

### County Commissioner's WyoLink Survey

Bob Symons led a discussion on a survey pertaining to WyoLink which the County Commissioners Association sent to all of the counties. All 23 counties responded to the survey. The survey included 5 questions and comments. 1) Are there agencies in the County using WyoLink? – 17 Yes and 6 No's. Washakie County is now using WyoLink – 18 yes and 5 no's. 2) If yes, what agencies? – Sheriff – 14; Police – 14; Fire – 11, EMS/Ambulance – 11; Emergency Management – 13; Town, City or county Non-public safety agency – 12 3) What concerns do the agencies using WyoLink have? Cost – 8; WyoLink coverage – 12; Handheld and mobile radio purchases – 5; Radio programming – 9; Training – 8; Other – 6 4) What are the reasons for not using WyoLink? Cost – 2; WyoLink coverage – 4; Handheld and mobile radio purchases – 1; Radio programming – 3; Training – 3; Other – 2 5) Have any agencies within the County tested WyoLink use and local coverage? Yes – 18; No – 2 If no, would the county like to test WyoLink? Yes – 2; No – 1

The comments received from the survey included concerns about the cost of trunking radios compared to conventional radios and backward compatibility with the conventional radios. Coverage was noted by many of the responders and whether the State of Wyoming would continue to fund the operations and maintenance of WyoLink. Some of the responders to the survey also noted the lack of paging and the trouble with scanning using trunking and scanning both conventional and trunking. Wildland Fires will always be operating on conventional channels. The end user radio maintenance is the responsibility of the agency and the system maintenance is the responsibility of WyoLink. One good response which needs to be addressed is the request to have a listing of the agencies using WyoLink which could be provided to the WyoLink users so they can determine the best method for interoperable communications. To what degree are the agencies using WyoLink – daily, interoperability or not at all? All of the agencies will need to be surveyed to determine the agency usage. The County coordinators are willing to help with the usage survey. Will the State continue to fund WyoLink? This is a legislative issue and the support of the stakeholders will help in keeping the state funding. A new training program is being developed to match the user's needs and less on the background. The training program will probably be a train-the-trainer program at the county level.

The PSCC noted the 100 percent return from the Counties and appreciated the candor of the survey responders. The County Commissioner's survey results are in line with the PSCC Strategic Plan and the 2012 Annual Report to the Governor. The Wyoming County Commissioners Association will be held April 10 – 12, 2013. The PSCC will develop a response to the County Commissioners for the April Meeting. *A copy of the County Commissioners Survey comments summary and survey results are attached to the minutes for reference.*

## **New Business**

### Broadband Planning Grant

Bob Symons provided an overview of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) application must be submitted on April 19, 2013. Troy Babbitt has been designated as the single point of contact and the PSCC as the governance board for the FirstNet program. The broadband workgroup was created by the PSCC Executive Board in February 2012 and it would be best if the PSCC would formally authorize the Broadband Workgroup. **Bill Westerfield made a motion to authorize the PSCC Broadband Work Group as subject matter experts for the PSCC. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kennedy and passed on a voice vote.** The completed SLIGP grant application will be forwarded to the PSCC.

### Approval of Membership Applications

Mr. Symons stated there is seven applicants for WyoLink membership – Cheyenne Animal Shelter, Cordero Rojo Mine Rescue, Clark Wireless Inc., Cheyenne Veterans Affairs Police, Sheridan Veterans Affairs Police, City of Sheridan Fire-Rescue, and Campbell County Road and Bridge. The WyoLink Operations Work Group reviewed the application and recommend approval by the PSCC. ***Bob Wyatt moved to approve the WyoLink applications. Steve DeCecco seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a voice vote.***

### Comments from Sublette County

Better communications from the PSCC and who is responsible for the WyoLink information. Need to work on making happy customers. Thank you to Sublette County for their hospitality and the Lincoln and Teton Counties for their participation.

### General Discussion

Bob Symons will be setting up a conference call to review the County Commissioner response.

The representatives for the Department of Transportation, Division of Criminal Investigations, Homeland Security, Police Chiefs Association, County Commissioners Association, EMS or Ambulance Association, and State Parks expire on June 30, 2013. Bob Symons will send out notification letters.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a Video Meeting in June 2013. Mr. Symons will work with Chairman Harshman on developing the meeting date and location.

Being no further business, Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons  
PSCC Administrative Support

### **Action Items**

1. County Commissioners Survey talking points
2. WyoLink usage survey
3. Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) update
4. WyoLink Budget Review
5. Outreach to Stakeholders