



**Dave Freudenthal**  
Governor

**Jim Narva**  
Chairman

# State of Wyoming

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## Public Safety Communications Commission

### Annual Report to the Governor of the State of Wyoming

#### Mission Statement and Statutory Responsibilities

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide wireless communications interoperability with emphasis on public safety.

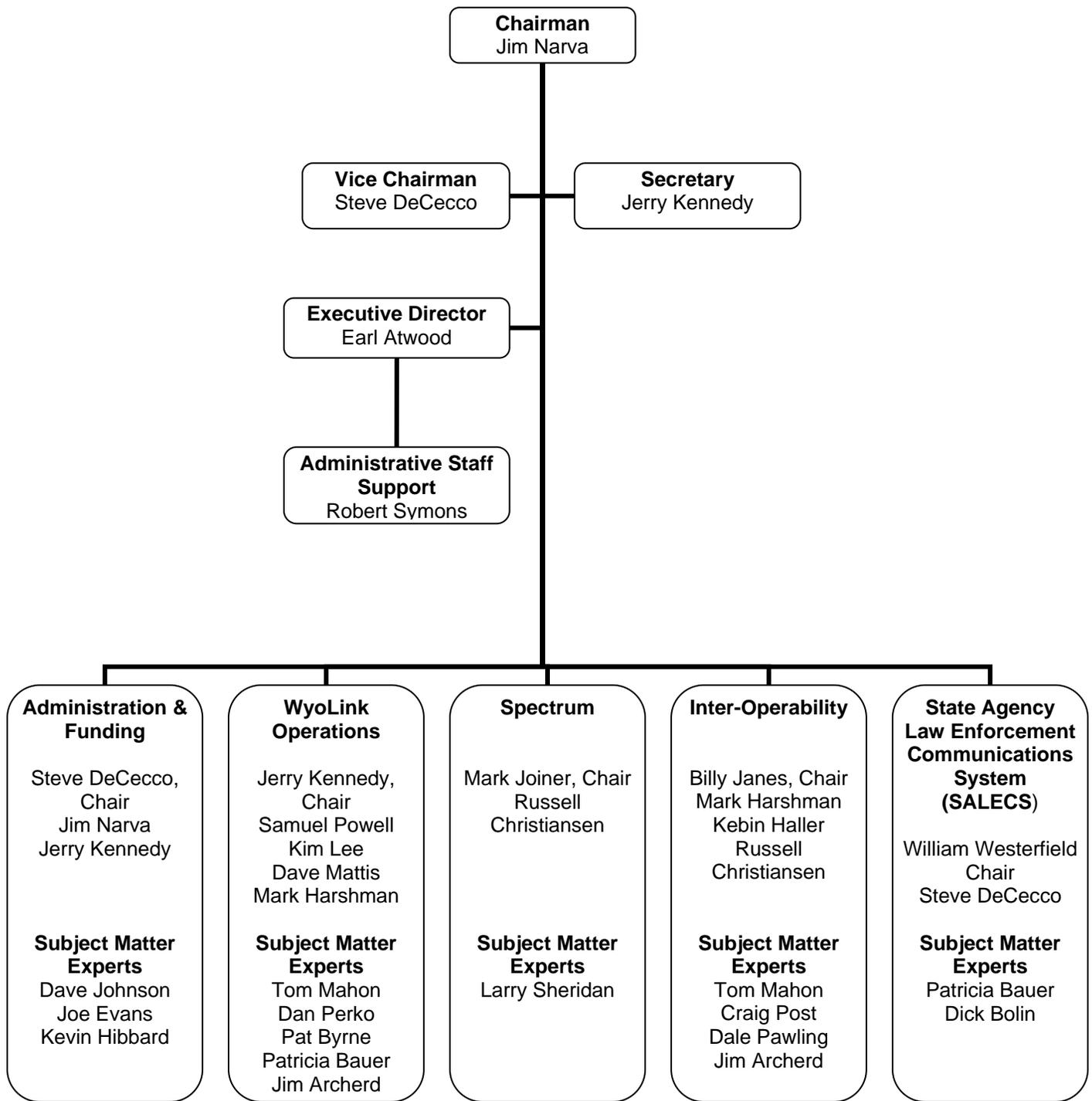
Wyoming Statute 9-2-1104 states the commission shall:

- (i) Work with the administrator of the information technology division of the department of administration and information and the department of transportation in an advisory capacity to promote the development, improvement and efficiency of public safety communications systems in the state.
- (ii) Report in writing each year in October to the governor concerning any problems related to the installation, operation and maintenance of the system and shall make any recommendations it deems appropriate as part of the report.**
- (iii) Submit a plan for statewide system networking to the administrator of the information technology division for inclusion in the statewide telecommunications plan developed pursuant to W.S. 9-2-1026.1(a)
- (iv) In cooperation with participating federal agencies, establish and assess user fees upon any federal law enforcement agency electing to use and participate in the system.
- (v) Promulgate necessary rules and regulations governing system operation and participation and upon failure to comply with adopted rules and regulations, may suspend system use and participation by any participating and noncomplying public safety agency or private entity.
- (vi) Determine the participation of public safety agencies and private agencies in the wireless communications network.

## Commission Members and Operating Structure

The PSCC is comprised of representatives appointed by the Governor from the following public safety agencies, professional associations, and State departments:

Representing	Name	Location
Wyoming Police Chief's Association	Billy Janes, Police Chief	Torrington
Wyoming Sheriff's Association	Dave Mattis, Sheriff	Big Horn County
Division of Criminal Investigation, Office of the Attorney General	Kebin Haller, Assistant Director	Cheyenne
Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Steve DeCecco	Green River
Wyoming Department of Transportation	Colonel Samuel Powell	Cheyenne
Wyoming Livestock Board	Kelly Hamilton	Cheyenne
Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources	William Westerfield	Cheyenne
Wyoming Fire Chief's Association	Mark Harshman, Division Chief Casper Fire Department	Casper
Wyoming State Fire Marshal	Jim Narva, Director	Cheyenne
Wyoming Office of Homeland Security	Kim Lee, Division Chief	Cheyenne
The Public at Large	Robert J. Wyatt, Attorney	Sheridan
Wyoming Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Association	Russell Christiansen	Casper
Municipal Government or a municipal government association	Neil Kourbelas, City Councilor	Rock Springs
County Government or county government association	Jerry Kennedy, Commissioner	Albany County
Wyoming Department of Health	Robert Dean	Cheyenne
Tribal Government or tribal government association	Vacant	
Federal Government or federal government association	Mark Joiner, US Bureau of Land Management	Lander



## **Achievements**

The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) and the WyoLink project have realized many accomplishments this past year. Since its inception on July 1, 2004, the PSCC and the working sub-groups have developed into a unified, yet diverse group, which is striving to meet the mission statement and statutory requirements.

The accomplishments for the PSCC and WyoLink during the past year include:

- Contract award to Motorola for the radio site and master control site equipment
- Development of a database of system compatible user radio sales
- Contact list for potential WyoLink users
- Completion of Commission and workgroup organizational charts, mission statements, roles and responsibilities
- Development of a website (<http://pscc.wyoming.gov>)
- Hiring of an at-will contract PSCC staff support person and seasonal student intern
- Publication of quarterly newsletters
- Successful acceptance testing of the radio equipment during the Motorola factory staging, delivery of equipment to and installation at the master site located at WyDOT
- Operational testing of radios during Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade using one radio site
- Developed a statement on WyoLink wireless mobile radio coverage

## **Activities**

Ongoing projects include:

- Development of a strategic plan for the PSCC
- Secure budget for the PSCC and staff support position
- Drafting policies, procedures, membership agreement and handbook for the users of the WyoLink system
- Interoperability talkgroup development
- Design and implement pilot phase operational testing exercises
- Intent to participate in WyoLink and agency profile surveys
- Development of a training program and identification of trainers for WyoLink users

## **Challenges**

### Frequency Plan

Due to the problems with frequency acquisition, the project is slightly behind schedule. We won't meet established time lines as outlined initially, but technical staff assures us we are on track for WyoLink Infrastructure completion in 2007. The scope of work and complexity of the frequency acquisition process was found to be greater than anticipated in the Public Safety Mobile Communications (PSMC) plan. The contracted study done by Federal Engineering did not emphasize the importance of the frequency plan to the viability of the project and indicated that for similar projects in two other states frequencies were available. The study also concluded that it was reasonable to assume that if frequencies were available for these more-populous states, then it should be easier to find frequencies and obtain licensing in Wyoming. Wyoming's challenge has been greater than expected. The initial methodology of frequency acquisition did not deliver a frequency plan that provides acceptable frequencies on schedule. WyDOT has negotiated with Motorola to

provide the frequency planning and engineering services. The WyoLink team is also pursuing FCC authorization to use frequencies outside the Public-Safety Pool and to use Federal agency frequencies. Combined, these may increase the costs of the project but will reduce the risk of failure.

### WyoLink Budget Submitted Through WyDOT

The WyDOT/WyoLink proposed budget request includes four (4) priorities that will enhance the capabilities and redundancy of the WyoLink system and thereby benefit local agency participation. This will further the goal of interoperability. Each of these priorities was included in response to the high level of local agency enthusiasm for WyoLink participation.

Priority #1 provides a second zone controller in Casper for additional connectivity and capability to support local agency participation and system redundancy.

Priority #2 is for microwave reliability enhancements including a southeast Wyoming alternative microwave route and building closed microwave loops in Western Wyoming. By closing these loops, alternative routes add to the reliability of the microwave system and provide redundant routes if any site experiences trouble. Generator capacity will also be increased.

Priority #3 provides leased T-1 circuits to connect the local dispatch centers to the master and/or zone controllers. Three options were discussed to provide local connectivity to the system: 1 - Do nothing and let the local entities determine the best way for them to connect; 2 – Microwave connections from local dispatch centers to WyDOT owned microwave system. (This option has higher purchase costs and low operational costs); 3 – Lease T-1 lines from dispatch centers to WyDOT microwave connections. (On-going monthly charges to a private vendor)

Priority #4 provides dispatch console upgrade assistance for the local dispatch centers. The PSMC plan did not address the upgrade of dispatch consoles for compatibility and connectivity to the backbone system. The funding assistance will enable greater local agency participation.

### A & I Budget

The proposed budget for the Public Safety Communications Commission is part of the budget submitted by Administration and Information (A & I). Due to the expanded duties of the PSCC as compared to its predecessor, SALECS, the proposed budget requests general fund appropriation to support its activities rather than A&I-ITD internal service funds. Having a direct appropriation will insure the Commission's ability to carry its mission forward without a dependence on a non-related funding source (ITD service revenues).

The PSCC proposed biennial budget includes \$5,760 for quarterly commission meetings, work group meetings and development of operating rules and regulations for the network, \$132,116 for a full-time staff position, \$11,600 for travel, meals and miscellaneous expenses for the staff support and commissioners, \$13,000 for subscriber training and contract management for the WyoLink user training, \$2,500 for printing costs, \$4,000 for computer hardware and software for staff support position, and \$4,800 for communications including phone service, cell phone and audio conferencing. The total biennium budget request is \$173,776.

### WyoLink Master Site Expansion

Expansion of the Master Site at WyDOT has delayed the activation of the master site equipment. There is currently a 100 amp service available for the equipment and the power requirement for the Motorola equipment is in excess of 300 amps. The proposed upgrade includes a 800 amp service and emergency generator. The bid for this work was awarded late September 2005.

### Technician Staffing and Training

In supporting the WyoLink system, it will be imperative that WyDOT telecommunication technicians be recruited/retained and properly trained. It must be recognized that the WyoLink system is far more critical and technically complex than previous radio technology employed by Wyoming public safety agencies. The development of WyoLink has increased administrative burden to frontline administrators at WyDOT.

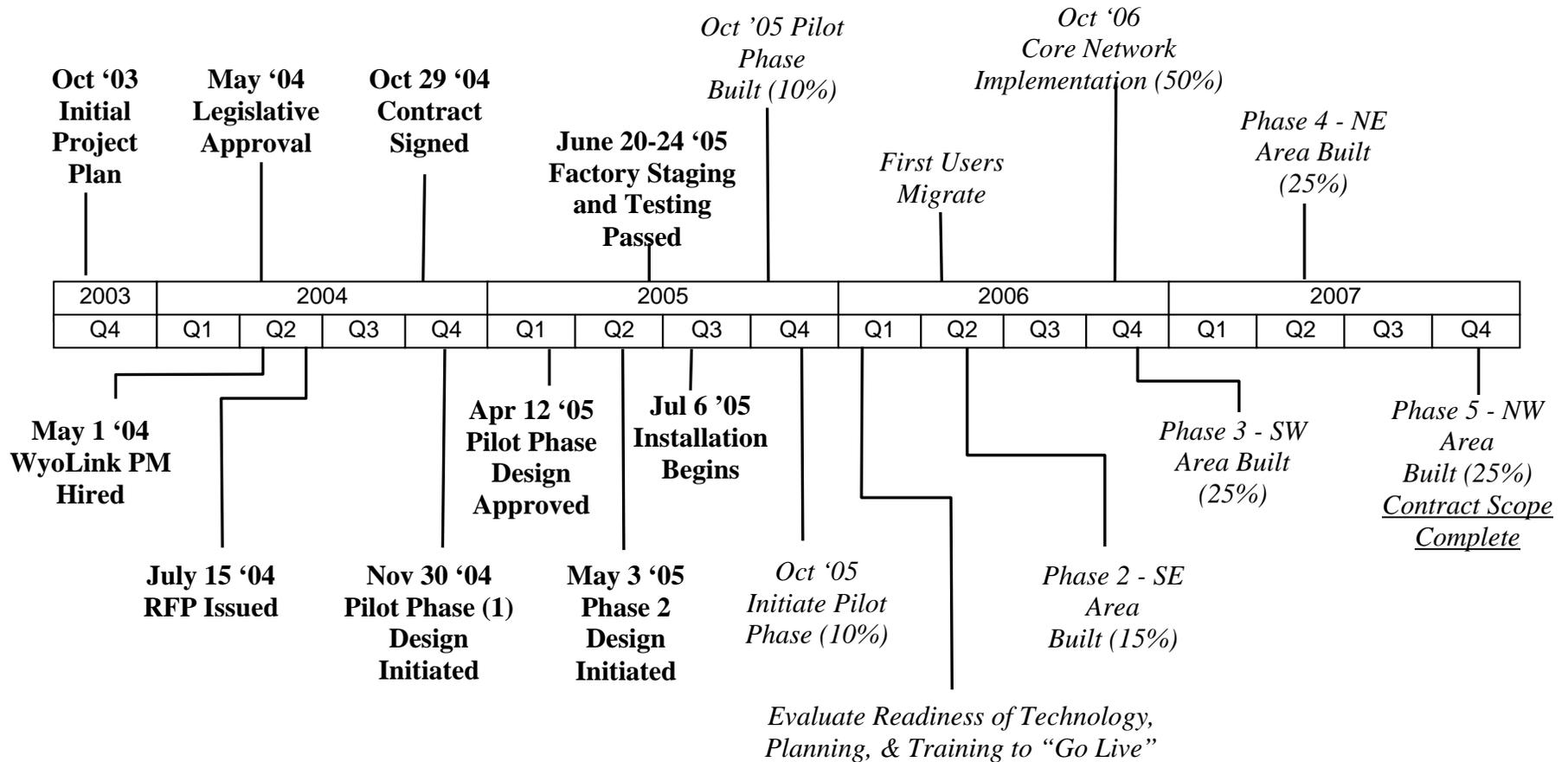
### **WyoLink Status and Timeline**

Work continues on the completion of the pilot phase of WyoLink. On June 20 – 24, 2005, Motorola successfully completed the factory staging and testing of the WyoLink equipment. This testing was witnessed by the WyoLink Project Manager, WyoLink Technical Lead and the Wyoming Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Chairman. After testing, the equipment was disassembled and delivered to Cheyenne the following week. The equipment has been installed and is waiting upon the completion of an electrical upgrade to the master site. Four radio sites in Laramie County have been completed and Sherman Hill, in Albany County, is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. Work has started on the design of Phase 2 sites (10) located in Albany County, Platte County, Niobrara County, Converse County, Carbon County and Natrona County.

For the next year, the training program will have fifteen (15) master trainers that have the necessary knowledge and tools to provide train-the-trainer classes for the potential users. The master trainers will have completed the Motorola provided training. The master trainers will include trainers from State agencies and regional trainers.

During the first quarter of 2006 the policies, procedures, handbook and membership agreement for WyoLink will be completed. The operational testing of WyoLink, including interoperability through designed exercises, will be completed before accepting users to the system. The exercises are being designed to provide training and testing using multiple agencies.

# WyoLink Timeline



Pilot Phase – Laramie County, Platte County, Goshen County and part of Albany County  
 Phase 2 – Albany County, Carbon County, Niobrara County, Converse County, Natrona County and part of Fremont County  
 Phase 3 – Sweetwater County, Uinta County, Lincoln County, Sublette County and Fremont County  
 Phase 4 – Johnson County, Weston County, Crook County, Campbell County and Sheridan County  
 Phase 5 – Big Horn County, Washakie County, Hot Springs County, Park County, and Teton County