



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Jim Narva
Chairman

State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

Spectrum Workgroup November 17, 2005 - Casper, WY Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mark Joiner – PSCC Commissioner – Chairman
Tom Mahon – WyoLink Project Manager
Dan Perko – Wyoming APCO President – Wyoming Forestry
Larry Sheridan – WyDOT Telecommunications
William Walter – FBI, Wyoming Office
Paul Card – Wyoming Department of Health
Craig Post – ComTech
David Funk – National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)
Gene McGahey – NLECTC
Robert Wilson – WyDOT Telecommunications
Zachary Rieker – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Michele Volk – Representative Barbara Cubin's Office
Chris Jones – U.S. Weather Service – Riverton
Rocky McWilliams – Fremont County Roads
Lauri Wempen – Fremont County Ambulance
Bobbi Brown – Senator Craig Thomas' Office
William Fleming – Motorola
Gary Caprioglio – Motorola
Rohm Whitaker - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Margaret Spearman – Spearman Company
Bob Symons – PSCC Staff Support

Chairman Mark Joiner called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

Chairman Joiner provided an overview of the 700 MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committee (RPC) meetings held on Monday, November 14, 2005. The proposed bylaws of the Region 46 700 MHz RPC were approved. Mark Joiner was elected the Chairman of the 700 MHz RPC. The 700 MHz Region 46 Plan has been released for the review phase and will be available on the PSCC website for review. Mark Joiner was given permission to make technical changes to the 800 MHz plan and submit the revision to the FCC.

Tom Mahon, WyoLink Project Manager, provided an overview of the WyoLink project and current status of the system. The WyoLink System will be a digital trunked VHF project 25 system that provides 95% state-wide mobile radio coverage. Tom also provided information on spectrum and frequencies.

Tom Mahon and Gary Caprioglio, Motorola, provided information on the current status of the frequency acquisition plan for the WyoLink Project. Motorola has been awarded a change-order to provide the frequency plan for the WyoLink Project. The frequency acquisition plan will include looking outside the public safety pool and could include frequencies in the private, maritime, television and federal pools. Motorola has a dedicated team of engineers and others to help identify appropriate frequencies for a frequency plan.

Mark Joiner stated the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is the federal government agency equivalence of the FCC, regulates the spectrum that has been dedicated to the federal government agencies. Presently, federal agencies are allowed to share their frequencies with non-federal agencies through memorandums of understanding (MOU). The federal agencies must sign an MOU with each sharing agency and with a project like WyoLink only one MOU would need to be signed.

Gene McGahey, NLECTC, stated that the Alaska radio project is mainly a DoD project and is providing the backbone for Alaska. The state and local agencies are allowed to become part of the project and are asked to bring their frequencies with them. He also stated the Alaska project and the sharing of radio spectrum and system is a win-win for all agencies.

The South Dakota radio system is a state-wide project that has included federal agencies and those agencies are allowing the use of the federal frequencies.

Gary Caprioglio stated that with the current status of the frequency planning being done by Motorola, now is the time to include the possibility of the federal frequencies. What are the steps that need to be done to include the federal agencies? Mark Joiner believes that each federal agencies will have to make the decision on participating with WyoLink will have to be made at the national department level with input from the local and regional offices. Need to map out the process of how to get from where we are today to who does WyoLink need to have sign MOU's on federal participation. Each federal agency may have a different method of decision making on participation in WyoLink. The Federal agencies are mandated to migrate to narrow-band in 2005 and some agencies are asking for a waiver to extend the timeline.

The federal agencies that have operations in Wyoming include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Weather Service, FBI, U.S. Marshal's Office, Secret Service, Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The BLM and USFS are the largest agencies and some agencies have only one or two agents. Need to determine which federal agencies may participate in WyoLink, their level of participation, how many users and/or radios and primary use areas within Wyoming.

It was suggested that the PSCC draft a letter to all federal agencies that operate within Wyoming that describes the WyoLink project and encourage them to complete the non-binding letter of intent to participate so that an accurate assessment can be made on the impact to WyoLink and help with planning. **The group discussed timing. The federal**

agencies and regulators will want to know how much federal spectrum would be needed by WyoLink. WyoLink's request should follow the principle of "Proportional Use", where contributed spectrum is proportional to the loading federal agencies may impose on the shared system. In order to estimate loading and to substantiate a request, Motorola needs an estimate of federal agency participation in WyoLink, realistically, this is needed prior to January 30, 2006 in order to avoid spectrum planning rework and additional spectrum planning costs. NLECTC agreed to plan to sponsor a "Wyoming Interoperability Summit", probably in February or March 2006, with a specific focus on Federal Agency cooperation. The letter should also include the federal agency approval process and who must sign any MOU or participation letter. We may be able to use the Wyoming Senator's and Representative's offices to help identify the recipients of the federal participation letters. Since the Wyoming delegation has been working to help secure federal funding for the WyoLink project, copies of the letters to federal agencies should be copied to their offices.

Mark Joiner explained how WyoLink would help the BLM with its mission and the interoperability with the local cooperators, especially when dealing with law enforcement issues and wildland fires. Presently the BLM has to issue MOU's for radio frequency sharing and a trunking system will improve efficiency. With the mandate to narrow banding and not all local agencies ready for narrow banding, the sharing of frequencies is becoming complicated and radio caches are required to provide a means of communications with the local cooperators.

What are the expectations from this meeting?

1. The Letter of Intent should be completed by all agencies that have an interest in WyoLink.
2. **Letters should be sent by the PSCC to the federal agencies requesting information about their intent to participate in WyoLink and radio count, in time to provide the information to Motorola by January 30, 2006. These requests should be addressed to appropriate senior decision makers in appropriate agencies. Copies should be sent to the Wyoming legislative delegation for their information, continued support and assistance.**

Larry Sheridan brought up the fact that there are interoperability frequencies within each of the bands (UHF, VHF & 800 MHz) that are simplex frequencies that any public safety agency is allowed to use. The Interoperability Committee should have the federal interoperability frequencies listed as part of the interoperability plan for Wyoming. Larry Sheridan will provide a description of the interoperability frequencies to the Interoperability Committee for inclusion in the WyoLink handbook.

Being no further comments from the attendees, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Joiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Symons
PSCC Administrative Support