



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

Steve DeCecco  
Chairman

# State of Wyoming

## Public Safety Communications Commission

### ~ 2007 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.

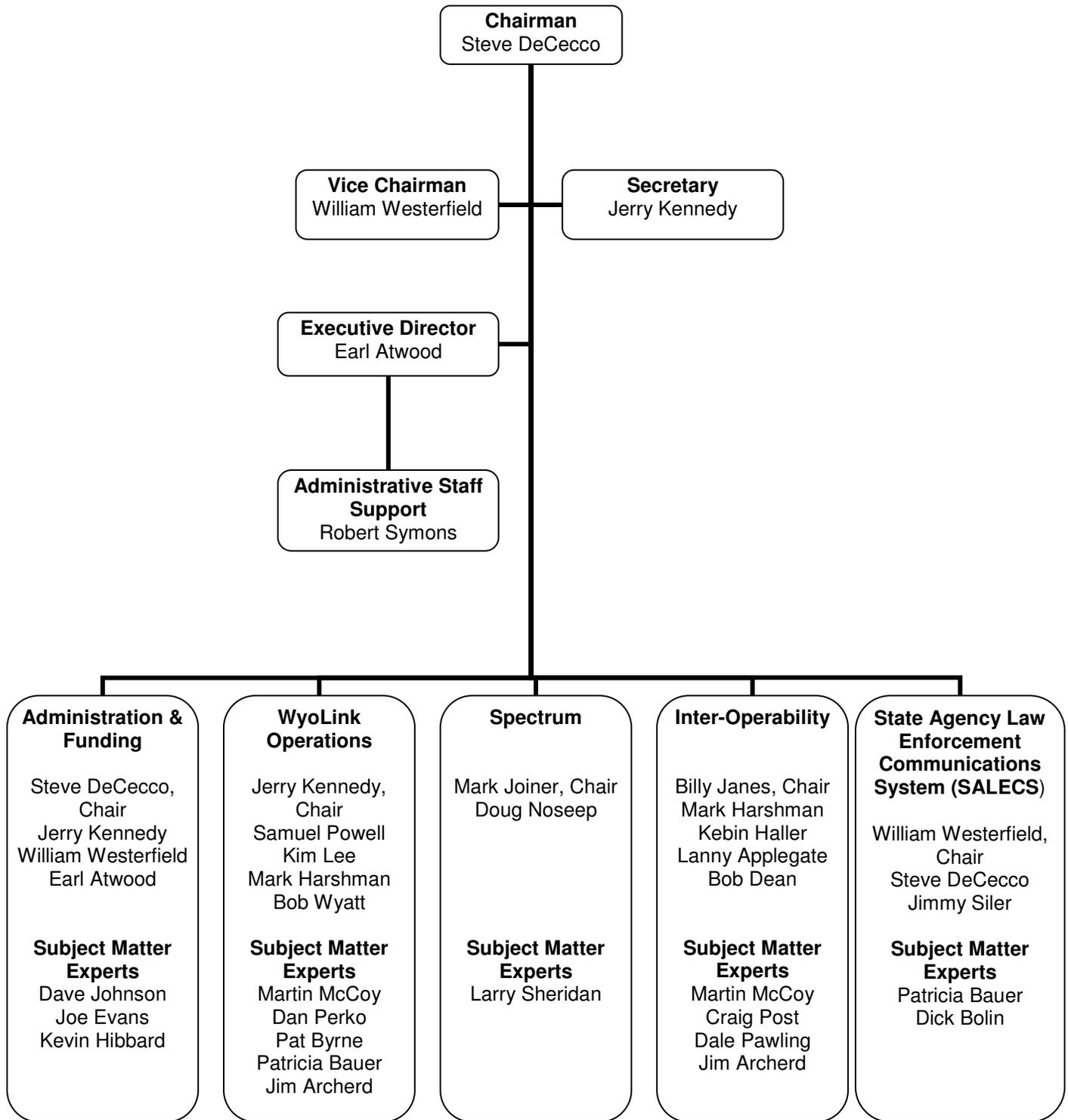
Wyoming Statute 9-2-1104 states the commission shall:

- (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:

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wyoming Police Chief's Association	Billy Janes, Police Chief	Torrington
Wyoming Sheriff's Association	Danny Glick, Sheriff	Laramie 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	Jimmy Siler	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	Lanny Applegate, Director	Cheyenne
Wyoming Office of Homeland Security	Kim Lee, Division Chief	Cheyenne
The Public at Large	Robert J. Wyatt, Attorney	Sheridan
Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Organization	Lauri Wempen, Director Fremont County Ambulance	Riverton
Municipal Government or a municipal government association	Dave Johnson, Wyoming Association of Municipalities	Cheyenne
County Government or county government association	Jerry Kennedy, Commissioner	Albany County
Wyoming Department of Health	Robert Dean	Cheyenne
Tribal Government or tribal government association	Doug Noseep, Chief BIA Police	Fort Washakie
Federal Government or federal government association	Mark Joiner, US Bureau of Land Management	Lander



**Wyoming PSCC Organization Chart**  
(Effective 10/31/2007)

## Achievements

The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) and the WyoLink project have realized many accomplishments this past year:

- Memorandum of Understanding between Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission and United States Department of the Interior for WyoLink use signed on December 12, 2006.
- Completed the Formal Rules Adoption process and the Wyoming Public Safety Radio Communications Rules were filed on December 29, 2006.
- Awarded \$5,472,496.00 in Dispatch Center WyoLink Connectivity grants to thirty-nine (39) local dispatch centers. \$977,504.00 grant funds remain for second round awards.
- Adopted the WyoLink Policies and Procedures Handbook and posted on the WyoLink and Public Safety Communications Commission websites in March 2007.
- Attorney General's Office review of WyoLink Membership Agreement and adoption by PSCC on June 22, 2007.
- Public informational meetings held on March 12, 2007 in Gillette and on June 21, 2007 in Rawlins.
- Adopted a "Coverage Enhancement Goal" for portable radio coverage on June 22, 2007.
- Quarterly meetings held in Casper, Gillette, Rawlins and Cheyenne.

## Activities

Ongoing projects include:

- WyoLink outreach and end user training
- Dispatch Center Connectivity Grants
- Agency and County-Wide Talkgroup development
- Develop cooperative agreements and Memorandum of Understandings with federal agencies for frequency sharing and WyoLink use. Request for Federal frequencies for WyoLink was presented to the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) on August 29, 2007
- Publication of PSCC quarterly newsletters and updating PSCC and WyoLink policies and activities on the PSCC website at <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>
- Completion of a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan for submission to the Department of Homeland Security by December 3, 2007.

## Challenges

### Portable Radio Enhancements

The PSCC has been presented concerns about the portable radio coverage of WyoLink at its quarterly meetings and asked the WyoLink Operations Work Group to develop a policy statement on providing the enhanced coverage.

The PSCC WyoLink Operations Work Group, at the June 6, 2007, meeting developed and adopted a "Coverage Enhancement Goal" to be presented to the PSCC for adoption. At the June 22, 2007, the PSCC adopted the "Coverage Enhancement Goal".

### Coverage Enhancement Goal

“There is no local responder link in “WyoLink” until the goal of mobile and portable radio communications interoperability is achieved.

Therefore, the goal of WyoLink coverage enhancement is to achieve interoperable public safety communications comparable with existing portable radio coverage and in areas of critical concern, identified through testing and cooperative efforts with local public safety providers, determined after statewide deployment in an area. There is an expectation of local participation within the jurisdictional area of influence.”

The key points of this goal include the testing of portable radio coverage after completion of the core WyoLink project in the areas that local jurisdictions request portable radio coverage. The local jurisdictions will identify areas of critical concern and participate in the development of additional radio sites determined by the testing.

WYDOT has submitted a budget request to the Governor for inclusion in the 2009-2010 biennium budget for the radio frequency equipment that will be required for additional radio sites.

### Frequency Acquisitions

Motorola was contracted to complete the frequency planning process for the WyoLink system. A search was conducted of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Part 90, Part 80 and Part 22 frequency databases to determine available frequencies. The site list used consisted of fifty-five (55) high level sites and twenty-five (25) low level sites

A frequency re-use study was performed and yielded the twenty-nine (29) re-use sets were required in an ideal re-use scenario. Without a re-use plan, WyoLink would require 284 frequency pairs

The final frequency plan is composed of five (5) trunked pairs per site using the part 90 Public Safety, Part 90 Industrial/Business and Part 22 frequency bands. Some sites were required to be able to expand beyond the five (5) trunked pairs; Casper Mountain, Pumpkin Buttes, Snow King and Rozet are all designed a seven (7) trunked pairs and Aspen Mountain has six (6) trunked pairs.

The frequency plan was finalized in December 2006 and the FCC licensing process began. During the frequency coordination phase of the licensing, some frequencies were removed from the plan. Additional frequencies were added to the plan and sent through coordination. All of the frequency license applications have been submitted to the FCC. There are some licensing issues and waiver issues that remain and not all sites will have the number of frequencies required to reach full operating capacity.

The Public Safety Communications Commission and WyoLink have submitted a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) frequency-sharing request, through the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) and the Department of the Interior to fulfill the operating capacity frequency goal. With the potential use of WyoLink by

the Federal Agencies and the amount of federal land ownership in Wyoming (47%), this was a logical request for frequency use. There are risks associated with this request.

Any remaining frequency plan gaps will require another review of FCC frequency pools, primarily Part 80 and Railroad frequencies in the Part 90 Industrial/Business pool. Both of these pools have significant coordination and licensing challenges. Another option would be to purchase radio frequencies from current FCC license holders. Extended negotiations and unknown costs are potential risks associated with the purchasing of frequencies.

### Radio Site Acquisitions

The largest landowner in Wyoming is the Federal Government, approximately 46% of the State. The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service (USFS) lands are the primary Federal land agencies.

Building a statewide trunked radio system in Wyoming requires the leasing of federal lands for radio sites. Many challenges and requirements exist when leasing Federal lands. WyoLink is currently working with the Bridger/Teton National Forest on four (4) radio site leases and the BLM on two (2) radio site leases. These radio sites are part of the core 57 radio-site plan for WyoLink.

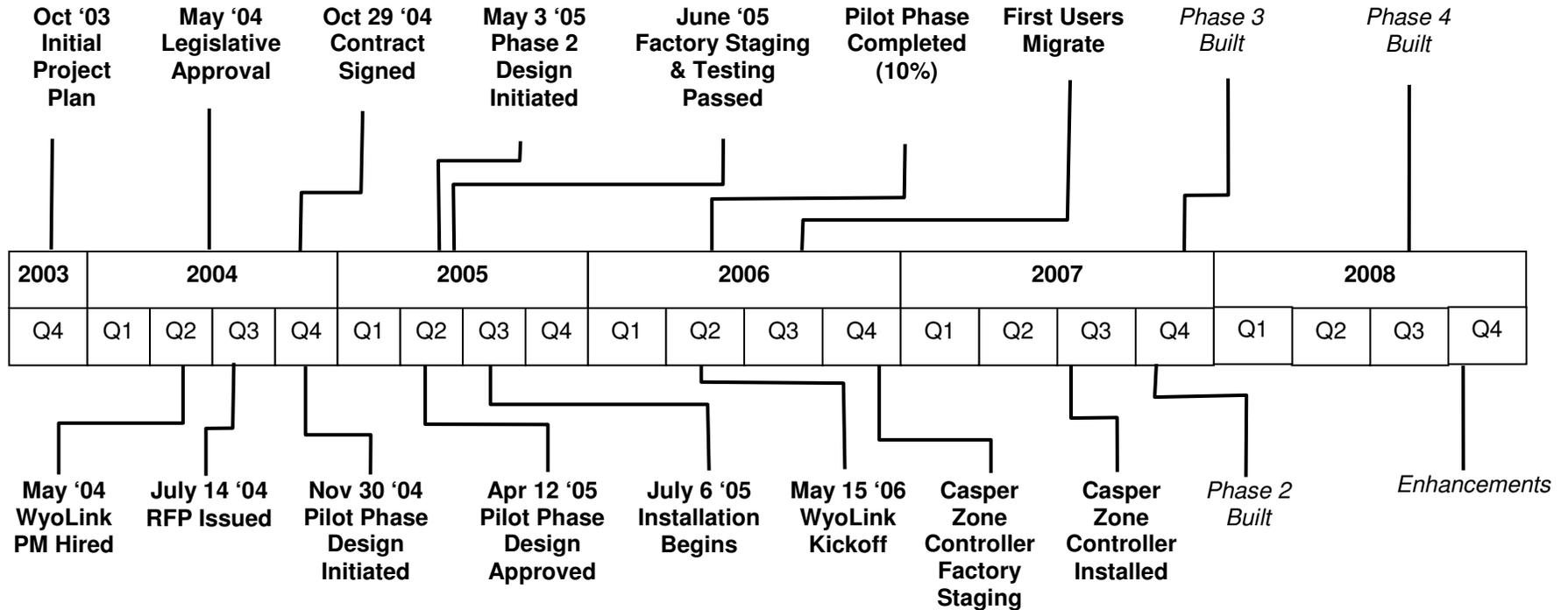
Two (2) expansion radio sites, one in the Bridger/Teton National Forest and one in the Big Horn National Forest are currently being discussed and final locations have not been determined. Upon the determination of the exact location, the leasing process will begin.

As part of the portable radio coverage enhancement, additional radio sites will be required. The "Coverage Enhancement Goal" states an expectation of local participation and this participation includes the sharing of local radio sites and/or assistance with the development of new radio sites. Local public safety agencies know the landowners in their jurisdictions and are better prepared to work with those landowners in acquiring leases for radio sites that will enhance the local public safety radio system. WyoLink will work the local agencies on the site requirements and the development of the radio sites.

### **Priorities for 2008**

- Communication and collaboration with potential user agencies on WyoLink membership
- Development and implementation of WyoLink user training
- Monitor WyoLink construction progress and activation of radio sites
- Work with local agencies, as the core infrastructure is completed, on identifying areas of critical concern
- Provide support to the Governor and Wyoming Office of Homeland Security in the distribution of Federal interoperability funds to local authorities toward implementation of WyoLink

## Revised Estimated WyoLink Timeline



**WyoLink Phases**

Pilot Phase – Master Controller, Laramie County, Platte County, Goshen County and Albany County – 5 Radio Sites  
 \*Phase 2 – Platte County, Goshen County, Niobrara County, Converse County, Natrona County, Albany County, Carbon County, Sweetwater County, Uinta County and Casper Zone Controller – 18 Radio Sites  
 \*Phase 3 – Weston County, Crook County, Campbell County, Johnson County, Sheridan County – 10 Radio Sites  
 \*Phase 4 – Fremont County, Washakie County, Hot Springs County, Big Horn County, Park County, Sublette County, Lincoln County, Teton County – 18 Radio Sites  
 \*Enhancements – Additional sites for coverage improvements – 5 Radio Sites

\* This timeline reflects an accelerated schedule and provides an estimated timeline for completion. The PSMC Plan estimated a completion by 2010. The PSCC and WyoLink are committed to complete the build-out within the current budget, adjusting the timeline as needed.