



Matthew H. Mead
Governor
K. Luke Reiner
Director

Wyoming Department of Transportation Public Safety Communications Commission Meeting Minutes



Mark Harshman
Chairman
Telephone No.:
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I. Call to order

A meeting of the Public Safety Communications Commission was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, via videoconferencing. Chairman Harshman presided, calling the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll call

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

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

III. staff Introductions

The following staff members were present and participated in the meeting:

Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer	Nathan Smolinski, Emergency Communications Program Manager
Katie Pfister, Commission Secretary	Mike Kahler, AG's Office
Ryan Thompson, AG's Office	Neil Gardiner, WyoLink Support Manager

IV. Adjustments to agenda

There were no adjustments made to the agenda.

V. Action items

1. Draft Minutes - January 8, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Downing, seconded by Commissioner Haller, and carried to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 business meeting.

2. WyoLink Application - Medicine Bow Police Department

It was moved by Commissioner Haller, seconded by Commissioner Frank, and carried to approve the WyoLink Application for the Medicine Bow Police Department.

vi. Updates/discussions

1. Director's Update

Director Reiner presented the Director's Update, which included the following.

Legislative Matters

He provided an update regarding the 2020 session, highlighting that three bills passed regarding funds for mitigating wildlife and vehicle collisions. He stressed that work continues on finding alternative funding streams to support an upgrade to the Revenue Information System, and for ongoing maintenance and support of the WyoLink system. He noted that the proposed road user

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fees and proposed increase on fuel taxes will be discussed through this year's interim session, as these items did not pass through the legislative session.

vi. Updates/discussions (Continued)

1. Director's Update (Continued)

COVID-19

He conveyed that his top priority is employee care while still accomplishing the agencies mission during this environment, conveying his sincere appreciation to all of the men and women of WYDOT for how they responded to all of the quick changes, and continued to get the job done. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Babbitt and his information technology group for responding so quickly to the agencies needs during this environment, highlighting that within a couple weeks' time they were able to get 25 percent of the workforce out on telework, which was a major lift for the department. He also highlighted the innovation of the workforce in recent weeks, noting that many men and women stepped in to create masks, hand sanitizers, and cleaning supplies, and worked tirelessly in getting these items distributed statewide.

He conveyed that daily meetings have taken place regarding COVID-19 agency impacts, and that updates will continue to be distributed to the Commission following each meeting. He stressed that concern arose regarding bid lettings, and that work will continue virtually to ensure that we keep our construction season going, given the small window we have to conduct these tasks in the State of Wyoming.

He noted that the agency will participate in two of the five taskforces set up for the COVID-19 response, including the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force, led by Treasurer Meier, and the State Operations and Critical Government Services Task Force, led by Secretary Buchanan.

WyoLink

He conveyed that during the recent pileup along I-80, which affected 70 vehicles, that the WyoLink system accomplished its mission, working smoothly throughout the entire event.

CARES Act Funding

He conveyed that in terms of CARES Act funding that Wyoming airports will receive roughly \$50 million, and that the Federal Transit Authority will receive roughly \$28 million in stimulus funds.

2. Chief Technology Officer's Update

Mr. Babbitt presented the Chief Technology Officer's Update, which included the following.

Legislative Matters

He reiterated that work will continue on finding alternative funding streams for the state's critical interoperable communications system throughout the interim session. He also highlighted that the system maintenance agreement did get funded for another two years, and that the maintenance agreement will be in renegotiations toward the end of this year. He also noted that faux bills will continue being sent to users to ensure they understand possible future charges should funding become unavailable in future years.

NG911

He informed the Commission that even if a meeting isn't able to take place mid-year as planned, that the state's 911 plan will still be accomplished by the end of the year in order to be eligible to apply for grant funding, even if they have to utilize electronic means to get the task accomplished.

vI. Updates/discussions (Continued)

3. Emergency Communications Program Update

Mr. Smolinski reviewed the Emergency Communications Program Update, which included the following.

16-Tower Buildout Report

The 16-Tower Buildout Report included the following updates:

- **Buffalo:** Site constructed. Awaiting final electrical connection in mid-January for site testing. Final walkthrough scheduled for January 30, 2020. Location ID'd on WYDOT property.
- **Orin Junction:** Site constructed. Awaiting final electrical connection in mid-to-late-January for site testing. Final walkthrough scheduled for January 30, 2020. Location ID'd on WYDOT property.
- **Wright:** Right-of-Way agreements completed, and construction began December 9, 2019. Foundations have been poured, and work resumes the week of January 6, 2020. FNE in storage and ready to deploy.
- **Lusk:** Right-of-Way finalizing easement agreements with the City of Lusk and Attorney General's office, as the site required a second survey. Shelter and tower ordered and ready to ship. Construction schedule to be delivered upon agreement approval. Coordinating electrical service delivery with the city. FNE in storage and ready to deploy.
- **Rock Springs (Tank Hill):** City of Rock Springs approved the application to erect the 100' tower. Right-of-Way working on agreements with three (3) parties, the Sweetwater County Water Board, and two (2) private landowners. Coordinating with utility providers for delivery of services, and a meeting occurred October 31, 2019 to educate stakeholders and proceed into agreements. Construction schedule to be delivered upon agreement approval. WyoLink holding collocate discussions with Sweetwater County communications. Determined this will be an 800Mhz site; frequency work complete.
- **Jackson:** Right-of-Way agreement completed, and site enhancements are being scheduled based upon material delivery. Right-of-Way working on agreement with private landowner for collocation. FNE was ordered upon agreement approval. WYDOT to assist contractor providing winter access. Discussion held with Teton County for possible collocation.
- **Alcova:** Finalizing BLM approval to proceed, and all reports and surveys were submitted. Construction schedule to be delivered upon agreement approval. Coordinating with utility providers for delivery of services is complete.
- **Newcastle:** Surveying resulted in a modified site design, as available plot was 50% smaller than originally scoped. Final design to include a new shelter, utilization of Union Wireless for a collocate on tower space, and S.A. has been ordered & scheduled. NEPA required additional field survey, with completion targeted in early 2020. Additional NEPA may be required, so

working with consultant to verify the extent. Coordinating with utility providers for delivery of services.

- **Sundance (Crook):** State Lands Office approved the permit. Finalizing utility plans and payments in order to move into scheduling. Coordinating with utility providers (power and fiber) for delivery of services. WyoLink holding collocate discussions with Crook County SO as well.
- **Ten Sleep (Meadowlark):** Proposal approved by USFS to proceed with desired location. Coordinating with utility providers for delivery of services. Reviewing modified foundation design. Spring-Summer 2020 target.

vI. **Updates/discussions (Continued)**

3. **Emergency Communications Program Update (Continued)**

16-Tower Buildout Report (Continued)

- **Greybull:** State Lands Office approved the permit. Finalizing utility plans and payments in order to move into scheduling. Tribal on-site survey requested and was scheduled for the week of November 4, 2019. Requested on-site observer for construction. Coordinating with utility providers for delivery of services. Construction schedule to be delivered upon permit approval.
- **Rock Springs (14 Mile Hill):** NEPA and SHPO under review with BLM requirements. Coordinating with Utility providers for delivery of services. Original site required a slight relocation due to survey results and adjacent property owner; seeking 100% on BLM lands. Application & Proposal submitted to BLM for the selected location, and approved to proceed.
- **Evanston:** Original site required a slight relocation due to survey results and adjacent property owner; seeking 100% on private lands. Second survey required, along with consideration to BLM and utility easements. NEPA field survey scheduled for the week of November 4, 2019. Upon survey approval, Geotech shall follow. Submitting BLM approval forms for access easements.
- **North Big Horn County (Little Sheep Mtn.):** NEPA and SHPO under review with BLM requirements. Coordinating with Utility providers for delivery of services. Adjacent tower owner requested more data to mitigate possible interference concerns. Structural Analysis performed for local donor site in order to support microwave hardware. Spring-Summer 2020 target. Application & Proposal submitted to BLM for the selected location on Little Sheep Mtn. East of Lovell, and under review to proceed.
- **Northern Goshen County:** FAA rejected initial proposal, limiting the tower to 41 vertical feet. Operations underway for alternate location that can deliver the same level of coverage. Spring-Summer 2020 target.
- **Bondurant:** Holding discussions with Sublette for a possible collocation option on Kissmet Mtn. Spring-Summer 2020 target. Upon Sublette County's decision to construct a countywide system, we are awaiting technical information to schedule discussions with county to determine optimum site location.

Statewide Interoperability Coordination

He highlighted that he ran the numbers from the I-80 event against usage from the previous year, and that calls increased by 15 thousand during the event, with no major issues reported.

FirstNet

He conveyed that national subscribership is on the rise, but that coverage will be key before Wyoming can participate more. He also noted that the SLIGP grant is complete and ready for closeout, and that we did not incur any funding challenges along the way.

Personnel Update

He announced that Mr. Neil Gardiner was recently hired as his replacement as WyoLink Support Manager.

4. Public Comment(s)

There was no public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Haller, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Harshman adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m., on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.