

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
January 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Place: Woolfolk Building – DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Ken (Chairman)
MS Emergency Management Agency	Smithson, Lee (Vice-Chairman)
MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks	Bolden, Michael
MS Municipal League	Brown, Johnathan
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Tom
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Loper, Don
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Audrey
MS Office of Homeland Security	McKee, Mark
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Sanders, Chris
MS Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
Advisory Members Present:	
Senate Finance Committee	Doty, Senator Sally
Senate Energy Committee	Hopson, Senator W. Briggs

Chairman Ken Magee called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Magee also recognized the presence of Senator Sally Doty and Senator Briggs Hopson. Chairman Magee then provided time for the review of the minutes from the previous meeting on December 1, 2016, after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as they were transmitted. Mr. Johnathan Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Mark McKee, and motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for December 2016. She provided information on MOUs executed, radios loaned out, and activities the WCC staff participated in during the month which included: issued special event talkgroups for multi-jurisdictional interoperability to Adams County for Tri-Centennial Celebration; Washington County due to issues with their current system; Harrison County for Gulf Coast Marathon; MS Task Force for search and rescue training in Meridian; Warren County 911 for search and rescue training in Yazoo County; and, for Operation Silent Night (Jackson PD, Hinds SO, MHP, Marshall Service, FBI, ATF). Staff also worked daily with subscriber requests for interoperability solutions; provided daily oversight for all MSWIN system/site maintenance and repairs; worked with various entities to determine their future MSWIN related data needs; and continued work on the DeSoto, Hinds, and Warren County projects. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the number of current MSWIN users, the number of users projected for the 4th Quarter, the top twenty (20) MSWIN users, and MSWIN top ten (10) talkgroups by airtime.

Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on the MSWIN build-out status. Mr. Buffington reported that pricing and contracts on tower construction have been arranged for the Camp Shelby sites. Antenna equipment construction at the Hinds Edwards site and preliminary work at the Hinds FOA site is on schedule. Due diligence for planned sites in North MS have been agreed upon. Chairman Magee commented that construction for the Camp Shelby sites, once complete, will be a huge benefit for the soldiers and for the surrounding areas.

Ms. Helfrich then gave an updated contract status report. Both the LMR 3429 contract modification and the BTOP 3639 contract modification, which were approved by the Commission at the November monthly meeting, were subsequently approved by the ITS Board on December 15, 2016. Ms. Helfrich also noted that the MICG grant currently expires at the end of June 2017 and Staff is working on a grant extension request to be submitted to the MOHS.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Perry Waggener reported three (3) procurement requests were brought before the Committee. The first request from UMMC, in the amount of \$80,703.60, for the purchase of subscriber radios for an upcoming training project was approved by the Committee. The second request from Jackson County School District, in the amount of \$153,239.89, for the purchase of subscriber radios for school buses was approved by the Committee. The third request from Kemper County, in the amount of \$167,615.30, to upgrade their existing analog

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system to a VHF digital system was tabled for thirty (30) days in order to determine if this is the best long term solution. Chief Waggener noted this decision was made after committee discussion and agreement from Kemper County.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Chief Huff had nothing to report.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the expenditures for the month of December 2016 which included \$551,000 in general funds, a sum cumulative total for the first six months of FY17 in the amount of \$4 million, subtracted from total appropriation for the WCC, leaving a remaining general fund balance of \$5 million. Mr. Johnson noted that there were no expenditures in grant activity for the month, and there was a program income deposit of \$8,000 for the month. Chairman Magee asked Ms. Helfrich if all MICG grant funds were expected to be expended for the remaining period once the grant extension is in place. Ms. Helfrich stated that the due diligence process does slow the project down as it historically has taken around 12 to 18 months to complete. Because of the length of the due diligence process, plans are to ask FEMA for an 18 month extension which represents a more realistic timeframe for completion of the project. Chairman Magee asked if there were further questions. Chairman Magee called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Lt. Col. Ray Causey made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Chief Huff, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee asked for any other business. Ms. Helfrich noted that the WCC FY 2017 deficit request is \$1.498. The FY18 budget request has been reduced to \$10.4 million. Ms. Helfrich also noted staff was able to negotiate and finalize a four year system maintenance agreement with Motorola (approved by both the WCC and ITS) which will lower system maintenance costs to \$2.6 million per year for FY18 – FY21. This agreement provides a \$12.6 million cost savings to the State.

Chairman Magee then thanked Senator Doty and Senator Hopson for attending as well as being life-long supporters of public safety, law enforcement, fire service, EMA, and our Military. Among our more than 32,000 users, we now have Homeland Security, soldiers, firefighters, and our most precious asset, our children, as school buses are added on to the MSWIN Network, providing another level of safety and protection. Chairman Magee asked for any other business.

Mr. Smithson noted that as previously discussed at the December 2016 WCC Meeting, MEMA and counties are transitioning from the National Warning System (NAWAS) to the MSWIN State Special Event Common talkgroup, due to costs. In December, MEMA held the first State Special Event Common talkgroup radio check which was pushed out statewide to 114 entities that previously monitored NAWAS. The next statewide radio check will be held on next Monday January 9, 2017, at 9 a.m. Mr. Smithson added as a reminder there were seven confirmed tornadoes that touched down statewide this past Monday. Tornado warnings were pushed out on the State Special Event Common talkgroup with real time information reports in the EOC as tornadoes in Simpson County and Covington County passed through. The MSWIN System does save lives and more entities are using the State Special Event Common talkgroup. Mr. Tom Lariviere stated that real time information exchange on MSWIN is important as it reaches small local Fire Departments in the middle of nowhere as well as the larger entities in the State.

With no other business to discuss, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, 2017, 1:30 PM, location to be determined. The Chairman entertained for a motion to adjourn. Chief Willie Huff made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:51 PM.