

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

March 2, 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 Department of 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 Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve
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:	
House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee	Carpenter, Representative Lester
House Appropriations Committee	Delano, Representative Scott

Chairman Ken Magee called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Magee recognized guests present, Representative Lester Carpenter of Alcorn and Tishomingo County, Representative Scott Delano of Harrison County, Mr. Ricky Gibbons, Alcorn EMA Director, and Chief Charles Chandler, USM PD. Chairman Magee then called for the review of the February 2, 2017 Commission meeting minutes after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as they were transmitted. Ms. Audrey McAfee made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lt. Col Causey, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for February 2017. 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 the Dixie National Rodeo; to Harrison County for Mardi Gras parades; to Perry County for search and rescue; and to MS Department of Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for Grand Gulf Exercise. Staff also worked with entities involved to develop ICS 205 for the Dixie National Rodeo; with MEMA to develop ICS 205 for Grand Gulf Exercise; with Army Corps of Engineers to develop cross-border communications between their MS and LA sites; met with OEC Regional Coordinator regarding Technical Assistance requests for 2017; participated in FEMA Reg. IV Regional Emergency Communication Coordinators Working Group update call; repaired transmit antenna (vendor) that had been struck by lightning at MSWIN 30312 Lewisburg (DeSoto County); provided daily oversight for all MSWIN system/site maintenance and repairs; and continued work on the DeSoto, Hinds and Warren County projects (tower load analysis, microwave/microwave path analysis, MOUs, etc.). Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the number of current MSWIN users, the number of users projected for the 1st 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 preliminary detailed design review on Camp Shelby sites had been completed. Vendor has project manager, Mr. Gary Ladd, in place for all due diligence. Staff is working on procuring the towers with an anticipated completion date of June 2017. Mr. Buffington anticipates moving microwaves on air with provisioning the two sites in Hinds County, Edwards and Pocahontas, to the MSWIN System in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Helfrich then gave an updated contract status report. Ms. Helfrich reported no changes to contract status. Staff is still working with ITS on both the LMR 3429 and the BTOP 3639 contract modifications in hopes to be finalized by the end of March 2017.

Ms. Helfrich then noted that the WCC deficit request for FY17 is now at \$1.6 million dollars. The WCC was included in House Bill 1527 for a deficit of \$1.4 million dollars which will cover system maintenance for the remainder of FY17. This figure does not include the most recent budget reduction of \$45,365 as of February 21, 2017. For FY18, the WCC budget request is \$10.4 million. Senate Bill #3001 has the appropriation reduced to LBO's recommendation of \$8.8 million and 7 PINs. Ms. Helfrich asked for any questions.

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Chairman Magee called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Perry Waggener reported two (2) procurement requests were brought before the Committee, neither requiring full Commission approval. Chairman Waggener stated the first was from Forrest County Emergency Management District, in the amount of \$111,203 dollars to upgrade to existing tower sites. Chairman Waggener then stated the second procurement request was from the University of Southern Mississippi Police Department, in the amount of \$168,051.11 dollars to upgrade dispatch console equipment. Both procurement requests were approved by the Procurement Review Committee.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. In Chairman Willie Huff's absence, Mr. Tom Lariviere had no action to report.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the expenditures for the month of February 2017, included a budget reduction of \$45,365 dollars bringing the total budget cuts for FY17 to \$324,000 dollars; reducing the FY17 appropriation to \$8.7 million dollars. Mr. Johnson noted that there were \$161,000 dollars in expenditures for the month of February 2017 bringing the cumulative total expenditures to \$5.7 million dollars; leaving the remaining balance for FY17 at just over \$3 million. Chairman Magee asked if there were further questions. Chairman Magee called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Mr. Lariviere made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Chief Waggener, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee asked for any other business. Chairman Magee recognized Chief Willie Huff's presence. Mr. Lariviere discussed the current Jackson water repairs including the potential loss of water service to some citizens of Jackson. His concerns included should a substantial part of Jackson be without water, there could be a need for radios issued and assigned talkgroups for agencies with disparate radios. Mr. Smithson commented that MEMA has written the ICS 205 plan with the assistance of Mr. Dent Guynes of the WCC. Talkgroups will need to be set aside. The City of Jackson's preliminary repair plan is that water will be shut off after school hours on March 10, 2017, impacting about 40,000 people with a projected repair time of 36 hours. The City of Jackson has issued a request to MEMA for delivery pallets of water during this outage. Mr. Smithson also noted there is a meeting tomorrow at 11 a.m. with Governor's Staff to determine action at the State level for a robust plan. Fire Departments in Jackson have done a great job regarding mutual aid including pumper trucks from other jurisdictions providing fire suppression, if this is needed. Drinking water and water for plumbing appear to be the issue during this repair. Mr. Smithson explained that the plan is a jurisdictional issue at this time and that the City of Jackson must form a request to the County and the County makes their request to MEMA. The Governor makes the final decision. Estimated costs are around \$100,000 per day for water supply. Possible funding includes the Disaster Trust Fund to pay for an emergency, rather than disaster, if needed. The issue could turn into a very large event and require law enforcement assistance, fire suppression and bulk water. Regardless of the decisions, MEMA will need MSWIN's support. Chairman Magee commented that was a good point to raise and that Ms. Helfrich and her team will look forward to working with MEMA and making sure this event goes as flawlessly as possible. Mr. Smithson then noted that on January 24, 2017, with the unfortunate loss of four lives in Forrest County, the recent tornadic events could have been a lot worse been without the use of the MSWIN System. The coordinated response between search and rescue teams, the City of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Perry County, Lamar County, and other jurisdictions using the MSWIN Network was absolutely phenomenal. Mr. Smithson stated that the interoperability of the MSWIN System was the driving force that helped get people out of the rubble and into emergency rooms and treated quickly. Chairman Magee then commented that is good news and further recognized Mr. Jim Hennessey, Forrest County EMD Director and Mr. John McClain, Office of Emergency Communications Region 4 Director and thanked them for their presence.

With no other business to discuss, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 6, 2017, 1:30 PM, in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS. The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnathan Brown made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smithson, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:48 PM.