

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
July 13, 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 Wildlife Fisheries and Parks	Skipworth, Curtis
MS National Guard	Causey, LTC Ray
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve
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 Sheriff Association	Rushing, Steve
MS Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
Advisory Members Present:	
House Public Utilities Committee	Beckett, Representative Jim

Chairman Ken Magee called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Magee recognized Representative Jim Beckett. Chairman Magee then called for the review of the June 1, 2017 meeting minutes. Chairman Magee entertained a motion to approve the June 1, 2017 minutes, as they were transmitted. Lt. Col. Ray Causey made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Donald Loper, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich provided the MSWIN Project Update for June 2017. She reported information on MOUs executed, radios loaned out, and activities the WCC staff participated in during the month. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on number of current MSWIN users, number of users projected for 3rd Quarter, top ten (10) state agencies by system use, and top ten (10) local/other agencies by system use.

Mr. Bill Buffington provided an update on the MSWIN build-out status. Mr. Buffington reported that both structural towers have been shipped for the two Camp Shelby sites. The microwave path study analysis has been completed and will tie both into an existing MSWIN site on Hwy 49. Most of the Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) due diligence is complete for the Parchman site. The package is to be submitted to FEMA in the next couple of months. Staff is also working to install a Circuit for a site at Mississippi State University (MSU), as well as participating in conversations with MSU to join MSWIN. The potential site in Oxford to utilize their existing water tank has received a good EHP and the preliminary Site Candidate Information Package (SCIP) package arrived yesterday.

Ms. Helfrich then provided an update on end of year financials. The WCC received a total of \$8.7 million for FY17 with a \$1.4 million deficit. As the WCC continues to pay expenses during the FY17 lapse period, we will end the year with approximately \$128,981 of deficit funding to be used in FY18. The WCC has expended a little over \$10 million for FY17 to end the fiscal year. The State Treasury informed us that \$95,000 of deficit funds will not be available until after the 2018 Legislative Session begins in January. During the special session in June, deficit funding for several agencies was diverted to meet other needs of the state. The remaining deficit funds will be used for MSWIN maintenance. For FY18, the WCC will begin with an appropriation of \$7.8 million dollars.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Perry Waggener, reported one (1) procurement request was brought before the Committee from the University of Mississippi Police Department, in the amount of \$213,630.96 for the purchase of equipment to facilitate moving to the MSWIN System for public safety. Chairman Waggener then recognized Chief Tim Potts and his availability to answer any questions. Chairman Waggener addressed a letter on file from University of Mississippi Police Department, requesting to waive the 30 day time frame in an effort to have the MSWIN system in place and implemented by their first home football game on September 2, 2017, to improve communications with supporting departments and agencies. Chairman Waggener then noted that the Local Procurement Review Committee unanimously approved the request with one caveat – use of the patching equipment (interoperability switch, etc.) is allowed on game day only as the WCC does not allow permanent patches on MSWIN. The procurement request required no further action from the full Commission.

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Chairman Magee called for the Governance/Interoperability Committee. In Chief Willie Huff's absence, Chairman Magee had nothing to report.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the FY17 financial update through June 2017. The current month's operating expenses totaled \$574,905.21 leaving a remaining FY17 balance of \$585,136.64 all of which will be spent. Capital fund expenses (deficit funds) for maintenance were \$639,799.50 with an ending balance of \$786,863.50. The bulk of this money is obligated for FY17 and will be paid during the lapse period, but some will roll over to FY18. For the current months grant activity, \$12,800 was collected for MICG program income and BTOP payments totaling \$7.3 million were expended for new equipment at existing sites. Chairman Magee asked if there were 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 Mr. Don Loper, and the motion carried with none opposed.

The first item under Other Business was for the Review and Approval of the FY19 Budget Request. Ms. Helfrich then gave an overview of the FY19 Budget Request in the amount of \$11,505,448. The WCC is requesting \$801,139 to fund the salaries for 10 PINS, \$10,000 for travel, \$9,662,225 for Contractual Services, \$29,084 for Commodities, \$978,000 for Equipment, and \$25,000 for vehicles. The budget request includes slight increases for staff training, land leases, and tower leases. The equipment request includes \$880,000 for the replacement of the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) systems coming to end of life use. The availability of components for repair are no longer available. This request will cover the first of a three year project. Mr. Buffington added that in implementing these repairs in phases over time, this measure would keep the MSWIN System healthy and prepared. The Chairman asked for any questions. Lt. Col. Ray Causey asked in what percentage of the sites be replaced in phases. Ms. Helfrich stated 1/3 of 144 sites or approximately 48 sites each year. Ms. Helfrich stated that Staff is requesting the Commission to approve the Budget Request for FY19 in the amount of \$11,505,448. Ms. Helfrich also added that the WCC will have a deficit request of approximately \$2.48 million for this year, FY18. Chairman Magee called for a motion to approve the FY19 Budget Request. Chief Waggener made a motion to approve the FY19 Budget Request, the motion was seconded by Mr. Don Loper, and the motion carried with none opposed.

The next item under Other Business was the FirstNet Update. Ms. Helfrich reported that the FirstNet Initial State Plan was provided to the WCC on June 19 and the WCC has until August 4 to provide feedback through the State Portal. From that feedback, FirstNet will decide whether or not to revise the State Plan prior to presenting the Final State Plan to the Governor in mid to late September. Ms. Helfrich and Mr. Buffington have met with AT&T and FirstNet on numerous occasions since the WCC's last monthly meeting, to discuss the State Plan, coverage requirements of the State, and leveraging MSWIN infrastructure as part of the network for the state. Ms. Helfrich and Mr. Buffington have also met with the Governor to discuss all of these details and the upcoming decision.

Mr. Buffington then noted that in the meeting with the Governor, he stated he would like to see an RFP so that we can fully evaluate our options for the FirstNet build-out in the state. As of this date, there are approximately twelve to fifteen states releasing RFPs to look at options. The Governor did not order an RFP, but rather defers to the Commission, although the ultimate decision is in his hands.

Ms. Helfrich then commented that the RFP would only be to evaluate alternative options to the State Plan that has been provided by FirstNet. The Governor will make the final decision to either opt in or opt out of the FirstNet build-out plan for the state. The Final State Plan is scheduled to be delivered mid to late September, so that means the decision to opt in or out has to be made by mid to late December.

Chairman Magee asked for any questions. Discussions surrounding the timing of the RFP and need to request that this item is placed on the ITS Agenda for approval at their upcoming Board meeting. Chairman Magee then entertained a motion to release the RFP to evaluate the State's alternatives to the State Plan. Mr. Waggener made a motion to release a RFP to evaluate the State's alternatives to the State Plan as it was provided to us from FirstNet and AT&T for the buildout of the State's FirstNet RAN Network. The motion was seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey and the motion carried with none opposed.

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Chairman Magee took immediate action with the motion to form an ad hoc committee to handle this task. Chairman Magee appointed Mr. Steve Gray, Chief Waggener, Mr. Tom Lariviere, Chief Huff, Vice-Chairman Lee Smithson, and himself as the members of the ad hoc Committee that will form and evaluate the RFP. Chairman Magee asked for any other business.

Chairman Magee then recognized this is the last meeting for Sheriff Rushing and took the opportunity to express the Commission's condolences to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Durr Family in the recent loss of Deputy Durr. Anytime there is a loss from one of our deputies, officers, first responders, heroes, it affects all of us. Chairman Magee thanked Sheriff Rushing for his service. Chairman Magee then turned to the recent tragedy in Leflore County involving the KC-130 crash and the loss of sixteen members of our Military, along with remembering their families in our thoughts and prayers, as well as the hundreds of first responders that are actively working on the scene.

With no other business to discuss, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, August 3, 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. Sheriff Steve Rushing made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:36 PM.