

**MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION**  
**August 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

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

<b>Commission Members Present:</b>	
MS Emergency Management Agency	Smithson, Lee (Vice-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 Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
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 Department of Health	Vaughn, Wayne
MS Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
<b>Advisory Members Present:</b>	
House Public Utilities Committee	Beckett, Representative Jim
Senate Energy Committee	Harkins, Senator Josh

Vice-Chairman Lee Smithson called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. Vice-Chairman Smithson recognized the presence of Senator Josh Harkins and Representative Jim Beckett. Vice-Chairman Smithson then called for the review of the July 13, 2017 meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Smithson entertained a motion to approve the July 13, 2017 minutes, as they were transmitted. Mr. Donald Loper made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich provided the MSWIN Project Update for July 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 the number of current MSWIN users, number of users projected for the 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 most of the tower equipment has been received and construction is scheduled to begin August 13<sup>th</sup> at one of the Camp Shelby site with hopes of both sites being live by the end of September 2017. At the Parchman site, most of the Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) due diligence is complete. The EHP package will be submitted to FEMA in the next couple of months. We have finalized the EHP and the preliminary Site Candidate Information Package (SCIP) package for the Oxford site and it looks like we will be able to utilize an existing water tank for this site location. AT&T will be connecting a circuit on August 4 for the Mississippi State University Site, located southeast of Starkville, so that it will be fully operational. Mr. Buffington also noted that Staff has been in discussions with Stennis Space Center to develop a system design to assist them in their efforts to join the MSWIN system.

Ms. Helfrich then provided an update on the contract status. Ms. Helfrich reported all contracts are finalized for FY18. Staff is working with MS Office of Homeland Security on the MICG grant extension request expiring in December 2017, for the funding from DHS through MOHS for implementation of the MSWIN LMR Network.

Vice-Chairman Smithson called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Perry Waggener reported one (1) procurement request was brought before the Committee from the City of Greenville in the amount of \$142,632.72 for the purchase of fifty-two (52) APX4000 portable radios and programming of forty (40) existing radios to migrate to the MSWIN system to replace existing equipment for public safety. Chairman Waggener then recognized Captain Dannie Graise and his availability to answer any questions. Chairman Waggener addressed a letter on file from the City of Greenville, requesting to waive the 30 day time frame for immediate purchase and implementation for use of the MSWIN System. Chairman Waggener then noted that the Local Procurement Review Committee unanimously approved the request and required no further action from the full Commission.

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Vice-Chairman Smithson called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Chief Willie Huff reported meeting with Rankin County on their plan to migrate from ADP encryption to the AES encryption standard within the next five (5) years or sooner, with some immediate agency updates. Chief Huff confirmed that the Committee is seeing progress with participation from entities to convert their devices to the AES encryption standard. Chief Huff also noted in his recent visit to the KC-130 crash site that there were a lot of compliments, especially from the Military, directed towards the MSWIN System enabling multi-agencies to interoperate together. Immediately after notification of the KC-130 crash, one of the local EMA Directors was in contact with Staff to get talk groups assigned. MDWFP gave great demonstration of the system during the search and rescue recovery with their use with the MSWIN radios. Vice-Chairman Smithson noted that in this instance, it was one of the single greatest uses of the MSWIN System and once the US Marines arrived that MDWFP, locals, MOHS, MBI, MDOT, MEMA, and MS Search and Rescue Task Force were able to recover most of the remains of the crash with the GPS enabled MSWIN radios by geocoding and color coding to map out located debris. The US Marines thought about bringing their own radios, but decided to use the fifty (50) MSWIN radios that were loaned to them by the WCC during this disaster. Vice-Chairman Smithson then commented that the Legislature and State Officials should be made aware that the MSWIN System is not only for hurricane use, but for daily use as agencies communicate in real time and proven within minutes of incidents happening. Chief Huff then added that in other parts of the state, locals and agencies using the MSWIN radios were not affected in using the MSWIN System during the tragedy in Leflore County.

Vice-Chairman Smithson called for the report of the FirstNet RFP Committee. Ms. Helfrich reported last month there was a vote by the Commission to issue an RFP to review the State's alternatives. Since then, the WCC has provided the technical specifications to ITS to combine with other state requirements with the expectation of releasing the RFP in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Helfrich then stated the Staff is working on finalizing comments on the Initial State Plan by August 4. FirstNet and AT&T will review this feedback and decide what, if any, changes will be incorporated in the Final State Plan which is scheduled to be released mid to late September 2017. This triggers the 90 day clock for the Governor to make a decision to opt in or opt out of the FirstNet plan by mid to late December 2017. Ms. Helfrich asked for any questions.

Vice-Chairman Smithson called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the FY17 financial update for FY 2017. For General Fund expenditures during the lapse period, July operating expenses totaled \$227,435.14 bringing a total of \$8.3 million dollars in expenses with a remaining balance of \$357,701.50, all of which are obligated for FY17 expenses. For FY17 Capital Fund expenses (deficit funds) for maintenance were \$639,799.50, along with a few expected small expenditures during the month of August. Unspent Capital Funds will forward to FY18. Total operating expenditures (General Fund and Capital Fund) for the month of July 2017 was \$867,234.64 bringing total FY17 expenses to \$9.6 million, with a current balance of \$504,765.50 as of July 31. For the current months grant activity, \$2,850 related to June 30, was collected for MICG program income and BTOP payments totaling \$535 was expended. Mr. Johnson asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Johnson then reported the FY18 financial update. The new fiscal year started with a beginning balance in the General Fund in the amount of \$7.8 million, of which \$513,877.40 was expended for July operating expenses. MICG program income totaling \$22,760.67 was collected for the use of the MSWIN System. Mr. Johnson then noted that the FY19 Budget was submitted as approved July 31, 2017. Vice-Chairman Smithson asked for any questions on the expenditures or budget. Vice-Chairman Smithson called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Mr. Don Loper made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Sanders, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Vice-Chairman Smithson then thanked CSpire and Mr. Terrell Knight, present today, for the work that was performed at the KC-130 crash site. In addition to radio system needs, the Leflore County field office did not have the bandwidth needed to support the broadband needs of two hundred (200) US Marines and all of the agencies supporting the incident. Within hours, CSpire was able to add the necessary equipment to increase the bandwidth available and ensure that all first responders were operational.

Vice-Chairman Smithson then noted that the first Tuesday of every month, MEMA conducts a statewide check on the MSWIN State Common, with an average of about 35-45% acknowledgment of participation by agencies that are actively on State Common. Vice-Chairman Smithson asks dispatch and system leaders to be monitoring State Common since any significant warnings are to be reported by the National Weather Service, Jackson, MS, Mobile, AL, Slidell, LA, and Memphis, TN whom have MSWIN radios on this channel, and to be in a habit of monitoring this frequency.

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With no other business to discuss, the Vice-Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, September 7, 2017, 1:30 PM, in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS. The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Waggener made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:58 PM.