

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDWFP – Commission Conference Room, 1505 Eastover Drive

Commission Members Present:	
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Ken (Chairman)
MS Department of Emergency Management	Smithson, Lee (Vice-Chairman)
MS Municipal League	Girod, Chief Arty
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 Office of Homeland Security	McKee, Mark
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Sanders, Chris
MS Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks	Bolden, Michael
Advisory Members Present:	
House Appropriations Committee	Delano, Representative Scott

Chairman Ken Magee called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Magee recognized the presence of Representative Scott Delano and Mr. Chuck Murph from FirstNet. Chairman Magee then called for the review of the October 5, 2017 meeting minutes. Chairman Magee entertained a motion to approve the October 5, 2017 minutes, as they were transmitted. Mr. Michael Bolden made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Mark McKee, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Mr. Ken Magee then welcomed Chief Arty Girod, newly appointed Commission Member representing the MS Municipal League.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich provided the MSWIN Project Update for October 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 4th 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 tower construction is complete at both the Camp Shelby Reid Hill and the Forrest Avenue sites. The building and electronic integration at these sites are on target to be completed by the end of December 2017 and microwave integration is expected late January 2018. Staff continues to work with FEMA on the EHP packages for the Parchman and Oxford sites. Plans to build a permanent site in Madison County, as well as, a couple of other locations are in the works. Ms. Helfrich asked for any questions.

Ms. Helfrich then provided an update on the contract status. Ms. Helfrich reported all contracts have been finalized for FY18. Staff has no contract changes to report. Ms. Helfrich then reported staff has submitted the extension request for the MICG Grant and after multiple conversations with DHS on this matter there are no foreseen issues in extending the grant for two years to finish the project, however six month extensions are usually provided and is what will be expected. Staff has also worked with DHS in submitting for environmental approvals.

Ms. Helfrich then noted that the Statewide Communications Exercise will be held on November 7, 2017, at three (3) locations: Grenada Lake, Roosevelt State Park, and Percy Quin State Park. Ms. Helfrich also noted on November 14, 2017, the WCC Staff will hold a SCIP (Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan) Workshop, to be held in conjunction with the DHS Office of Emergency Communications. The WCC's plan will be updated and will include our goals and objectives for the next three (3) to five (5) year time period. Ms. Helfrich continued with an update that Staff has trained one hundred and six (106) trainers in the Train-the-Trainer program at various agencies to train the end user on how to use the MSWIN radios. The goal is for every entity to have a designated trainer on site.

Mr. Tom Lariviere asked if the City of Jackson Fire and Police Departments were fully migrated over to the MSWIN System. Ms. Helfrich and Mr. Buffington confirmed, and Mr. Lariviere then stated that as of to date,

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the South Madison County, Rankin County, Hinds County, City of Jackson are on the MSWIN System and there were only 300 busies reported out of 6.5 million Push-to-Talks, so there are obviously no capacity issues.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Perry Waggener reported one (1) procurement request brought before the Local Procurement Committee submitted from Perry County EMA in the amount of \$99,903.84 for the purchase of thirty-four (34) Kenwood TK-5430 F2 portable radios in addition to thirty-one (31) Kenwood TK-5930 BF mobile radios in order for the Fire Service and Public Works to migrate to the MSWIN System. Chairman Waggener then noted that this request was approved by the LPR Committee and requires no further action from the full Commission. Chairman Magee asked for any questions.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Chief Willie Huff had nothing to report. Chief Huff then commented that the increased capacity on the System has allowed for more Push-to-Talks and less busies in crossed paths among the 35,000 users and despite what some think, this is not a hurricane or natural disaster radio system but is an everyday 24/7 ready system.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the FirstNet RFP Committee. Chairman Magee reported that the FirstNet RFP Committee has met to examine two (2) submitted proposals. The proposals are currently being reviewed and the committee will deliver a report to the Full Commission at the December 7, 2017 WCC Monthly Meeting. Chairman Magee asked for any questions.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the FY18 financial update through October 2017. The current month's operating expenses totaled \$534,626.98, bringing the cumulative amount for FY18 to \$2.1 million, leaving \$5.6 million for the remainder of fiscal year expenditures. Mr. Johnson reported no activity from the Capital Expense fund which was the last portion of the deficit left over from FY17. For grant activity, \$21,626.50 for MICG program income was received and just a little over \$472,000 was expended for BTOP GTR equipment. Chairman Magee asked if there were questions. Chairman Magee called for a motion to approve the October 2017 monthly expenditures. Mr. Mark McKee made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Bolden, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee asked for other business. Mr. Mark McKee then noted that the MS Office of Homeland Security has been auditing the equipment on one hundred and twenty-nine (129) MSWIN tower site locations purchased with the MICG Grant Funding with a completion date by the end of this week. Next, they will begin an audit on the radios purchased statewide with federal funds.

Chairman Magee asked for any other business. Mr. Lee Smithson then noted that a few weeks ago, there was a Silver Alert issued for a missing woman. Responding agencies included the MS Army National Guard and Search and Rescue Task Forces. Within ten (10) minutes, the woman missing was found in a ditch and probably would have died from exposure within a couple of hours if it were not for the use of the MSWIN System. The system worked as designed resulting in the coordination of this search and rescue. The MSWIN radios made the difference allowing for multiple aircraft and entities to communicate and work together effectively.

Chief Huff then noted at the last monthly WCC meeting that he asked for any statistics on AT&T's data network sustainability during the recent hurricanes and in the hurricane affected areas particularly in Houston, TX and Florida. Chief Huff stated that this information has not been received. Chief Huff commented that this information is needed with the upcoming decision for the state to either opt in or opt out of the FirstNet/AT&T build-out plan for the state. He also noted additional information is needed including site hardening and connections, battery backup life, if AT&T sites have generators, site redundancy in case towers go down, and plans for areas where deployables are unattainable. Chief Huff stated that without this information, he does not feel comfortable moving forward in decisions to recommend for an opt in or opt out. He then stated that we have only been provided with information that the state public safety users will be given pre-emption and priority when capacity is an issue, however, when a tower site goes down, pre-emption and priority do not make a difference. The MSWIN LMR System is hardened and redundant and will be up and operational unless something catastrophic occurs to the three (3) Master Sites. Chief Huff also stated that when the New Orleans pumps flooded, officials stated that the pumps were working at 100% capacity and what was not reported was the fact that only three (3) pumps were actually running. Because of these incidents, outage information needs to be provided to know what actually occurred to AT&T's networks during the recent hurricanes. Chairman

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Magee noted that Harris County, Texas has a P25 LMR system similar to MSWIN and Ms. Helfrich commented that Harris County only lost one (1) Site during the Hurricane. Ms. Helfrich commented that request for this information has been made to AT&T, including specific outage information broken down by county/locality, but the information has not been received at this point. Chairman Magee asked for any other questions.

With no other business to discuss, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7, 2017, 1:30 PM, in DFA Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS. The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. Chief Huff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tom Lariviere, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:54 PM.