

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

February 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

<b>Commission Members Present:</b>	
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie (Chairman)
MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks	Bolden, Michael (Vice-Chairman)
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Audrey
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Savorgnan, Holly
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Loper, Donald
MS Department of Emergency Management	Michel, Greg
MS Department of Homeland Security	Williams, Jenny
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Sanders, Chris
MS Fire Chiefs Association	Lariviere, Tom

Chairman Willie Huff called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Huff then called for the review of the January 9, 2020 minutes. Chairman Huff called for a motion to accept the minutes. Vice-Chairman Michael Bolden made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Greg Michel, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich, Executive Officer, then provided the MSWIN Status Update for January 2020. She reported information on MOUs, special event talk groups assigned, activities the WCC staff participated in during the month, the number of current MSWIN users, the number of push-to-talks, the top ten (10) state agencies/number of devices by system use, and the top ten (10) local/other agencies/number of devices by system use. Ms. Helfrich reported that staff is continuing to work with AT&T and FirstNet to finalize tower lease agreements. Additionally, all PMs (Preventative Maintenance) have been concluded on all facilities.

Mr. Bill Buffington, Technical Director, provided an update on the WCC projects. Mr. Buffington reported that work on the Canton and John C. Stennis Space Center tower sites continue to progress. The WCC is still working with Madison County on the ground lease for the Canton site and expects to receive the FONSI for the Canton site this month.

Ms. Helfrich provided an update on WCC contract status. She reported that the WCC received written approval for the MCG Grant extension from FEMA. The WCC is waiting on signatures for the SBA tower lease renewals which were approved by the Commission on December 5, 2019 and the ITS Board on December 19, 2019. Additionally, Ms. Helfrich reported on HB No. 73. This legislation is based on the October PEER report which supports the WCC becoming a standalone agency.

Chairman Huff called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. In Commissioner Perry Waggener's absence Commissioner Don Loper, Chairman-elect, reported that there was only one (1) procurement request from the City of Ocean Springs utilizing the State's 3429 contract. The city is requesting \$220,994.40 to purchase sixty (60) APX6000 radios to upgrade and replace the older radios, immediately. The Procurement Review Committee approved the purchase with two caveats: (1) approval is pending receipt of official minutes, and (2) request that the 40 special event talkgroups be added to each radio. The procurement request does not require Commission approval.

Chairman Huff called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Commissioner Lariviere asked Dent Guynes to speak on the progression of the electronic application being developed by the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Guynes reported that the WCC is working with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Emergency Communication Division (CISA-ECD) to develop a public safety mobile application for Mississippi's

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Tactical Interoperability Channel Plan Field Operations Guide (TICP-FOG) which is the go-to reference for emergency communications planning and radio technicians during disaster response. Mississippi will be one of the first states to develop this electronic application. Beta testing for the application is scheduled to begin soon.

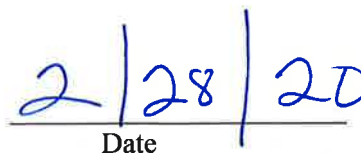
Chairman Huff called for the approval of expenditures. Commissioner Holly Savorgnan provided the financial reports for January 2020, including general funds, grant funds, and program income as provided on the WCC Detail of Monthly Expenses and the WCC Activity Reports. Chairman Huff called for any discussion. With no further discussion, Commissioner Greg Michel motioned to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Williams, and the motion carried with none opposed.

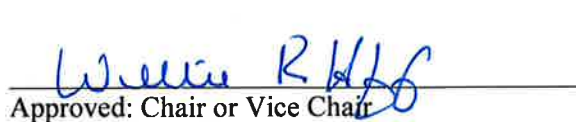
Chairman Huff called for the report of Other Business. Ms. Helfrich reported that the BTOP grant/contract has been in place since 2010 and has been used to add capacity and increase redundancy to MSWIN. Ms. Helfrich requested approval of a contract modification in the amount of \$314,269 to upgrade an existing microwave link from Harrison County (10802) to Troop K (10810) and a new microwave hop from Troop K (10810) to Vancleave (10803) establishing a bi-directional loop and increased redundancy in the coastal counties. Vice-Chairman Bolden motioned to approve the contract modification in the amount of \$314,269, seconded by Commissioner Michel. The motion carried with none opposed.

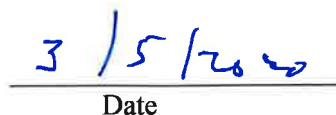
Ms. Helfrich also provided an overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Interoperability Continuum Best Practices/Performance Markers which were created to help emergency communications governance bodies, such as the WCC, determine where they rank in the Continuum's five critical success elements that must be addressed to achieve a sophisticated interoperability solution: (1) Governance, (2) Standard Operating Procedures, (3) Technology, (4) Training & Exercises, and (4) Usage. The Interoperability Continuum was developed with practitioner input by DHS's SAFECOM program and is designed to assist emergency response agencies to plan and implement interoperability solutions for data and voice communications. The Continuum supports the National Preparedness Strategy and aligns with national frameworks including, but not limited to, the National Response Framework, the National Incident Management System, the National Emergency Communications Plan, and the National Communications Baseline Assessment. Staff and Commission leadership will continue to work with the DHS to optimize emergency communications in the state.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Huff then announced that the next monthly meeting would be held at 1:30 PM, on March 5, 2020, in room 145 of the Woolfolk Building at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS. Commissioner Ray Causey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lariviere and the motioned passed with none opposed.

  
Attested: Executive Officer

  
Date

  
Approved: Chair or Vice Chair

  
Date