

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

September 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Place: 6th Floor MDOT Conference Room

401 North West Street

Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Emergency Management Agency	Chairman Robert Latham
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Vice Chairman Tom Lariviere
MS Office of Homeland Security	Rusty Barnes
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Donnell Berry
MS Association of Supervisors	Steve Gray
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Richard Harrell
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS National Guard	Gary Ladd
MS Department of Health	Mike Lucius
MS Department of Public Safety	Ken Magee/Timothy Smith
MS Department of Corrections	Audrey McAfee
MS Municipal League	Quincy Mukoro
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Craig Orgeron
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks	Curtis Thornhill
MS Association of Chiefs of Police	Perry Waggener
Advisory Board Members Present:	
Chairman House Public Utilities	Representative Jim Beckett
Vice-Chairman Senate Appropriations	Senator Terry Burton
Also in Attendance:	
MS House of Representatives	Representative Tracy Arnold
Speaker's Office	Mandy Davis
LBO/Senate	Drew Maddox
Governor's Office	Joey Songy
Governor's Office	Thomas McElroy

Chairman Latham called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. The Chairman asked if there were any changes to the August 1, 2013 minutes which had been emailed to Commission members. There were none and the Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting as written. Mr. Rusty Barnes made the motion to approve. Mr. Willie Huff seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed. The Chairman asked if there were any changes in the August 29, 2013 minutes which had been emailed to Commission members. There were none and the Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2013 meeting as written. Colonel Ladd made the motion to approve. Mr. Steve Gray seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Helfrich was asked to provide the MSWIN Project update. Ms. Helfrich noted that all LMR site construction has been completed. Some tweaking and testing of certain elements is being done and when Change Order #10 is processed, the build-out of 8-10 additional towers can begin. MSWIN current coverage is being looked at; trying to find holes and determining where we need to add that additional coverage. Ms. Helfrich stated that during the past month WCC Staff has loaned radios to Alcorn County Sheriff's Office, City of Grenada Police and Fire Departments, MS Band of Choctaws, and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Also MOUs have been executed with the City of Cleveland, Town of Puckett, University of Southern Mississippi, Town of Bruce and DeSoto County. We have a permanent MOU with DeSoto County and they are currently using MSWIN as a backup system to their current system.

MS Helfrich provided network statistics for MSWIN for the entire month of August and specifically for the last week of August noting the number of Push-To-Talks (PTT) and percentage of busies. In each case the corresponding percentage of busies were equivalent to .01 or less which well under the threshold of how the system was designed.

Ms. Helfrich stated that in August the FirstNet Board extended negotiations until the end of September with two entities – the State of Mississippi and San Francisco BayWEB. The BTOP Grant has been extended until the end of December. If we are successful in getting the grant documents in place and modified; whether it is for an LTE Network or whether we are looking at some type of BTOP modification to update our backhaul, the BTOP Grant will then be extended to September 30, 2015.

Vice Chairman Lariviere made the report for the Procurement Review Committee. One matter had come before the Committee this month – a request from the City of Grenada, MS Police Department - \$187,043.13 to purchase APX portable and mobile radios and MSWIN will be the primary communication system for the Grenada Police Department. The request was unanimously approved by the Committee and was below the threshold for Commission approval.

The Chairman called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Mr. Huff stated that he recently reported on a vendor presentation on Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) technology. This technology allows some vendor manufactured smartphones to be able to extend coverage, range, and availability to people with smartphones and to use those phones as communication devices on the wireless system. In the Business Plan presented in the August 29, 2013 meeting it was indicated that it was a possibility for the WCC to recoup some costs through this type of application. Mr. Huff made a motion that the WCC develop an RFP for the value added application that allows remote communication through smartphone devices using our current consultant contracts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Lariviere. Chairman Latham called for discussion on the matter.

Chairman Latham asked what the anticipated cost is for putting that capability in place on MSWIN. Mr. Huff said that the RFP would determine that; Colonel Ladd noted that the RoIP is just one small piece of a lot of functionality of this type of application; and Ms. Helfrich stated that entering into a public/private partnership would be a way to expedite the process without a lot of up-front costs. Dr. Orgeron asked if the RFP would focus on RoIP only or on the development of a suite of value added services. Mr. Huff and Ms. Helfrich stated that it would be for RoIP only. Mr. Huff further indicated that the Governance/Interoperability Committee would participate in the RFP process. With no further discussion or questions, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Huff then discussed providing EPA/Public Utilities the opportunity to participate and communicate on MSWIN for a fee. In conjunction with WCC Staff, a resolution was drafted to allow this collaboration. Mr. Huff provided copies of the resolution to Commission members and read the resolution. Mr. Huff then made a motion to adopt the resolution as read with the exception of some basic wording changes for editing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Lariviere. Chairman Latham called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Lariviere noted that because 'First Responder' is already clearly defined, it was decided that the term not be used in reference to the EPAs. Additional comments were made by Colonel Ladd, Mr. Quincy Mukoro, Chairman Latham, and Mr. Mike Lucius. Mr. Lucius made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Joey Songy from the Governor's office stated that this is a revenue generating opportunity and we want to get as many of these entities on board as possible. It is not a situation where we are taking business away from the private sector. After additional discussion, Senator Terry Burton proposed a revision in the wording. Mr. Mike Lucius withdrew his motion to table the discussion until next month. Mr. Huff made the motion to adopt the resolution with the amended text provided by Senator Burton. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Lariviere and passed with one member, Mr. Mike Lucius, voting 'present'.

The Chairman called for the report of the Revenue Committee. Mr. Gray stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

The Chairman called for the Report of Monthly Expenditures. Dr. Orgeron stated that the remaining FY13 balance is \$100 thousand dollars after all encumbrances and that balance would have to be reauthorized in order to be used. There is approximately \$5M dollars in the 3603 fund for FY14; the Grant balance is about \$51.6M dollars with a split of \$24.4 Million dollars in MICG funds and \$27.2M dollars in BTOP funds. The total expense for the month of August was \$1.2 M dollars and operating expenses were typical. Chairman Latham asked how long the current funding will last. Dr. Orgeron noted that it might turn the year and that depending upon some decisions; it might be as early as October of this year. Mr. Huff made a motion to approve monthly expenditures. The motion was seconded by Colonel Ladd and passed with none opposed.

Chairman Latham called for other business. Mr. Joey Songy stated that the Governor has asked him to do Economic Development Policy and that Mr. Thomas McElroy will be taking his place. Mr. Songy further stated that he has enjoyed working with the Commission over the past year and that the system has progressed enormously. Mr. McElroy stated that he is looking forward to continuing the work that Mr. Songy has done with the Commission.

Chairman Latham stated that he has had many positive discussions with a lot of communities/entities about MSWIN and that there is a lot of interest in MSWIN out there. He further stated that he feels that any plan that pushes user fees will be a detriment to the system and that one of government's functions is Public Safety and communications is a key component of Public Safety. To the WCC Staff, the Chairman noted that each time he gets an inquiry from a Sheriff, Police Chief, etc. about wanting/needng something and the WCC responds; putting some radios out there for them to test, the response is positive. This is something to be proud of.

There was no other business for discussion.

The next meeting will be held on October 3, 2013 at 1:30 PM in the MDOT 6th Floor Conference Room. Mr. Rusty Barnes made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Colonel Ladd and passed with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:18 PM.