

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

March 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Place: 6th Floor MDOT Conference Room
401 North West Street
Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Emergency Management	Chairman, Robert Latham
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Tom Lariviere
MS Office of Homeland Security	Rusty Barnes
MS Association of Supervisors	Steve Gray
MS Municipal League	Chris Hinton
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Johnson
MS National Guard	Gary Ladd
MS Department of Public Safety	Ken Magee
MS Department of Corrections	Audrey McAfee
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Curtis Thornhill
MS Department of Health	Wayne Vaughn
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Perry Waggener
Advisory Board Members Present:	
Also in Attendance:	
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 February 6, 2014 minutes. There were no changes and the Chairman called for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Tom Lariviere made the motion to approve. Mr. Steve Gray seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Helfrich provided the MSWIN Project update. Ms. Helfrich noted that the equipment has been ordered for Dynamic System Resiliency (DSR) which allows for master site backup and redundancy in the three MSWIN zones. Work is currently paused awaiting the outcome of the MICG extension request. All additional information has been provided to the Grantor and the outcome is expected to be positive. Genesis, which provides for detailed reports and statistics on MSWIN, has been installed and training is completed. Ms. Helfrich stated that we are currently in discussions with three entities about the leasing of tower space on State Owned towers (ATT, Entergy, John Deere).

Ms. Helfrich provided a one page MSWIN status update which outlined MSWIN User and Network activity, Zone usage broken down by talk groups and Airtime and PTTs per hour along with a one pager outlining talking points for Commissioners as requested by the Chairman. Ms. Helfrich requested that Commissioners join the WCC for MSWIN User Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 from 1-4 PM. Any assistance in getting the MSWIN word out to our Legislators will be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Tom Lariviere made the report for the Procurement Review Committee. The Committee received one Local Procurement Request this month from Leflore County for the purchase of mobile and portable radios with the intent of their coming onto MSWIN. The requested amount of the purchase is \$172,933.00. The Committee unanimously approved the request which does not meet the threshold to be brought before the full commission.

Chairman Latham called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Mr. Huff stated that the RFP for RoIP has been received and asked permission to send it to ITS. That permission was given. Users with smartphones can have access to their talkgroups over their smartphones having the ability to connect without having a radio device with them. This will be a value added service and will come with an access fee. In addition, the Governance Committee is currently researching another value added service for MSWIN - the possibility of NCIC in automobiles

without having to use a wireless card. Mr. Huff introduced information on P25 Inter RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI). It is a non-proprietary interface that enables RF subsystems to connect together into wide area networks so that users on different networks can talk with each other. The Governance Committee recommends that we purchase one of these interfaces so that we can tie into other state systems and extended coverage areas for public safety first responders and possibly broaden responses to RFPs. Mr. Ken Magee made a motion to establish the cost of ISSI and bring information back to the Commission for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rusty Barnes and passed with none opposed.

The Chairman called for the report of the Revenue Committee. Mr. Gray was stated that we have a bill that is still alive and this will be a vehicle for funding maintenance and operation costs for MSWIN. The bill has passed both chambers but will most likely go to conference. Mr. Gray also stated that if the measure passes, it may generate up to \$15M dollars.

The Chairman called for the Report of Monthly Expenditures. Mr. David Johnson stated that there is slightly under \$870 thousand dollars left in the Integrated Public Safety Communications Fund (3603) for FY14. The total expense for the month of February was \$1.5M dollars with almost \$1M dollars paid for MSWIN Maintenance for services from July 2013 through December 2013. Upon review, the current balance of \$870 thousand dollars can be expected to last through the month of March after which we will be in the red unless the requested deficit appropriation is received. Mr. Steve Gray made a motion to approve monthly expenditures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willie Huff and the motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Latham called for other business. At that time, Ms. Helfrich requested that the Commission allow a \$1500.00 - \$3000.00 pricing range to be assessed for the leasing of tower space on State Owned towers. Commission approval of this request will allow us to move forward in the quest for value added services. After some discussion, Mr. Timothy Smith made a motion to allow WCC Staff a minimum of \$1500.00 with no cap and that the Staff is allowed to proceed with discussions with entities. The motion was seconded by Lt. Colonel Ladd and the motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Ken Magee made a motion to go into closed session to determine the need for an executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Lariviere and passed with none opposed. All attendees that were not Commission members were asked to exit the room. Mr. Ken Magee stated that the issue to be discussed was with respect to possible litigation and that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body. After some discussion, Mr. Ken Magee made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Lariviere and passed with none opposed. Those members of the general public that had been present were notified that the Commission had voted to go into executive session to conduct a strategy session with respect to possible litigation. An executive session was conducted by the Chairman on the subject announced. There were no votes or action taken during the executive session. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made to close the executive session and resume open meeting by Mr. Tom Lariviere. The motion was seconded by Mr. Timothy Smith. The Commission voted unanimously to return to open meeting. Members of the general public still waiting were notified that open session was resuming.

Chairman Latham stated that a Special Called meeting of the Commission to discuss tower leases will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014 at 3:30 PM in the MDOT 6th Floor Conference Room. Notification will go out via Email and the schedule will be posted on the Website.

The next monthly meeting will be held on April 3, 2014 at 1:30 PM in the MDOT 6th Floor Conference Room. Mr. Tom Lariviere made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Gray and passed with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20 PM.