

**MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION**  
**December 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes**  
Place: 6th Floor MDOT Conference Room  
401 North West Street  
Jackson, MS

<b>Commission Members Present:</b>	
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Chairman Tom
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Vice Chairman Ken
MS Department of Homeland Security	Barnes, Mr. Rusty
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Mr. Richard
MS Municipal League	Hinton, Mr. Chris
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Mr. Willie
MS Emergency Management Agency	Perkins, Ms. Susan
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Ms. Audrey
MS Department of Information Technology	Johnson, Mr. David
MS Sheriffs Association	Rushing, Sheriff Steve
MS Highway Patrol	Smith, Mr. Tim
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Mr. Wayne
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Waggener, Chief Perry
<b>Advisory Board Members Present:</b>	
<b>Also in Attendance:</b>	

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, meeting, as they were transmitted. Mr. Willie Huff made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn. The motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for November discussing an MOU with Warren County, Mississippi, in order to get talk groups in place and start testing coverage issues. She reported the WCC loaned out radios to Grenada PD, Lafayette County and Ridgeland PD events and created a 205 and had cache radios ready for the possible severe weather event that occurred on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Regarding system health, she reported the WCC is continuing to work on the second round of preventative maintenance, including generators and HVAC in Phases I and II. She reported the grounds maintenance is completed and the WCC is making repairs to the grounds at some sites to address soil erosion and washed-out access roads. She reported the second round of the bi-annual HVAC PMs are in process and the second round of the bi-annual generator PMs will begin in the next two weeks. She said the WCC is working with Motorola on their PM process for the RF equipment and the microwave equipment. She said Motorola is still handling all repairs and PMs for Phase III, but the warranty expires on March 1, 2015, and the WCC will be responsible for all PMs

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and repairs for the entire state for generators, HVAC, towers, UPS, batteries, and grounds maintenance. The number of users for November was 19,298 and the projection for the fourth quarter of FY15 is still 20,467. She reported MSWIN network activity was almost 2.8 million push to talks and 638 busies. She reported on contract status mentioning the due diligence contract with Towers of Mississippi is being amended to allow us to perform the due diligence necessary for the new tower sites the WCC is investigating and that the contract is awaiting signatures. She also reported the 24 tower leases with SBA are coming up for renewal in January 2015, each will have a 10% rent increase, and the paperwork has been forwarded to ITS for approval.

Mr. Bill Buffington reported on build out status saying the due diligence paperwork on the three candidate sites at Camp Shelby is complete. He reported there is interest from several carriers, including AT&T, CSpire and Verizon who are interested in colocating their equipment on the towers. He reported the Port Bienville - Hancock County due diligence package is in process to be submitted to FEMA for the MICG grant funds. He reported sites in Madison (to improve their coverage) and Starkville (to address coverage issues of DPS) are being identified and the due diligence necessary to request grant funds has been started. He reported there is a request from Marshall County regarding their industrial area that will involve negotiations with a carrier to install a MSWIN site in the park. Vice Chairman Magee asked when the impact studies would be completed and Mr. Buffington most likely in another month.

As a part-time employee of Madison County, Mississippi, Chairman Lariviere recused himself from the Procurement Committee Review session and Vice Chairman Ken Magee took over the proceedings. Chairman Perry Waggener was recognized and reported that the request from Desoto County from last month that was deferred at the last meeting, is still awaiting some paperwork and was going to be deferred until the January meeting. He then reported a recommendation from the procurement committee concerning Madison County, Mississippi's request for a \$353,691.12 system upgrade, saying despite the fact that the staff indicated more time would be needed to complete their review, Madison County made a compelling case that it is an immediate need and based upon that, the committee recommended the request go forward with a caveat that it is an unusual situation based upon their immediate need.

Regarding interoperability, Chairman Willie Huff of the Governance & Interoperability Committee asked the guests from Madison County to confirm whether or not the upgrade would provide greater interoperability with digital devices already being used in the county. Madison County said it would. Mr. Huff also asked if other vendor radios will work on the upgraded digital system, or if the upgrade would turn the system into a vendor-specific system. Madison County said there are some other vendors, but not all. Mr. Huff then asked Madison County how they handled interoperability during the recent search for the missing child and how they communicated with the other agencies involved in the search that had MSWIN radios. Madison County said their dispatch has the ability to communicate with the MSWIN system. Mr. Huff asked if the upgrade would increase Madison's interoperability with MSWIN, or if it would still be dispatched. Madison County said it will still be a dispatch system. Mr. Huff asked if there is any way Madison County can establish something that would enable patching capability. Madison County said yes. Mr. Huff said Madison has one channel for county-wide law and asked if in a major event everyone involved in the event would have to be on the same county-wide law channel. Madison County said everybody within the county would. Mr. Huff then said that makes it difficult for Madison to handle special event talk groups. Madison said they can restrict who is using the channel at the same time. Mr. Huff said but it's not as easy to manage with that type of system as it is with the MSWIN system, because we can assign talk groups -

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Madison has one talkgroup, MSWIN has 40 special event talkgroups. Madison County said they have multiple channels within their agency. Mr. Huff asked how they keep multiple events separate. Madison County repeated they restrict who is using the channels. Mr. Huff asked which municipalities are currently on the system. Madison County said Canton and Flora. Mr. Huff said the cities of Madison and Ridgeland aren't? Madison County said Madison and Ridgeland have the capability to be on our system: we have theirs in our stack, they have ours in theirs. Mr. Huff asked if Madison County had Madison and Ridgeland's channels in their cars. Madison County said not in the cars, in the dispatch consoles - with a patching capability. Mr. Huff asked if the request is an approach to solving an immediate problem of coverage within the county and whether or not Madison County would be amicable later to look at MSWIN as a permanent solution. Madison County said that's correct - we're not opposed to going to it eventually, but we've got an immediate problem we can solve in 60 days with our request.

Vice Chairman Magee asked for a motion and Chairman Waggener said the committee voted to approve the request with the caveat that it is an unusual situation of an immediate need where MSWIN mobile coverage does not satisfy the portable coverage needs in their area. Chairman Waggener made a motion to approve the request and Sheriff Steve Rushing seconded the motion. The motion carried with none opposed.

Mr. Huff reported the Governance/Interoperable Committee met by phone recently to discuss the *voice-over-internet-protocol* (VOIP) - the software that will allow access to the MSWIN system by smart devices and smart phones. He said a request for proposal (RFP) was developed, released, and bids were received with several requests going out to vendors for clarification of their answers. He said after they received the clarifications back, a business plan review was done. He then made a motion to reject all bids and re-advertise the VOIP at a later date because the committee review determined no business plan would be advantageous to the WCC at this time and they are recommending that all bids be rejected. Mr. Rusty Barnes seconded the motion and Chairman Lariviere called for questions. Mr. Tim Smith asked if there was a timeline when the WCC would re-announce. Mr. Huff said likely next summer - the WCC is going through a software upgrade for the entire system and it needs to be completed before new software is added to the system. The motion carried with none opposed.

Mr. David Johnson made the Report and Approval of Expenditures. He directed the Commission to the detailed handout reporting that expenditures out of operating funds for the month were \$1,138,215.73, leaving a remaining balance of \$6,700,751.21 to finish out the fiscal year. He reported no grant fund activity for the month. He reported repair and maintenance services expenditures for the month (non-Motorola) were \$32,632.70, and the maintenance and repair of IT equipment (quarterly payment for system maintenance provided by Motorola) was \$551,374.50. He also reported that the projection for the remaining part of the year is being looked at with staff input and at first glance, it's going to be close, but he will provide a number at next month's meeting. He also said the monthly detail report for October is a good example of regular expenses and the Commission should expect to see these expenditures every month throughout the year. Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Curtis Hinton. The motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere called for any other business. There was none.

The next monthly meeting will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 1:30 PM in the MDOT 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

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Chairman Lariviere took a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vaughn made the motion to adjourn and it carried with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.