

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
March 19, 2015 (Continued from March 5, 2015) Meeting Minutes
 Place: Woolfolk Building - DFA, Room 145
 501 North West Street
 Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Mr. Tom (Chairman)
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Mr. Ken (Vice Chairman)
MS Department of Homeland Security	Barnes, Mr. Rusty
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Department of Corrections	Fisher, Mr. Marshall L.
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Mr. Richard
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Mr. Willie
MS Department of Information Technology	Johnson, Mr. David
MS Emergency Management Agency	Perkins, Ms. Susan
MS Highway Patrol	Smith, Mr. Timothy
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Thornhill, Mr. Curtis
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Mr. Wayne
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Waggener, Chief Perry
Advisory Board Members Present:	

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and welcomed new MDOC Commissioner Marshall L. Fisher and Ms. Susan Perkins from MEMA to the proceedings. He then entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2015, meeting, as they were transmitted. Mr. Willie Huff made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Chief Perry Waggener. The motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for February 2015. She provided information on the number of MOUs executed, radios loaned for coverage testing, and special events the WCC Staff participated in during the month. In addition, the WCC conducted Intrastate Interoperability Testing with counterparts in Louisiana and issued ICS 205s with special event talkgroups for winter weather storms. Power failures were experienced at multiple MSWIN tower sites during the Feb. 23-25 winter weather event - redundant generator systems came online as designed and maintained power during the outages. Motorola has begun the RF site PMs for the system getting ready for hurricane season. Ms. Helfrich also outlined MSWIN User and Network activity, Zone usage broken down by talkgroups and Airtime and PTTs per hour.

Mr. Buffington reported no changes on build out status at Camp Shelby or Hancock County.

Ms. Helfrich gave the Contract Status Update. SBA has acknowledged they will sign the lease renewals provided to them by ITS, but as of March 5, 2015, we have not received the signed paperwork. The state is working on a request to extend the MICG grant to December 31, 2016, to provide additional time to complete the project. NTIA has asked the Governor's office to request a

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six month extension on the BTOP grant, which will give us until the end of September 2015 to finalize all close out activities. We have provided a BTOP closeout plan to NTIA containing all the documents and requests already made and reiterating our position. Two main items still outstanding are: (1) response to disposition request for the LTE equipment; and (2) authority to retain the microwave/non-LTE equipment that was purchased with BTOP funds. We have asked NTIA for written documentation which indicates their agreement to allow us to keep the microwave equipment and have been told the grant administrator, NOAA, doesn't have a problem with it, but we have not received anything in writing to date. NTIA is also working with Motorola to get an estimated cost for upgrading the LTE equipment to the latest software version and are planning to sell the equipment to a non-profit entity that will be using it to deploy a broadband network overseas.

Mr. Willie Huff began a discussion about the NTIA extension. Concerns discussed included the necessity of the continued extensions by NTIA, the microwave backbone equipment being used by NTIA as a negotiation tool, the negative impact to Mississippi if an extension is not requested, the disposition of the LTE equipment on the MSWIN towers, false statements being made by NTIA, and possible clarification from the Governor's office regarding grant extensions.

It was the opinion of Chairman Lariviere and Commissioner Waggener that these decisions are the responsibility of the Governor as it is the Governor's grant. It was suggested the Executive Officer provide verbal communication to the Governor's office regarding the WCC's concerns in this matter.

Ms. Helfrich also notified the Commission that Motorola is upgrading the system software to the 7.15 platform beginning Monday March 30, 2015. An email notification to the communication liaisons has been sent which contains highlights of the upgrade activities and a timeline of how it will impact MSWIN users.

Ms. Helfrich then gave an update on the WCC's budget request reporting that SB2892 was passed by the Senate appropriating to the WCC \$8.5 million dollars with \$500,000.00 being special funds. The House has amended that to provide the WCC with \$10.6 million dollars with \$500,000.00 being special funds. The WCC requested \$12.6 and provided justification for why we need that amount for FY16. A deficit request was also submitted for \$1.2 million dollars to pay for repairs that we have not been able to make due to lack of funds such as tower light repairs, road repairs, replacement generators, and shelter lock replacement. The road repairs are needed to enable propane trucks to deliver fuel to the sites and the quotes we have received are between \$10,000.00 and \$30,000.00 per site. She concluded her update on the budget by saying while we have enough money to pay for regular operating expenditures; we are hoping we receive the deficit money to pay for these badly needed repairs.

Chairman Lariviere asked Ms. Susan Perkins of MEMA to put together some type of communication to all of the EMA directors discussing the upcoming Hurricane season and how the WCC is ready to help.

Commissioner Perry Waggener gave an update on the Procurement Committee reporting they had three requests during the month of February that did not exceed the \$250K dollar threshold to be brought before the Commission: Pearl River County for \$212,452.50 for consolettes and volunteer fire department radios; Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks for 20 portables and 20 mobiles; and Gluckstadt FD for 10 portable radios.

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Commissioner Huff gave the Governance Committee update reporting the rule changes are not ready and will be brought up at a later date. Mr. Huff shared a very good example of interoperability of the system which occurred during the storm in North East MS when MDOT had problems communicating with MHP and other local agencies. MDOT and MHP's communication people connected the regional common channel in the regions of New Albany and Batesville and MDOT was able to get on the common channel because MHP had connected them through the patch. Any sheriff or police department in that area that had MSWIN radios could get on that channel and have car to car communications with all of the units involved. MHP could get an accident call and dispatch it over all of those channels and get the closest unit available to handle the call. It was very beneficial and we received many compliments as a result. The more we can push the benefits of those talk groups in those rural areas versus giving everyone channels within the agencies, the cleaner our operational interoperability is going to be.

Mr. David Johnson gave the update on the approval of expenditures reporting expenses for the month of February 2015 were \$487,169.91. The remaining operating funds for the last part of FY15 are \$4,722,897.16. There was no activity for grant funds this month. The remaining balance for MICG is \$10,870,152.15 and BTOP is \$22,885,691.98. There is nothing specific to report on the detailed monthly expenses for the month.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to approve the expenditures. Mr. Timothy Smith made the motion to approve the expenditures. Mr. Richard Harrell seconded the motion. The motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere called for any other business. Mr. Timothy Smith asked about leveraging the backbone and adding data transfer capabilities in the system and whether there had been any progress made concerning establishing a price point for third parties. Ms. Helfrich said the price point is market-driven, so it is going to depend upon the type of customer, the market, and the competitive options available to the prospective customer. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Helfrich's opinion regarding what she sees as a trigger to get into a particular arena. Ms. Helfrich said there are only certain areas in which we can utilize the backbone: government, public safety entities, emergency medicine, and telehealth.

Vice Chairman Magee stated that he feels telehealth is the best prospect and remarked that Mr. Wayne Vaughn had mentioned grants that may be available to pay for the last mile needs. Mr. Vaughn noted that those funds were already used in dealing with the Ebola crisis, but they are continuing to work with UMMC on several projects to possibly connect the very rural areas.

Vice Chairman Magee encouraged Ms. Helfrich and the WCC staff to aggressively seek out opportunities in telehealth as they are building it as we go and need bandwidth very badly. The WCC could get in on the ground floor of this opportunity. Ms. Helfrich said she will continue to look for those opportunities and will work with Mr. Vaughn and Dr. Darsey at UMMC.

The next monthly meeting will be held on April 2nd, 2015, 1:30 PM, in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building DFA at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to adjourn. Lt. Col. Ray Causey made the motion to adjourn and it carried with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.