

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
July 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Place: Woolfolk Building - DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street
Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Tom (Chairman)
MS Office of Homeland Security	Barnes, Rusty
MS National Guard	Causey, Ray
MS Department of Corrections	Fisher, Marshall L.
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Richard
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Smith, Timothy
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	Thornhill, Curtis
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Wayne
MS Emergency Management Agency	Wilson, Richard
Advisory Board Members Present:	
Public Utilities - Chairman	Beckett, Representative Jim
Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks - Chairman	Bounds, Representative C. Scott
Energy - Chairman	Burton, Senator Terry

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the proceedings noting the presence of Senator Terry Button. He then entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2015, meeting, as they were transmitted. Mr. Richard Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Gray and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for June 2015. She provided information on the number of MOUs executed, radios loaned out and special events the WCC Staff participated in during the month. The WCC Staff in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security OEC hosted two events. One was a training session entitled 'Introduction to Interoperable Radio Operations'. A portion of the training covered a segment on Special Events. The materials used in that class have been submitted to Mr. Huff as Chairman of the Governance/Interoperability Committee for review and possible use for end user training on Special Event Channels throughout the State. The second event was a workshop held to update and finalize the MS Index of the Region IV Emergency Communication Plan. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the status of Generator and HVAC PMs, the number of current users on MSWIN, the number of users projected for the end of the 3rd Quarter and on the top twenty (20) MSWIN users. At the request of Mr. Huff, the PTT chart has been changed to reflect the history of PTTs from June 2014 through June 2015. The chart shows approximately 2.6M PTTs in June 2014 and approximately 3.4M PTTs currently - an increase of nearly 1M PTTs over the period of time shown.

Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on build-out status reporting that there has been no change on the FEMA submissions for the Hancock County Co-location and the two (2) Camp Shelby builds. The report on FEMA submissions this morning was that the person responsible for handling this is still out of the office but every indication is that everything looks good. Mr. Buffington stated that they have been working with LTC. Causey's people to reach an agreement on ground leases. Information has been sent to the Guard Bureau for one of the sites and to the Mobile Corp of Engineers for the other. There has been no movement on that as yet. Quotes have been received for road improvements (washed out roads) at three (3) sites in northeast MS. A survey has been done and a legal description provided for a site which requires a change in easement. We have received lease language back from Butler Snow on this and we are awaiting the second quotes on the road improvements required to get this matter resolved.

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Ms. Helfrich gave an update on contract status reporting that the contract amounts have been added to the report as requested. ITS still has not received word back from SBA Towers on the tower lease amendments. The WCC and ITS did have a call with Butler Snow this week and they are now assisting with the resolution of this issue. The WCC would like to get the tower lease renewals signed so FY15 funds can be used to pay for these increases. Also of note is the MICG grant extension request. We have not received approval but we did receive an email this week indicating that it is still under review along with several other grant extensions. We hope to have word soon. Work on Change Order 10 has essentially stopped while we are waiting for extension approval and on the FEMA submissions to be approved.

Mr. Huff asked what problems we are having with the tower leases. Ms. Helfrich explained that twenty-four (24) towers originally owned by Towers of MS were sold to SBA about a year and a half ago. Renewals for some of those leases began at the first of the year with a 10% increase and SBA has not yet signed the amendments acknowledging the renewal. The way the leases read, it is an automatic renewal as long as SBA notifies us by letter that they wish to continue the lease and we indicate by letter that we wish to continue as well. The way it has been handled is through an amendment and they have not signed off on those to date. Last week we requested that since we have equipment on those towers, we pay the leases with the exception of the 10% increase until the matter is resolved. It was at that time the decision was made to get Butler Snow involved to possibly speed up the process. Butler Snow has made a call to the people handling this at SBA but Ms. Helfrich is not sure if Butler Snow has heard anything back. Mr. David Johnson (ITS) commented and noted that we are not in default. Mr. Buffington agreed but noted that we are not in default but we are in arrears. Mr. Buffington also noted that SBA does not understand why we need an amendment and if an amendment is to be made they want it on their paper and that is not acceptable with the State.

The Chairman of the Procurement Review Committee was not present. Chairman Lariviere noted that no requests had come before the Committee and there was nothing to report.

Chairman Willie Huff gave the Governance/Interoperability Committee report and led with comments about a search and rescue in Lee county for a missing individual which brought together several departments (Fire, National Guard, MHP, Wildlife, local Police, TN, and AL personnel, etc.). They used the MSWIN Interoperability Channel to coordinate the air and ground search and rescue and the person was found alive. This is a success story and points out one of the reasons MSWIN is so important to first responders in our State and surrounding areas. Mr. Huff stated that they have worked hard on the end user training materials and feel that it is easy to understand and user friendly. It is however, a large document and he will send all members a link to the site. He asks that members review the material and provide comments suggesting possible additions to the package.

Mr. Huff then stated that the Governance/Interoperability Committee had a conference call with Dr. Darsey (UMMC) and Attorney Mark Garriga (Butler Snow) about the efforts going on in DC to modify the BTOP Grant. Dr. Darsey provided an update on those efforts indicating that Senator Wicker, Senator Cochran, and UMMC representatives from the Office of Governmental Affairs have been in discussions with Department of Commerce with an effort to keep the remaining grant dollars in MS and to broaden the grant as it relates to broadband access and telemedicine. UMMC representatives are not speaking on behalf of the WCC. The goal is to keep the money dedicated to MS and to broaden the grant not just for broadband LTE but in the general scope and purpose of the original BTOP program. So we are now moving on two tracks. On one track, Vicki is working on the decommissioning of LTE. On another track, UMMC is working on how to take 'must pass' legislation (three (3) bills left this year) and attaching a rider to one of those bills to keep the money in MS with the general scope of the original grant and an extension of the deadline to 2020. Attorney Garriga noted that timing is critical. He noted also the decommissioning of the LTE assets will take ninety (90) days to complete. We must get the letter from the Secretary of Commerce stating that

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they will pay for the take down of assets with the letter hopefully stating that if the funds are encumbered by September 30 the state will be allowed to seek reimbursement for those funds; we must get approval of the amendment with Motorola for the decommissioning of assets today (ITS will review the amendment for approval at their next board meeting). If UMMC gets an agreement to extend the deadline to 2020, that will give us time to work out other issues. Ms. Helfrich added that the WCC's part of the remaining funds is approximately \$22M dollars, however, if we cannot get FirstNet to agree with the WCC's original business plan and we are not able to sustain the network, we cannot move forward with them. Negotiation for a spectrum lease would be a separate issue.

Mr. David Johnson gave the update on the expenditures reporting expenses for the month of June 2015 were just over \$643 thousand dollars. He pointed out that the WCC Operating Funds balance is approximately \$1.7M dollars with \$1.5M dollars of the already encumbered. A portion of that balance is slated for the additional \$184K dollars to be paid to SBA for those leases that are currently not being paid.

Chairman Lariviere called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Mr. Willie Huff made a motion to approve expenditures, the motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Helfrich was asked to present the FY2017 Budget Request. Referring to the handout, Ms. Helfrich noted that the budget request is for \$12.6M dollars, the same amount that was requested from the Legislature for FY16. The WCC received \$10.6M dollars so this request shows a \$2M dollar increase from what was appropriated to the WCC for FY2016. Ninety (90) percent of the budget request is for contractual services. The request includes additional funds for utilities/land leases for the eight (8) proposed new sites, full funding for system/site maintenance and repairs, and the addition of funds for a radio shop and outdoor storage space. We greatly appreciate that MDOT provides office space to the WCC, outdoor storage space for our heavy equipment and, until recently, the use of their radio shop. Currently, we are having to store some of our equipment outdoors in trailers, which really requires climate controlled storage, and we also have a need for a radio shop space for our system technicians to perform their daily tasks. LTC Causey made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Mr. Marshall Fisher and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Helfrich was asked to discuss the approval of a tower lease agreement with the FBI. Ms. Helfrich noted that in the March 6, 2015, Commission meeting it was approved that we could charge a \$1,500 dollar minimum for tower space. We have some areas where leases will be lower than that where we have just a small antenna going on a tower. This request is to add a VHF antenna to our Port Gibson site (20102) for a ten (10) year lease with a built-in 3% annual increase; a monthly lease amount of \$381.00; and by the 10th year the lease amount will be \$497.00 per month. Mr. Richard Wilson made the motion to approve, the motion was seconded by LTC Causey and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Helfrich then discussed the amendment to the Motorola LTE contract for the deconstruction/decommissioning of the LTE equipment at 135 Radio Access Network (RAN) sites and the core housed at ITS at a cost of \$819,360.00 to be paid for with BTOP Grant funds. The plan is to get approval in place and hold the amendment until we receive our letter from the Department of Commerce stating either that (1) grant funds can be used for the deconstruction of the network and work has to be completed by September 30 or (2) grant funds can be used for the deconstruction and the State will be reimbursed for this work as long as the funds have been encumbered by September 30. If the letter states that we will be reimbursed as long as we have encumbered the funds, we will have time to determine when to commence the deconstruction efforts. The timing of the deconstruction efforts will depend on the tone of the letter. ITS will take this up at their Board Meeting next week. Approval today gives us about forty-five (45) days for the conversations to be finalized at the Congressional level. At that time we hope to know if the grant will be extended to 2020. The plan is to start deconstruction with leased sites first and

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then move to state owned sites. Mr. Willie Huff made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn and discussion ensued. Mr. Richard Wilson noted that Motorola has stated that crews from MS, LA, and AR have been chosen to do the take down of the LTE equipment and he would like Motorola to reconsider and have more MS companies contracted to do the work. Additionally he asked that this be included in the motion. Mr. Willie Huff then made a revised motion to give the Chairman and Director of ITS the authority to execute the Change Order (Motorola Amendment) as it was presented and that Motorola contract with Mississippi contractors for the take down of the LTE equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn and the motion passed with none opposed.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 6, 2015, 1:30 PM in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building DFA at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS.

Chairman Lariviere asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thornhill made a motion to adjourn and it was passed with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 PM.