

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
January 14, 2016 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 Department of Public Safety	Magee, Ken
MS Office of Homeland Security	Barnes, Rusty
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
MS Sheriff's Association	McAfee, Audrey
MS Association of Sheriffs	Rushing, Steve
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Smith, Timothy
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	Thornhill, Curtis
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Wayne
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
MS Emergency Management Agency	Wilson, Richard
Advisory Board Members Present:	
Senate Energy Committee - Vice Chairman	Tindell, Senator Sean J.

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. He also noted the presence of Advisory Board Member, Senator Sean Tindell. The Chairman then provided time for the review of the minutes from the previous meeting after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 3, 2015, as they were transmitted. Mr. Perry Waggener made a motion to approve the minutes as transmitted, the motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn and the motion passed with none opposed. Chairman Lariviere noted that because this is not a regularly scheduled meeting, but is being continued from the January 7 meeting, we are required to stick to the originally scheduled agenda with no variance and we will not discuss anything that is not on the published agenda.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for December 2015. She provided information on MOUs executed, radios loaned out, and special events the WCC Staff participated in during the month. Special Event Talk groups were issued for multi-jurisdictional interoperability to MEMA for severe storms and tornadoes on 12/23, the Town of Jonestown for the Christmas Parade, and the City of Madison Christmas Parade as part of a contingency plan. Staff developed an ICS 205 Communication Plan as contingency for possible law enforcement events over the holiday period as well as for the Mississippi River flooding event; worked with Louisiana and Arkansas on interop communications for the Mississippi River flooding event; began grounds preventative maintenance; and continued the HVAC monitoring project. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on 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. Ms. Helfrich noted that we experienced over 900 busies during the severe weather event on 12/23 alone due to some subscribers still operating in FDMA mode. While users noted no issues, subscribers still operating in FDMA mode degrade the system. Working with agencies to ensure everyone has upgraded to TDMA is a high priority. Ms. Helfrich stated that while some agencies have purchased their upgrades, they have not yet completed their actual updates.

Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on build-out status reporting in December FEMA EHP stated they do not have the resources to move our project further at this time and they think that they will be able to work on our projects in early 2016. He also stated that we have a conversation going with our delegation in Washington and they will meet with FEMA to see if we can get the process moving again. He noted that while FEMA is focusing on MS because of the recent severe weather event, this may be a good time to readdress the project issue. On the FDMA/TDMA issue, Mr. Buffington noted that we currently run in dual mode, but the day will come as we continue to mature and in anticipation of people joining, that we will have to beef up capacity and this will become more of an issue. We've already increased capacity at the

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Lorman site and downtown Jackson site. At some point we will need to publicize a time that subscribers have to be off FDMA. If we don't, the WCC will be forced to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to increase capacity at each site to accommodate FDMA users. The good news is that most everyone joining, as in Hinds County and Rankin County, will largely have all TDMA capable radios. Mr. Buffington also pointed out the differences in the damage at the MSWIN Sardis site and the DPS site some 50 feet away. Damage to the DPS site, which was one of the best sites in the legacy system, would deem it unusable today, however the MSWIN designed site only suffered minor damage. Mr. Buffington also noted that during the severe weather event, there were some communication issues on the MS River Levee as they were running patrols. The WCC staff engaged Motorola and C Spire, as during the 2011 flood event, and in one day we were able to increase our coverage along the Mississippi River. Ms. Helfrich thanked both Motorola and C Spire for their assistance. Chairman Lariviere emphasized that without the current MSWIN infrastructure in place, this would not have been possible.

Ms. Helfrich gave an update on contract status. She reported that there are no changes in the status of the contracts. We are still working on the generator maintenance contract. Ms. Helfrich also introduced the WCC's new Administrative Assistant, Kathy Thornton.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Waggener noted that no requests came before the Committee this month.

Governance/Interoperability Committee Chairman Willie Huff reported that he had nothing to report.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report from the Cellular RFP Committee. Ms. Helfrich, in Col. Causey's absence, provided the Cellular RFP timeline:

Jan 26, 2016 - Proposals will be opened at 3:00 PM
Jan 27-Feb 3 – Evaluation of proposals
Feb 3-Feb 19 – Contract Negotiations
Feb 19 – Contract Executed
July 1 – Contract Commences

Ms. Helfrich also noted that the contract is scheduled to be approved by the ITS Board on the 18th of February, so the Chairman may have to call a special meeting for the Commission to review/approve the new vendor. Mr. Huff again asked for verification of the timeline. Ms. Helfrich noted that there is not a place in the timeline for approval by the Commission, but that our interpretation of the law is that the selected vendor will need to be approved by the Commission. Vice Chairman Magee stated that this Commission would need an opportunity to review the information before we take any action on it. Ms. Helfrich noted that ITS has stated they are working to finalize the contract quickly for purposes of E-Rate. Mr. Johnson said that he is sure there is a requirement for E-Rate – that the contract get signed by a certain date which will save the state millions of dollars and that is the reason for the rigid schedule. Mr. Huff asked Mr. Johnson to explain E-Rate but Mr. Johnson said he was not able to as he has not been attending the meetings. Ms. Helfrich stated that her understanding is that E-Rate is a Federal program that provides discounts to assist schools and libraries to obtain affordable telecommunications including wireless. The schools and libraries can use the State Master Contract but are not required to do so. The FCC will open the window for filing applications for FY 2016, however, the date has not been announced. Vice Chairman Magee stated that what concerns him most with the tight schedule is that this matter will come before the Commission with a very compressed timeline, to either approve or disapprove. If the Commission disapproves the vendor or needs more time to evaluate, we could shoulder the blame if the State loses millions of dollars for the E-Rate program. Vice Chairman Magee asked if we could ask Dr. Orgeron to come to the February 2016 Monthly meeting to answer some more questions which the Commission may have and to clarify some things about the timeline and how it was developed. He asked Ms. Helfrich to

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reach out to Dr. Orgeron about this possibility, additionally he asked Mr. Johnson to pass on our request to Dr. Orgeron. Chairman Lariviere stated that he would follow up with written communication with Dr. Orgeron. Mrs. McAfee asked for clarification as to whether the full Commission will or will not vote on the vendor selection and if so, whether this will take place before it is approved by the ITS Board on February 18, 2016, as we would not want their board to vote on something we have not approved. Ms. Helfrich noted that it normally works that way, but a specific time for Commission approval is not noted in the RFP schedule.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report from the Broadband Committee. Mr. Ken Magee stated that deconstruction of the LTE network is complete and the equipment is in storage and will be disposed of according to State guidelines. The Committee has submitted our proposal to FirstNet/NTIA to finalize the State's LTE network; that was denied (we were denied access to that spectrum lease). The Broadband Committee is now working with Med-Com and the Governor's Office on what we previously discussed as Plan B. Plan B currently includes Mobile EMS, broadband application through research and development in some of the rural areas, multi-jurisdictional communication centers for public safety and emergency medical agencies to enhance interagency communications and efficiency, and a reliable connectivity for public safety/medical critical infrastructure around the state. Chairman Lariviere asked Ms. Helfrich to send all Commissioners a copy of the FirstNet Notice. Ms. Helfrich said she would provide everyone with the link to the National LTE RFP which was released on Jan 13, 2016.

Mr. David Johnson gave the update on expenditures for the month of December 2015. Mr. Johnson noted that the remaining balance in the General Appropriation Fund is \$5.9M dollars; balance in the Total Operating funds is \$6.2M dollars with \$597 thousand dollars in expenditures for the month. Mr. Johnson also noted that the expenditures have settled down and are fairly consistent at about \$600 thousand dollars monthly notwithstanding the Motorola LMR maintenance contract expense. He further noted that projections for the remainder of the year have been provided to Ms. Helfrich and WCC Staff. Chairman Lariviere called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Mr. Richard Wilson made a motion to approve monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn, and the motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere stated that the next meeting will be on Thursday, February 4, 2016, 1:30 PM in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building DFA at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ken Magee made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn, and the motion passed with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 PM.