

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
June 2, 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 (Vice-Chairman)
MS Office of Homeland Security	Barnes, Rusty
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Richard
MS Municipal League	Brown, Johnathan
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Audrey
MS Association of Sheriffs	Rushing, Steve
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Smith, Timothy
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	Harkins, Senator Josh
Also in Attendance:	
President Pro Tempore – MS State Senate	Burton, Senator Terry

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. He also recognized the presence of Senator Terry Burton, noted upcoming retirements of Mr. Richard Harrell and Mrs. Lana Nicks and recognized the new designee for the MS Municipal League, Mr. Johnathan Brown. Chairman Lariviere then provided time for the review of the minutes from the previous meeting on May 5, 2016, after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as they were transmitted. Mr. Richard Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Steve Gray, and passed with none opposed. Chairman Lariviere then provided time for the review of the minutes from the special called meeting on May 19, 2016, for discussion on the statewide cellular contract. Mr. Timothy Smith noted changes to be made in the last paragraph. Minutes should be revised to replace the word “contracts” with the word “award”; sentencing should reflect “I move that we authorize the Chairman and the Executive Officer of the WCC to approve the award with the two vendors selected.” Also, Mr. Perry Waggener asked that his name be removed from the Commission Members Present Roll because he was not in attendance. Chairman Lariviere entertained a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Mr. Wayne Vaughn made a motion to approve the corrected minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Wilson, and passed with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for May 2016. 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 multiple severe weather events, City of Madison for a concert event, Warren County for two (2) search and rescues, Chickasaw County for a search and rescue, and Rankin County for a search and rescue. Staff provided Radio Interoperability Training at the MS Preparedness Summit. Also, during the month of May, grounds and generator preventative maintenance continued and HVAC maintenance began with expected finalization by the end of June. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the number of current users on MSWIN, the number of users projected for the 2nd Quarter, the Top Twenty (20) MSWIN users, and MSWIN Top Ten (10) Talk groups by airtime.

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Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on the MSWIN build-out status. The WCC has received the FEMA approval of the second Shelby site on Reid Hill and is moving forward with due diligence on other possible sites. It is expected that construction may begin in the next month or so. Plans are to commence site due diligence for the proposed Parchman and Oxford sites in preparation for submitting paperwork to FEMA. We do not yet have a signed MOU with Hinds County but Staff is working on performing equipment and technical maintenance on the two (2) Hinds County sites.

Ms. Helfrich gave an update on the contract status. She reported that HVAC maintenance contract with Upchurch Services has been executed with one round to be finalized by the end of June 2016. Ms. Helfrich noted that the MICG grant has been extended until June 30, 2017, and thanked MS Homeland Security for their assistance in securing this grant extension for the WCC. Ms. Helfrich also provided an update on the current FY16 budget. The WCC began FY16 with \$10.1 million in general funds and after two (2) budget reductions totaling \$196,382, a balance of \$9.69 million remained. As of May 31, 2016, the WCC has \$1.43 million dollars remaining in general funds for FY2016. We expect to use all of the remaining general funds for the June expenditures which we estimate to be \$1.45 million dollars. Due to road and site repairs, we anticipate dipping into the Integrated Public Safety Communication Fund to cover these costs. We will start July 1st with a FY2017 budget deficit of approximately \$1 million dollars.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report of the Procurement Review Committee. Chairman Waggener had no requests to report.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Chairman Huff reported that the Committee met and discussed Time Division Multiplexing Access (TDMA)/Frequency Division Multiplexing Access (FDMA) requirements and Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)/Advanced Digital Privacy (ADP) encryption. TDMA technology provides two for one channel capacity compared to FDMA and allows support for more users. The matter for discussion is how the Commission feels about notifying users of MSWIN that the system is TDMA and FDMA capable but that we want them to migrate to the TDMA standard. As we get more users on the system, we could get more busies because the FDMA radios are still being used and when you are on a talkgroup and punch up an FDMA radio, all radios on that talkgroup go back to the FDMA standard which reduces resources. Mr. Huff's question to the Commissioners was, do we want to set a date that users should work toward or do we want to formalize a notice that the system is fully TDMA operational and users should work on a plan to migrate their devices to the TDMA standard?

After much discussion it was determined that 1. Staff will notify users that the system is fully TDMA capable; 2. Conduct a survey to determine the number of TDMA capable radios users have and the number of FDMA radios users have; 3. Set a deadline for the return of the survey; and 4. Upon return and analysis of the survey results, come back to the Commission to decide if there should be a firm date for migration. Users with TDMA capable radios should migrate as soon as possible.

Mr. Huff then turned to the discussion of AES/ADP encryption. AES is the preferred algorithm. ADP encryption is available in radios and can be turned on with little or no cost to the user. Homeland Security and Firefighters Assistance grants among others, require grantees use AES encryption. The Committee discussed that the Governance/Interoperability Committee may need to formalize requests to allow ADP on agency radios where the agency acknowledges that they are aware that it is proprietary and that their interoperability aspects may be hampered because of their use of it. If they received grant funds, following guidelines they should understand that for some grants, it is not recommended

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that they use ADP. This will allow them to make an informed decision. Mr. Huff noted that this can be done at Committee level.

Mr. Huff then addressed that Rankin County had come before the Commission several months ago, received approval and signed an MOU with the WCC allowing them to use our core. We are using some of their sites and they are using some of ours. There have been some issues between their simulcast and our multicast system where the Sheriff's Department is unable to scan a couple of their channels because they are locked down to their simulcast sites in Rankin County. In order to be able to benefit from these sites and for them to benefit from our sites, they are requesting 'critical site assignment' to the sites that are touching Rankin County – about 15 towers including those that belong to Rankin County. That will mean that when they key up, they will touch all of those towers. They have agreed that it will be for Sheriff Department TDMA radios only, two (2) talkgroups – (Primary and Car-to-Car). Mr. Huff made a motion to allow Rankin County to have access as a 'critical site' to the tower sites that are surrounding Rankin County so they can perform at an optimal level with their devices for TDMA radios only, two (2) talkgroups – (Primary and Car-to-Car). Mr. Perry Waggener made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn. After much discussion about resources, the possible inclusion of a sunset clause, possible long-term fix, evolving technology, etc., the motion stood as originally stated, the Chairman called for a vote and the motion was approved with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report from the Cellular RFP Committee. Chairman Lariviere noted that Col. Causey was not present. Ms. Helfrich stated that we need an update on the action the ITS Board took at their recent Board meeting. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that the ITS Board approved the selection of AT&T Mobility and CSpire Wireless as the lowest and best vendors responding to RFP No. 3820 to provide Statewide Cellular Voice and Data Services and equipment for the State of Mississippi.

Chairman Lariviere called for the report from the Broadband Committee. Mr. Ken Magee reported they are still awaiting a response from NTIA. A representatives will be coming to Jackson for a face to face meeting with all parties involved and more information will be provided to the commission at the next monthly meeting.

Chairman Lariviere called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported a total of \$673,595.22 in expenditures for the month of May 2016. There were no expenditures from the grant funds. Because of preventative maintenance activity, contractual services is higher than normal this month. Otherwise reporting standard expenses is as usual. Mr. Timothy Smith made a motion to approve the expenditures and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn, with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere called for other business and noted the last item on agenda is for nominations and election of a new Vice Chairman of the WCC. Chairman Lariviere recognized Mr. Richard Wilson who nominated Mr. Lee Smithson for Vice Chairman. Mr. Huff made a motion to close nomination and was seconded by Mr. Rusty Barnes, with none opposed. Mr. Lariviere noted that in a phone conversation with Mr. Smithson, Mr. Smithson indicated that he was very interested in receiving the role of Vice Chairman.

Mr. Lariviere then thanked Mrs. Lana Nicks for her service to the WCC and gave congratulations on her retirement. Ms. Helfrich also recognized Mrs. Nicks' contributions since 2008 and noted that she will be greatly missed. Mr. Magee then recognized Mr. Lariviere's years of service to the WCC, stating it has been a pleasure to serve beside him.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 7, 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. Richard Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:33 PM.