

**MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Place: Woolfolk Building – DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Ken (Chairman)
MS Emergency Management Agency	Smithson, Lee (Vice-Chairman)
MS Municipal League	Brown, Johnathan
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Willie
MS Department of Information Technology Services	Johnson, David
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Tom
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Loper, Don
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Sanders, Chris
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Thornhill, Curtis
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Wayne
MS Police Chiefs	Waggener, Perry
Advisory Board Members Present:	
House Public Utilities Committee - Chairman	Beckett, Representative Jim
Senate President Pro Tempore	Burton, Senator Terry

Chairman Ken Magee called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. He also recognized the presence of Senator Terry Burton and Representative Jim Beckett. Chairman Magee then provided time for the review of the minutes from the previous meeting on September 1, 2016, after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as they were transmitted. Lt. Col. Causey noted that the minutes should reflect “Lt. Col.” per his address. Chairman Magee entertained a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Lee Smithson made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Lt. Col. Causey, and motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for September 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 for Home football games to Ole Miss, MSU, JSU, and USM; MS Army National Guard Adjutant General Collins retirement events; Tupelo Freedom March; Panola County for multijurisdictional law enforcement operation, and to Warren County for a dive exercise. Staff assisted with development of the ICS 205 for the Freedom March in Tupelo and the WCC was awarded the Incident Communications Center Manager technical assistance class from the OEC (Office of Emergency Communications) which is scheduled for November 30 through December 2 at MEMA. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the number of current MSWIN users, the number of users projected for the 3rd Quarter, the Top Twenty (20) MSWIN users, and MSWIN Top Ten (10) Talk Groups by airtime.

Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on the MSWIN build-out status. Mr. Buffington reported movement with the GeoTech Soil boring testing as completed on one Camp Shelby site and nearing completion with the second Camp Shelby site. Red Hill site plans have been submitted to Sabre Towers in order to determine the tower load requirements. Staff should have quotes along with cost of the tower before the WCC November monthly meeting. Staff continue to work on the Hinds County and Warren County Projects. The completion of the Edwards site (I-20 near Warren County) is contingent upon completion of the Hinds County/WCC MOU. Chairman Magee asked if there were any coverage or MSWIN radio usage issues from the City of Clinton. Mr. Buffington responded that the City of Clinton has provided feedback on the MSWIN System as reliable and currently providing better coverage than their existing system. Mr. Buffington noted that the Edwards site and the FOA site in

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Place: Woolfolk Building – DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street Jackson, MS

Pocahontas are designed to provide good coverage for the City of Clinton. Mr. Buffington reported that Hinds County borrowed radios from the WCC State Cache for backup due to a county wide system outage in the past week. In addition, the Hinds County SO is live and full time on MSWIN. Ms. Helfrich stated that the Hinds County SO is still patched to their old system, so when that goes down they will as well. As the Hinds County MOU has not yet been signed and the system coverage has not been finalized, Staff provided Hinds County with a disclaimer to allow them to utilize MSWIN on a temporary and emergency basis. The disclaimer notes that the system coverage is not configured to deliver its optimal coverage and that the parties have not finalized a MOU. Staff felt like the disclaimer was necessary in case of coverage complaints. The initial agreement between the WCC and Hinds County was that Hinds County would not go live until the Sites were completed and the MOU signed by both parties. Ms. Helfrich stated that the disclaimer was provided to Hinds County for the next month and can be extended, if needed. Both Hinds County and the City of Clinton have acknowledged the disclaimer put forth by the WCC.

Ms. Helfrich gave an update on the contract status. Ms. Helfrich reported no changes to the current contracts.

Ms. Helfrich then provided an update on the FY17 financials. Ms. Helfrich noted a recent Budget adjustment was made for FY17 totaling \$147,500, reducing the FY17 appropriation to \$8.9 million. In previous years, the WCC has required \$10.1 to 10.3 million dollars annually to operate. The WCC also lost special funds during September which consisted of insurance and FEMA reimbursements from previous years that were expected to be retained due to the funding sources. The current deficit request totals \$1.498 million. Senator Burton explained that state agencies, such as the WCC, received an ‘across the board’ reduction and he is hopeful some adjustments will be made in January when the Legislature returns and the most recent reduction, resulting from a staff error, will be restored to the WCC. Senator Burton reported good news regarding last month’s state revenue was positive rather than negative. Chairman Magee replied that we have been fortunate that Legislators have supported the WCC in the past, then thanked Senator Burton for his input.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Local Procurement Review Committee. Committee Chair Perry Waggener reported two procurement requests that were brought before the committee. The first request being from Monroe County in the amount of \$41,226.64 for the purchase of 26 additional mobile radios. As this project has exceeded the \$100,000 dollar threshold and no prior submission, the LPR committee approved the request. The second procurement request was from the City of Vicksburg in the amount of \$254,076.35 for the purchase of additional radios and AES encryption in devices as required by the WCC. As a subsequent approval greater than \$100,000 for this project, the LPR Committee reviewed and approved this procurement contingent upon the receipt of certified board minutes. Chief Waggener stated both procurement requests were approved by the LPR committee and did not meet the threshold for full commission approval.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Committee Chair Willie Huff acknowledged the need for volunteers on the committee to fill vacancies. Chairman Magee invited anyone interested in serving on the Governance/Interoperability committee to discuss the details with him. After committee members are in place, Chief Huff plans to revisit issues on TDMA/FDMA and ADP/AES encryption. A survey is currently being prepared to send out to agencies in order to determine which band(s) they are operating on and if any are operating on full TDMA. The

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Place: Woolfolk Building – DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street Jackson, MS

survey will also address what measures each state agency will take to become a fully functioning TDMA subscriber. Staff is working with subscribers to update all FDMA radios. Testing is ongoing in real time and MSWIN will soon be a fully functioning TDMA network. Chief Huff had nothing further to report.

Chairman Magee then welcomed Mr. Don Loper from the MS Highway Safety Patrol as the new designee for Colonel Chris Gillard. Chairman Magee expressed his appreciation for the measures MHP has taken to remove or update users to full TDMA compliancy on the MSWIN Network. Chief Huff then recognized Mr. Loper’s efforts in working together during the past years as he brings much experience which, in turn, will provide valuable expertise to the WCC.

Chairman Magee then gave the report from the Broadband Committee. Notification from NTIA was received this past week informally approving the plans submitted by the WCC. As a result, Staff can move forward with the official grant modification submission. Chairman Magee noted that Representatives from FirstNet will be attending the next regularly scheduled WCC meeting on November 3, 2016, to provide the Commission with an update on their progress with the National Public Safety Broadband Network. Also, on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, FirstNet’s Environmental Team will be present in Jackson, MS to provide an opportunity for feedback and input for their draft programmatic environmental impact statements. FirstNet will be located at the Jackson Marriott, on Amite Street for a ‘come and go’ session from 4 to 8 p.m. Ms. Helfrich noted that it is a requirement for FirstNet to go to every state during the comment time period, providing open sessions to the public for information and for questions about their environmental process. Chairman Magee asked for further questions.

Ms. Helfrich then provided an update on the FirstNet schedule. FirstNet plans to select a vendor by November 1 as the RFP responses were previously submitted in early 2016. FirstNet should present the State Plan to the Governor in early 2017. The state of Alabama issued an RFP last month to review possible opt-out plans. Chairman Magee asked if there was discussion of Colorado submitting a similar RFP. Ms. Helfrich did confirm that other states are working on RFPs. Ms. Helfrich explained that the way the process is structured, the Governor will receive a state plan from FirstNet. The Governor will then have 90 days to either opt-in or opt-out of the FirstNet network. Once the state decides to opt-out, they will have 180 days to issue an RFP and select a vendor. In that timeframe, a vendor is selected and network design is developed. Some states are taking a different approach and are starting the process now in order to have time to adequately review their options. Chief Huff noted that the opt-in or opt-out option is good to have, but what happens if there is no response from the Governor. Ms. Helfrich answered if that were the case, then the state decision would be an automatic opt in to the FirstNet network. Ms. Helfrich then provided an overview of how a state would opt-out of the FirstNet network. The state’s network design is submitted to the FCC for approval, then to NTIA for approval of grant funds to build the state network, as well as to FirstNet to negotiate a spectrum lease agreement. NTIA may or may not provide grant funding for the state network. The state would be responsible for maintaining the network when opting-out.

Chief Huff asked if a state does in fact opt-out of the FirstNet network, will FirstNet bypass those states when building their system. Ms. Helfrich responded that if the state’s network design is not approved, most likely FirstNet will default to the FirstNet network design for the state. Chief Huff asked if there would be any liability on the state of MS in actively opting-in to

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Place: Woolfolk Building – DFA, Room 145, 501 North West Street Jackson, MS

FirstNet’s network since their model is to charge user fees; would it be better for the state to take no action by not responding; could the state create a liability for itself by opting-in and supporting the FirstNet network? Ms. Helfrich stated she had not considered the upcoming decision from that viewpoint, but it is certainly something we should review as we make a recommendation to the Governor. Chief Huff expressed concern that opting-in to FirstNet will commit the state in participating in the required user fees. Ms. Helfrich responded the issue is up for discussion and several states have advised their Governors to not take any action. All of these options still remain a possibility for the state.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the total allocation for FY17 has been reduced with recent budget cut of \$147,500 leaving the current allocation for the remainder of the fiscal year to \$8.925 million. Mr. Johnson reported \$1,674,397.93 was expended from general funds for the month of September leaving a balance of \$7,251,109.07. The Integrated Public Safety Communications Fund as of FY17 reflects swept funds and the amount is no longer for use by the WCC, due to SB 2362 in the amount of \$59,283.36. Mr. Johnson then reported the monthly Program Income, a part of the MICG, in the amount of \$9,587.43. There was no grant activity during the month of September. Chairman Magee entertained a motion to approve the monthly expenditures as reported by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Lariviere made a motion to approve the expenditures, seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn, and motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee asked for other business.

With no other business, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, November 3, 1:30 PM in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Waggener made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaughn, and the motion carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:06 PM.