

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

April 6, 2023

MS Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, Conference Room
1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS

Commission Members	Commissioner	In
MS Department of Public Safety	Davis, Mandy (Chairman)	Yes
MS Department of Health	Craig, Jim (Vice Chairman)	Yes
MS Fire Chiefs Association	Bailey, Matt	No
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray	Yes
MS Department of Transportation	Cohen, Ben	Yes
MS Municipal League	Girod, Arty	Yes
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Steve	Yes
MS Office of Homeland Security	Kruger, Baxter	No
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Loper, Donald	Yes
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks	Mann, Doug	Yes
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Audrey	Yes
MS Emergency Management Agency	McCraney, Stephen	No
MS Sheriff's Association	Mullins, Paul	Yes
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Sanders, Chris	Yes
MS Department of Information Technology	Savorgnan, Holly	Yes
MS Association of Chiefs of Police	Stanley, David	Yes
Advisory Members		
House of Representatives Public Utilities Committee	Bounds, Scott	Yes
House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee	Steverson, Jody	Yes

Chairman Mandy Davis called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed all including commissioners, legislative advisors, staff, and visitors. Chairman Davis asked Mrs. Karana Carroll to conduct a roll call of those Commissioners or Advisors who may be joining the meeting via conference call. Chairman Davis called for the review of and a motion to approve the March 2, 2023 minutes. Vice-Chairman Jim Craig made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ray Causey. Chairman Davis called for any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Davis called for unanimous consent, with no objection heard, the motion carried.

Chairman Davis called on Mrs. Carroll to provide the WCC Staff Report for March 2023. Mrs. Carroll provided a legislative update on funding for FY2024. The WCC received \$11.35M through SB #3045 for operations, \$11M for the remaining portion of the MSWIN Refresh project, and an additional \$3.9M for costs associated with site builds in HB #603. The WCC received a record appropriation of \$26.2M for FY2024. Mrs. Carroll thanked the legislators and staff for securing funding for the WCC.

Mrs. Carroll then reported on executed MOUs and renewals, special event talkgroups assigned, and activities staff participated in during March. Mrs. Carroll provided a slide presentation on site maintenance and repairs. Mrs. Carroll called on Mr. Dent Guynes to provide an overview of the Communications Vehicle

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Exercise at the MS State Fire Academy March 14th and 15th. Mr. Guynes provided a slide presentation highlighting the more than 50 participants, vehicles, and vendors at the event. Mr. Guynes received multiple comments from participants about how this exercise prepared them for the tornado outbreak on March 24th and 25th involving the community of Rolling Fork. Mrs. Carroll noted the number of radio IDs in March totaled 57,693 subscribers. Push-to-talks for March totaled more than 10.5M and the number of busies were 1,679. Mrs. Carroll also reported MSWIN Top 10 state agency system usage and Top 10 local/other agencies system usage for the month.

Mrs. Carroll then provided a MSWIN Refresh Project update with a slide presentation, along with Mr. Bill Buffington, to include a review of the activities and invoices to date.

Mr. Bill Buffington continued to report on MSWIN projects including working with cellular carriers to co-locate equipment on MSWIN tower sites. Mr. Buffington also reported MSWIN worked as designed during the tornado outbreak this month. There were 10 generators running during the severe weather and no issues reported regarding radio communication from first responders.

Mrs. Carroll reported on the Contract Status Report with one contract ready for renewal with Spectrasite Communications LLC d/b/a American Tower Corp that will be presented under Other Business on the agenda.

Mrs. Carroll introduced Obie Hosey and Mark Russell, WCC technical staff that work on the environmental side of the system including generators, HVAC, UPS, tower lights, and road repairs not included under the Motorola maintenance contract. Mr. Russell started with the WCC this past December. Mr. Hosey has been with the WCC 7 years. Mr. Hosey is scheduled to retire at the end of April. Mrs. Carroll thanked Mr. Hosey for his 33 years of service with the State. He began his career in 1989 with the MS Department of Transportation. When the WCC was created, Mr. Hosey, as an MDOT employee, worked on WCC repairs including generators, lights, UPS, etc. Mr. Buffington thanked Obie for being his eyes and ears in the field and for his expertise and dedication to MSWIN site maintenance.

Chairman Davis called for the report of the Procurement Committee. Commissioner Donald Loper presented one procurement request to the commission. The request from the MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks was approved for the purchase of APX N30 radios (18) with smart connect, lapel mics (24) for \$77,714.94 and, contingent upon WCC technical staff approval, the N70 radios (6) with smart connect will be approved for \$42,201.06 for a total of \$119,916.00 from EPL 3744. There was no action required by the full commission.

Chairman Davis called on Commissioner Causey for a report for the Governance and Interoperability Committee. Commissioner Causey reported there was no report this month.

Chairman Davis called on Commissioner Audrey McAfee for the report of the Emerging Technologies Committee. Commissioner McAfee reported there was no report this month.

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Chairman Davis called for the approval of expenditures. Commissioner Holly Savorgnan presented the FY2023 financial report for March, including general funds, deficit funds, and grant funds as provided on the WCC Detail of Monthly Expenses and the WCC Activity Reports. Commissioner Doug Mann motioned to accept the report, seconded by Vice-Chairman Craig. Chairman Davis called for any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Davis called for unanimous consent, with no objection heard, the motion carried.

Chairman Davis opened the floor for Other Business. Mrs. Carroll provided an overview of the Spectrasite Communications LLC d/b/a American Tower Corporation lease set to renew beginning in August. This will be Amendment #6 for 37 tower sites, 5-year term, 10% increase for each, staggered over the next year. The majority of these tower sites are in Zone 3 or the southern portion of the state. The lease increase is an amount not to exceed \$14,734,170.00 – broken down to \$2,946,834.00 annually or \$245,569.50 a month. Mrs. Carroll recommended the Commission approve this renewal, contingent on ITS Board approval. Vice-Chairman Craig motioned to approve the American Tower Corporation amendment for 37 towers, 10% increase not to exceed \$14,734,170, for 5-year term, and seconded by Commissioner Causey. Chairman Davis called for any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Davis called for unanimous consent, with no objection heard, the motion carried.

Mrs. Carroll brought before the Commission a Memorandum of Understanding with Jackson County for the continued use of a tower site near Ocean Springs, known as Fountain Bleu. This is a co-location site with MSWIN equipment that has been in use since 2007. The agreement includes a monthly payment of \$400 or annual payment of \$4,800 for the WCC utilities portion. Mrs. Carroll recommended the Commission approve the MOU with Jackson County. Commissioner Causey motioned to approve the MOU with Jackson County for the continued use of the tower site to include an annual payment of \$4,800 for utilities, seconded by Commissioner Cohen. Chairman Davis called for any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Davis called for unanimous consent, with no objection heard, the motion carried.

Chairman Davis provided an overview of MS Public Safety Summit to be held May 8-10, 2023. All public safety personnel are invited to attend. The cost is \$300 per person with meals provided. For more information, www.safetysummit.dps.ms.gov website is provided.

Chairman Davis announced a Personnel Committee meeting will be held immediately following today's meeting.

Moving on to MSWIN in Action, Mr. Guynes introduced the guest speaker Mr. John Elfer, Warren County's EMA Director. Mr. Elfer worked with the Warren County Sheriff's Department from 1998-2011 as a patrol sergeant. He was appointed in July 2011 by the Warren County Board of Supervisors as Director of the Warren County Emergency Management Agency and Permit Office and is the Certified Floodplain Manager for Warren County. He currently serves on several committees and groups throughout the state and county. He also holds several chairperson positions. Mr. Elfer briefly spoke about the tornado that nearly destroyed Rolling Fork, MS, on March 24, 2023. He and his team set up a dispatch center and assisted with the setup of a triage site. He and his team were able to roll 911 calls from Sharkey and Issaquena

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Counties to Warren County. They received more than 1,600 calls which is double the normal. Mr. Elfer talked about the reliability of MSWIN used during this time. He reported that there was no failure of the MSWIN system and there were about 200 users on the MSWIN Grace Tower site that night. Chairman Davis thanked Mr. Elfer for his public service and sharing with the Commission.

With no further business, Chairman Davis announced the next monthly meeting will be held at 1:30 PM, on Thursday May 4, 2023, at MS Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks. Chairman Davis then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Craig motioned to adjourn. With no second, discussion, or objection heard, the motion carried.



Attested: Deputy Executive Officer



Date



Approved: Chair or Vice Chair



Date