

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
September 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Place: 6th Floor MDOT Conference Room
401 North West Street
Jackson, MS

Commission Members Present:	
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Chairman Tom
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Vice Chairman Ken
MS Department of Homeland Security	Barnes, Mr. Rusty
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Mr. Steve
MS Municipal League	Hinton, Mr. Chris
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Mr. Willie
MS Department of Information Technology	Johnson, Mr. David
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Ms. Audrey
MS Sheriffs Association	Rushing, Sheriff Steve
MS Highway Patrol	Smith, Mr. Tim
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Thornhill, Mr. Curtis
MS Department of Health	Vaughn, Mr. Wayne
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Waggener, Chief Perry
Advisory Board Members Present:	
MS State Senate	Burton, Senator Terry
MS House of Representatives	DeLano, Representative Scott for Frierson, Representative Herb
MS State Senate	Ward, Senator Giles
Also in Attendance:	

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and took a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7th, 2014, meeting. The motion to approve was made by Chief Perry Waggener. Mr. Timothy Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the Project Update discussing MOUs executed by the Office of District Attorney, Ninth Judicial District and the Ninth Circuit Drug Court, radios loaned out, events hosted including trainings and missing persons searches, MSWIN system health issues, the status of scheduled preventative maintenance, and network/user activity report. Ms. Helfrich noted that Staff has completed the first round of HVAC and generator preventative maintenance for Phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 is currently under warranty and Motorola is providing preventative maintenance for this area. As of August 2014, there are 18,732 users on the system and there were 2.8 million push-to-talks during the month.

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Mr. Bill Buffington reported on the approval of two sites at Camp Shelby: (1) a 150 foot tower in the county; and (2) a 300 foot tower on the primary site. He also mentioned some interest from Verizon and AT&T regarding coming onboard the site at Camp Shelby as potential revenue generation. Regarding northern Mississippi, he reported radios have been issued to site inspectors to confirm coverage areas and noted Staff participated in a Detail Design Review (DDR) with Motorola on the implementation of the Dynamic System Resiliency (DSR) and indicated deployment would begin next week. Initial DSR plans include having the Zone 1 (Coast) and the Zone 3 (Batesville) tower system controllers back one another up. Plans are to use the MSOW as an interim solution to provide a backup to Zone 2. We anticipate that next month we'll be looking at a procurement review for Desoto County, which part of their procurement is going to be for a Master in Desoto County of which we would use for backup to Zone 2 instead of the MSOW. Ms. Helfrich continued with contract status. No new contracts have been executed and all contracts have been finalized. SBA tower lease renewals begin in January and the status of the BTOP and LTE contracts is the same as last month, i.e. disposition instructions for the LTE equipment have been requested and we are awaiting a response. Ms. Helfrich also noted that the WCC, with the assistance of the OEC, is offering a technical assistance program covering Standard Operating Procedure Development on September 10th and will be held at MEMA in Pearl, MS.

Chairman Lariviere inquired as to MSWIN's readiness regarding hurricane season. Ms. Helfrich confirmed we are as ready as we can be and reiterated preventative maintenance inspections are being completed mentioning also that Motorola has been working on the RF and microwave aspects of the readiness plan.

Chairman Lariviere reported the Procurement Review Committee (PRC) had a Special Called Meeting on August 20th, 2014, via teleconference regarding a procurement request from the City of Southaven, MS. The details of this request are reported in the minutes of the August 20th meeting.

Mr. Willie Huff made the Governance Committee (GC) report. Ms. Helfrich was asked to provide the network/user activity data historical push-to-talk data for the year to demonstrate the dramatic increase in user activity. Mr. Huff directed the Commissioners to the Genesis display of real time user activity provided by Mr. Dent Guynes, MSWIN System Technician. Mr. Huff emphasized that the display supports the fact that this system is used all day every day and that it is not just an emergency radio system for hurricanes and tornadoes. The GC will be ready to make a recommendation to either award the RFP for VOIP to a vendor or make some other disposition of the matter at the next meeting.

Mr. Huff discussed a draft of a proposed rule regarding adopting a local credit policy. This policy addressed concerns from local agencies that have an interest in receiving a credit for the infrastructure they're providing that benefits the MSWIN users in an offset on their fees if fees are ever established. Chairman Lariviere inquired as to how the value of the credits would be established, but the answer to his question brought up more questions. Mr. Huff asked Mr. Steve Gray to comment on it as representative of the locals. Mr. Gray indicated he would take the information back to his superiors for discussion, but that he would likely abstain if a vote was called to avoid causing misperception among his constituency (who do not want to pay fees) regarding joining the system with the possibility of a future user fee. Whether or not a policy establishing a credit toward future user fees would cause people to think a future user fee is likely thereby decreasing interest in the network was discussed.

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Senator Terry Burton asked that his comments be made a part of the record as follows:

“THERE IS NO FLAVOR IN THE LEGISLATURE FOR FEES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. ZERO. NONE. NADA.”

“...it ain’t happening.”

Representative Scott DeLano agreed that this is 100% correct. The House has the same position.

Chairman Lariviere inquired why we were even considering it given the fact that assigning value to the assets brought onboard may create additional financial burden for the WCC if everyone expected to be paid for the local contributions made when coming aboard the network that benefit all MSWIN users. Ms. Helfrich clarified by indicating the local agencies who are prepared to spend millions of dollars to provide infrastructure in their counties want assurances, i.e. language in their MOUs, that will protect them from having to pay user fees in the future should one ever be established.

Mr. Huff asked Senator Burton if a caveat could be included in the bill for some consideration for infrastructure enhancements that were done previous to the imposition of fees. Senator Burton said that would be a very good optional approach and added the language of the bill could state: *in the highly unlikely event that fees are ever charged, then credit would be given for infrastructure benefitting the system to individual local entities*. Representative DeLano noted this policy would only apply to LMR/voice only, nothing else. Senator Burton agreed. Representative DeLano mentioned that for accounting purposes some valuation would need to be put on resources provided at the local level because they have to account for them in the GASB for the Auditor’s Office each year. He asked how we would transfer resources from local jurisdictions to the MSWIN system for accounting purposes. Ms. Helfrich clarified that the discussions revolve around local entities that are spending additional dollars for new infrastructure, built to MSWIN standards for equipment, and which provides a benefit to all MSWIN users. We are trying to assure the locals that they would receive a credit if ever a user fee is implemented. Mr. Huff withdrew the matter from consideration.

Mr.; Huff made the Training Committee report. Training is still being developed and something will be ready in October.

Mr. David Johnson made a report on expenditures and indicated his report was not complete but a full report to be presented for ratification would likely be ready at the next meeting. A deficit of \$5,100,000.00 was appropriated to the WCC in FY14 that would carryover to FY15. The balance was \$2,800,000.00 on June 30th, 2014. \$700,000.00 was spent in July and August during the lapse period for FY14 expenditures. As a result, approximately \$2,000,000.00 will carry over to FY15. For FY15, expenditures for July and August totaled approximately \$1,000,000.00 of general funds. The total expenditures for July and August, including both FY14 and FY15 funds, were \$1,700,000.00. Of the \$1.7 million dollars in expenditures, \$563,000.00 was spent on a quarterly maintenance payment, other expenditures totaled \$1,200,000.00, which is consistent with operational expenses and reasonable. The balance remaining of FY15 general funds is approximately \$7,000,000.00 and the balance of the deficit funds is approximately \$2,000,000.00, so total funds balance is approximately \$9,000,000.00 for the remaining ten months in FY15. Grant activity has been none. The Governor’s Office has received \$800,000.00 from the BTOP program that is earmarked for the final acceptance payment for system acceptance to Motorola. Ms. Helfrich reported we put a place holder in Friday, August 29th, 2014, requesting a FY15 deficit of \$1,900,000.00 to cover repairs of the system’s aging components. Chairman Lariviere took a

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motion to approve the report of expenditures. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Willie Huff. Mr. Wayne Vaughn seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere announced the new GC will consist of Willie Huff, Rusty Barnes, Richard Harrell, Steve Rushing, and Lt. Col. Causey. The PRC will consist of Chief Perry Waggener, Tim Smith, Curtis Thornhill, Audrey McAfee, and Steve Gray. The Personnel Committee (PC) will consist of Chairman Tom Lariviere, Vice-Chairman Ken Magee, Robert Latham, David Johnson, and Wayne Vaughn.

Senator Burton mentioned Telehealth as an opportunity for the WCC to generate revenue by possibly putting together something NTIA would buy into utilizing the microwave and LTE funds. He suggested the Commission visit Dr. Kristi Henderson at UMMC to look into a possible partnership with them. He stated due to healthcare reforms local communities were going to lose hospitals unless they got onboard with Telehealth and transform them into local emergency rooms and surgical centers.

The next monthly meeting will be held on October 2nd, 2014 at 1:30 PM in the MDOT 6th Floor Conference Room. The January meeting date was moved to January 8th, 2014, due to scheduling conflicts.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to adjourn. Mr. Huff made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaughn and passed with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.