

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

February 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes

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

Commission Members Present:	
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Lariviere, Mr. Tom (Chairman)
MS Department of Public Safety	Magee, Mr. Ken (Vice Chairman)
MS Department of Homeland Security	Barnes, Mr. Rusty (Mr. Steve Beard)
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Association of Supervisors	Gray, Mr. Steve
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Mr. Richard
MS Department of Information Technology	Johnson, Mr. David
MS Emergency Management Agency	Latham, Mr. Robert (Ms. Susan Perkins)
MS Department of Corrections	McAfee, Ms. Audrey
MS Highway Patrol	Smith, Mr. Timothy
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:	
Also in Attendance:	

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2015, meeting, as they were transmitted. Mr. Perry Waggener made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Lt. Col. Ray Causey. The motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for January 2015 mentioning MOUs with Winston County, Mississippi, Grenada School District, Calhoun County Sheriff Department, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Town of Blue Mountain Police Department, and Claiborne County Emergency Management. She reported the WCC loaned out cache radios for the medical section of the Mississippi Blues Marathon and issued special event talk groups for the severe weather tornado for the weekend of January 3, 2015, the dam failure in Pearl River County, and the Smith County gas well incident. She reported the WCC conducted the COM-L class the last week of January and now there are 13 new COM-L trainees for the State of Mississippi. She reported we have completed the HVAC preventative maintenance, generator PMs are in process, and RF site PMs will begin soon. The number of users for January 2015 was 19,783 with the projected 1st QTR 2014 being 20,200. MSWIN network activity was 2,963,290 PTT with 515 busies. A few of the top twenty users in January 2015 were: MHP, Hattiesburg PD, Laurel PD, UMC Campus PD, MS DWF&P, and MDOT LE, Forrest Co SO, Jones Co SO, and Pearl PD. The rest is made up of local sheriffs' offices and police departments.

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Mr. Bill Buffington reported on build out status reporting the extended study at Camp Shelby on endangered species has cleared. He also reported there is a new tribal group declaring historical presence in Mississippi that we had not dealt with before but it has also cleared. The Shelby submissions will be resubmitted and an MOU for the use of Hancock County's southern tower is being finalized.

Ms. Helfrich gave the Contract Status Update, reporting the contract amendment regarding Towers of Mississippi II was finalized to enable us to pay for and submit the due diligence for those tower colocations. She reported the SBA Towers lease renewals have been sent to SBA, but no signed leases have been received to date. She reported a second extension request for MICG is being prepared asking for an extension through the end of 2016 to give enough time to finalize the project. The BTOP grant was extended through March 31, 2015 to allow time for grant close-out. The State has not received disposition instructions from NTIA on the LTE equipment or the State's ability to retain the microwave equipment. We have had multiple discussions with NTIA about this issue.

Ms. Helfrich then provided a legislative update reporting the FY15 deficit appropriation request was reduced to \$1.2 million and letters requesting full funding for FY16 are ready to be delivered to the Chairman of the House and Senate Appropriation Committees in lieu of hearings.

Ms. Helfrich recognized and welcomed the WCC's new employee, Obie Hosey, who joined the WCC on February 1, 2015, as a system technician.

Vice Chairman Magee asked MS. Helfrich if the WCC has had any movement on any revenue generating with other entities. Ms. Helfrich said there we have several signed MOUs with public safety non-governmental organizations (NGOs). She said the WCC has loaned out additional radios to several Electric Power Associations (EPAs) which are testing MSWIN coverage. She said she hopes to see more activity in this area in the future.

Vice Chairman Magee also asked if the WCC has had any conversations with anyone regarding telehealth. Ms. Helfrich said there is a company that has approached the WCC with some interest in utilizing the MSWIN backbone and we are working with the governor's office on that project. Mr. Wayne Vaughn asked her if UMMC and DOH were involved with this project. Ms. Helfrich said not at this time, but we're trying to make sure that if the MSWIN backbone is leveraged, it is leveraged in the best interest of the state. Vice Chairman Magee said he would like to see UMMC utilize it for telehealth. Ms. Helfrich said that was the original plan for the BTOP LTE network as MedCom was developing an application to utilize MSWIN for emergency telehealth purposes. Mr. Wayne Vaughn said DOH is in the process of assisting UMMC to enhance their telehealth program and that there are several infrastructure funding opportunities coming out.

Mr. Timothy Smith asked Ms. Helfrich if the WCC has a target goal of how many third party entities are needed to reduce our appropriation levels and what the processing and administrative costs involved in dealing with these thirty parties are. Ms. Helfrich said the current level of third parties is manageable, but as it increases the number of radios being added to the system, there could be some manpower hours associated with it. She stated that there are some large EPAs who are looking at the MSWIN system as a possibility to address their future radio communication needs; however, there are just not enough NGOs to make a huge difference in revenues. It is going to take leveraging the MSWIN backbone and data transfer. Mr. Smith asked if the data transfer revenue generation information has been incorporated into the business plan. Ms. Helfrich said we are working on

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pricing but the pricing plan is not been finalized. She explained that work is in progress to develop a pricing scheme and we are reviewing scenarios to determine what is in the best interest of the WCC -to manage that part of the business or partnering with an entity to manage that part of the business. She also stated that NTIA has made some clarifications about how we can leverage the backbone, specifying public safety, government, and telehealth.

Chairman Perry Waggener of the Procurement Committee had nothing to report.

Chairman Huff passed out a draft of suggested changes to the WCC's procurement guidelines. Chairman Huff advised the Commission that the goal of the changes is to facilitate agencies operating on MSWIN procuring additional devices or equipment without submitting every request to a Procurement Committee for review.

Mr. Mike Vaughn advised he understood the changes would mean current MSWIN users would not have to come back to the Commission. Chairman Lariviere explained that if an agency is operating on MSWIN and was authorized 1,500 user IDs and originally purchased 800 devices then the agency should not be required to come to the Committee/Commission to purchase 5 more and then 8 more. As long as an agency is not exceeding the user IDs for that agency and the devices are authorized to operate on MSWIN then the agency should not have to come back to the commission.

Chairman Huff added that agencies must have the user IDs or the devices will not operate on the MSWIN. The system currently has a 128,000 ID capability. Chairman Huff advised Commissioners will receive electronic copies of the proposed changes for review before submitting the changes per the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Mr. David Johnson made the report of approval of expenditures directing attention to the report of expenditures for the month. He said there was \$1,860.00 revenue generated for the month; total operating expenditures were \$1,093,641.92 with a remaining balance of \$5,804,894.73; \$334,896.06 expenditures in MICG for Change Order #10 milestones; and \$551,374.50 quarterly maintenance payments. Mr. Johnson said there was \$5,210,067.07 remaining for FY15. Ms. Helfrich said we will still need \$1.2 million deficit appropriation to get us through June 2015. She added we have funds available to pay for normal monthly operating expenses for the year, but we have maintenance and repair issues that we have not been addressing because we have not had the funding.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to approve the expenditures. Mr. Wayne Vaughn made the motion to approve the expenditures. Lt. Col. Ray Causey seconded the motion. The motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Lariviere called for any other business. There was none.

The next monthly meeting will be held on March 5th, 2015, 1:30 PM, location TBA, but tentatively will be scheduled in the MDOT 6th Floor Conference Room.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to adjourn. Lt. Col. Ray Causey made the motion to adjourn and it carried with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.