

**MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION**

**April 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

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

<b>Commission Members Present:</b>	
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
MS National Guard	Causey, Lt. Col. Ray
MS Department of Corrections	Fisher, Commissioner Marshall L.
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Harrell, Mr. Richard
MS Municipal League	Hinton, Mr. Chris
MS Department of Transportation	Huff, Mr. Willie
MS Department of Information Technology	Johnson, Mr. David
MS Emergency Management Agency	Perkins, Ms. Susan
MS Highway Patrol	Smith, Mr. Timothy
MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Thornhill, Mr. Curtis
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Waggener, Chief Perry
<b>Advisory Board Members Present:</b>	Doty, Sen. Sally

Chairman Tom Lariviere called the meeting to order and welcomed delegates from the MS Legislature to the proceedings. He then entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2015, meeting, as they were transmitted. Mr. Willie Huff made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Ken Magee. The motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for March 2015. She provided information on the number of MOUs executed, radios loaned out for coverage testing, and special events the WCC Staff participated in during the month. Ms. Helfrich also outlined MSWIN user, network activity, Zone usage broken down by talkgroups as well as airtime and push-to-talks per hour for March. Ms. Helfrich also discussed ongoing activities for April which includes phase 3 site visits by WCC staff, generator and RF preventive maintenance which is being conducted to prepare the system for Hurricane season. In addition, Ms. Helfrich notified the Commission that Motorola has begun the system upgrade to 7.15.

Mr. Bill Buffington gave an update on build-out reporting the WCC received a response back from FEMA on two sites. They have requested additional information related to the Hancock County site and the Camp Shelby site location. This work is in process.

Mr. Buffington provided additional information related to the system upgrade explaining that this work requires the efforts of approximately 20 people throughout the state. The upgrade will add feature sets that turn the system into the latest P25 system technology available. While it is a significant upgrade, it has been done with minimal impact on the users of the system. Mr.

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Buffington also reported that he and Commissioner Huff participated in a multi-state emergency response exercise with multiple agencies on the coast and received some very positive reviews for the MSWIN system. This included the military medical personnel, MEMA, and other participants reporting the capabilities of the radios and the clarity, as well as the interoperability of the system which put them in a much better position to respond to emergencies.

Ms. Helfrich gave an update on contract status reporting the contract with River Radio for grounds maintenance, Upchurch Services for HVAC maintenance, and Taylor Power Systems for generator maintenance are being extended within the original contract amounts. Ms. Helfrich reported that the WCC has still not received signed lease amendments from SBA Towers and that a request has been made to extend the MICG grant until December 31, 2016. Homeland Security is processing the paperwork for the grant extension request. Ms. Helfrich also reported she contacted the Governor's office regarding the BTOP grant and verbally communicated the concerns of the WCC, which were noted during last month's meeting. Ms. Helfrich also noted that the BTOP grant program is officially over on September 30, 2015. At this time, all grant related activities and expenditures must be finalized.

Ms. Helfrich provided a legislative update reporting that SB2892 passed which provided the WCC \$10.1 million in general appropriation funds and \$500k in special funds totaling \$10.6 million received in appropriated funds. The WCC is very appreciative to the Legislature for providing these funds to the WCC for operations during FY16.

Chairman Perry Waggoner provided the update for the Procurement Committee reporting there was one procurement request from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks in the amount of \$121,463.22. The equipment purchased will be installed as a dispatch backup location for MDWFP to provide redundancy. The Procurement Committee voted unanimously to approve the request which did not meet the threshold to be brought before the full Commission for approval.

Chairman Huff gave the Governance Committee update reporting the proposed rule changes are not ready due to the legislative activities this month. He also reported hearing very positive responses about the interoperability of the system while working with multiple agencies in the Gulf including SRT teams, FBI, MEMA, Homeland Security, DMR, and the National Guard who were participating in the exercise that Mr. Buffington had referred to earlier in the meeting.

Mr. David Johnson gave the update on the approval of expenditures reporting expenses for the month of March 2015 were \$607,669.79. The remaining operating funds for the last part of FY15 are \$4,115,227.37. There was no activity for grant funds this month. The remaining balance for MICG is still \$10,870,152.15 and BTOP is \$22,885,691.98. The operating expenses were primarily composed of utilities, land rent, tower rent, and preventative maintenance. Chairman Lariviere asked if the WCC is able to project expenses for utilities yet. Ms. Helfrich said the WCC projections include an estimated 10% increase on utilities each year and a 10% increase for land and tower leases every five years. She added that the WCC just began assuming maintenance and operational expenses for MSWIN in the northern 1/3 of the state in March. During the next year, the WCC will be able to develop the data needed to provide more accurate estimates related to the costs to maintain and operate the system statewide.

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

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Chairman Lariviere called for any other business. The next monthly meeting will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1:30 PM, in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building DFA at 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS.

Chairman Lariviere took a motion to adjourn. Mr. Huff made the motion to adjourn and it carried with none opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.