

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

November 3, 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 Corrections	McAfee, Audrey
MS Office of Homeland Security	McKee, Mark
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, as well as Mr. Richard Coghlan, 911 Director from Pike County, David Burford, EMA Director from Washington County, also Chuck Murph, Jamel Vinson, Kevin Green, and Daniel Ristano, FirstNet Representatives. Chairman Magee then provided time for the review of the minutes from the previous meeting on October 6, 2016, after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as they were transmitted. Chairman Magee entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lee Smithson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Wayne Vaughn, and motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vicki Helfrich gave the MSWIN Project Update for October 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; the MS State Fair Commission; Warren County for Airshow; Panola County for Concert which was attended by about 10,000 people. Staff assisted with development of the ICS 205 for the MS State Fair and presented to the recruit class at the MS State Fire Academy. RF preventative maintenance began in Zone 3 and should be finalized within the next week. RF PM's for Zones 1 and 2 have already been completed by Motorola. Staff continued work on the Desoto, Hinds, Washington, and Warren County projects which consisted of tower load analysis, microwave/microwave path analysis, executing MOUs, etc.; final acceptance testing was finalized for the Port Bienville site in Hancock County on which the WCC is co-locating MSWIN equipment; began road repairs at the MSWIN Carrollton Site; worked with Forrest County/Lamar County on FDMA/TDMA/Encryption related issues; worked with various entities to determine their future MSWIN related data needs; and provided oversight for all MSWIN system/site maintenance and repairs. Ms. Helfrich also provided information on the number of current MSWIN users, the number of users projected for the 4th 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 completion of the GeoTech Soil boring testing for both Camp Shelby sites. Red Hill site plans are being reviewed by Sabre Towers in order to finalize tower design. Staff continued to work on the Hinds County and Warren County deployment projects. The completion of the Edwards site (I-20 near Warren County) remains contingent upon completion of the Hinds County/WCC MOU. Ms. Helfrich noted MOUs between the WCC and both Hinds County and Warren County are expected to be finalized by the end of November 2016 so that the projects

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can continue. Ms. Helfrich asked for any questions. Senator Burton then stated that he had discussed the recent disaster in Chunky, MS in Newton County with Dr. Damon Darsey, the Medical Director for Emergency Services at UMC, on the day following the event. Dr. Darsey recognized that the MSWIN System worked flawlessly and provided great response for public safety involved in communications to coordinate helicopters to the area for transport to UMC Hospital. Senator Burton then thanked the WCC for the MSWIN System working effectively and everyone who took part for their efforts during that time. Chairman Magee also shared an excerpt from a letter of appreciation received from Dr. Darsey, “I wanted to pass along something that happened last night, surrounding the events in Newton County. We were actively involved starting about 5 minutes after the event, putting all three of our helicopters and crews on scene. Listening to the live feed, our crews and triage were communicating with patients over radio to inbound helicopters. That might seem small, but we were able to use the same audio communication used for local helicopter coordination to assist in calling in specialized pediatric staff, specialized ready pediatric intensive care beds, and prepare specialized pediatric operating rooms. Within 30 minutes of arriving on scene, we were able to communicate and coordinate the patient movements across numerous agencies and miles. On the flight back to UMMC, our crews were able to communicate among themselves to determine the names, relations of the patients, treatment plans and asked for specific items on the roof upon landing. Again, without encryption we would have never been able to do this. On arrival, the first helicopter to UMC, there were no less than a hundred medical providers awaiting these patients across every aspect of the hospital. They had early activation, good information and developed medical treatment plans based on the information communicated about the injuries of these patients. Before MSWIN, the hospital would have had a 10 minute heads up about a bad wreck and maybe a heads up by phone from a civilian. I’ve worked many mass casualty incidents and this was by far the smoothest I’ve ever seen. Much of that success is the ability to securely communicate. Thanks for your hard work to make this system the lead in the nation and help us improve mortality in the State of Mississippi.” Chairman Magee then thanked all public responders, once again for what they do.

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

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 Washington County in the amount of \$198,159.25 for the purchase of subscriber radios in facilitating the VFDs in joining MSWIN by providing portables, mobiles and control stations using funds received by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The LPR committee approved the request, with no further board action needed. The second procurement request was from Pike County in the amount of \$985,402.41 for the purchase of subscriber units and consoles, radios and console extensions for Pike County to join MSWIN. The LPR committee approved this request to be brought before the Full Commission for approval since the amount exceeds the dollar threshold. Chief Waggener entertained a motion for the Pike County procurement request to be approved by the Full Commission. Mr. Vaughn made a motion to accept and approve the procurement request from Pike County, MS, the motion was seconded by Chief Willie Huff, and motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee called for the report of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Committee Chair Chief Huff acknowledged the need for volunteers on the committee to fill vacancies. Chief Huff also inquired on filing the MICG Grant extension. Ms. Helfrich stated that the Grant ends in June 2017 and the extension request will need to be filed no later than the end of 2016. Chairman Magee then informed Chief Huff that Mr. Donald Loper has been appointed as a member of the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Chairman Magee is still seeking out services of one other individual to serve and if anyone would like to discuss the details, to do so after the meeting. Chief Huff had nothing further to report.

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Chairman Magee then gave the report from the Broadband Committee. Chairman Magee stated that the proposal previously submitted for the BTOP Grant modification has now been internally approved, and awaiting formal approval by the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration). Chairman Magee asked for further questions.

Chairman Magee called for approval of expenditures. Mr. David Johnson reported the expenditures for the month of October 2016 which included \$976,000 in general funds, leaving a remaining balance of \$6.2 million. Mr. Johnson noted MICG grant fund activity including program income of \$12,962 and \$450,000 for a milestone expenditure. Chairman Magee asked if there were further questions. Chairman Magee called for a motion to approve the monthly expenditures. Mr. Tom Lariviere made a motion to approve monthly expenditures, the motion was seconded by Mr. Waggener, and the motion carried with none opposed.

Chairman Magee asked for other business. Chairman Magee welcomed Mr. Chuck Murph, Region 4 Lead for FirstNet, for a briefing on the progress of the nationwide public safety network which included information on how FirstNet services could be adopted by emergency responders and the key factors to consider when the Governor makes the decision to opt-in or opt-out of the FirstNet plan.

With no other business to discuss, the Chairman announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, December 1, 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 2:54 PM.