

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
State of Louisiana
<http://gohsep.la.gov/SIEC>

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



CHRIS GUILBEAUX
CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
July 27, 2016

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Department of Public Safety Services, Office of Management and Finance Building, Third Floor South Central Training Room, located at 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Sonya Wiley-Gremillion called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The SIEC roll call was conducted by Travis Johnson, and a quorum was established.

The following SIEC members were present or absent as noted:

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Christina Dayries, designee for Chris Guilbeaux	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Davis Dousay, designee for Neal Underwood	Division of Administration (DOA)
SFC Stephen Cockerham, designee for Major Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Chief Brian Zeringue	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Robert Benoit	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Brian Spillman, designee for Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
LTC Adam White	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Lorn Bourgeois, designee for Aaron Miller	Region 1
Lt David Luker, designee for Billie Giroir	Region 2
Stacey Blanchard	Region 4
Sgt AJ Powell, designee for Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
Wes Edge	Region 7

Sean Christian	Region 8
Lt Robert Seal	Region 9

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Eric Deroche	Region 3

III. Approval of Minutes

LTC Adam White made a motion to approve the April 27, 2016 meeting minutes. Chief Robert Benoit seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

A. Introductions

Chief Merrick Tassin introduced Lieutenant Robert Seal from the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, who will be the new Region 9 representative. Chief Tassin advised the committee that Lt. Seal has many years of technical experience and will be an asset to the SIEC. Chief Tassin is retiring and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to have served on the SIEC.

Vice Chairman Sonya Wiley-Gremillion introduced the following new SIEC Member and Subcommittee Member:

Chief Bryan Zeringue, formerly with the Louisiana State Police and current Police Chief for the city of Thibodaux will replace Chief Mike Knapps, who has retired, as the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police representative.

Julio Peck from Louisiana State Police (LSP) Radio Communications has been added to the Technical Subcommittee, replacing Sammy Williams who retired in May.

- B. Recent LWIN Interoperability activities and talk group request. - Since the last meeting 208 LWIN interoperability talkgroups have been assigned. Some of the events were the St. Jude fishing tournament, Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, Bayou Country Super Fest, I-10 closure LA/MS state line, JPSO Officer Funeral and 174 talkgroups assigned this month for the events surrounding the shootings in Baton Rouge.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

Vernon McFadden with LSP Radio Communications provided the LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the SIEC website.

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked if LSP Radio Communications analyzed the system statistics during the recent events to see the effects on the system. Mr. McFadden said they had run the statistics, but system loading was near normal and there were no busies during the event. LTC Adam White added that while there was additional traffic for the event, there was also a reduction in the normal volume of calls for service.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Christina Dayries provided the following report on behalf of BFSC Chairman Ricky Edwards: The legislature approved the continuing budget that provides for LWIN system maintenance. The SIEC requested an increase to cover the approximately \$200,000 Motorola maintenance contract increase, and a small increase to cover staff salary and benefits, and telephone and electric cost increases for tower sites. The budget increase request was denied so DPS will have to absorb the additional maintenance costs in the current \$8,459,860 budget.

The \$15.8 million LWIN software and equipment upgrade has been approved for Phase 1. GOHSEP requested \$11.4 million for the current fiscal year to pay for the system software upgrade and as an incentive Motorola will include console replacements for those consoles that need to be upgraded to handle the new software. This was approved by the legislature and Governor. The Phase 2 funds of \$4.4 million will be requested by GOHSEP to replace the STR type repeaters in fiscal year 2017/2018.

As part of the maintenance budget appropriation the 20 positions in the Radio Communications section have been transferred from the Office of Technology Services to LSP under LTC White's command and directly reporting to Capt. Mark Richards. One position, Travis Johnson, will be transferred to GOHSEP as the Interoperability Program Manager to facilitate training, planning and exercises for interoperability.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

Chairman Bill Vincent asked Travis Johnson to provide a brief overview of the proposed policy updates. The bulk of the policy updates reflect the Radio Communications Section's move from OTS to LSP. Policy 005 was

updated to correct the improper hyphenation of the word “subcommittee” and Policy 007 was changed to remove the contact appendix and list the LWIN website as the contact information location to be consistent with the other policies.

Wes Edge motioned to accept the policy updates as presented. SFC Cockerham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)

The TSC did not meet.

Lt. David Luker, Region 2 designee for this meeting, relayed to the SIEC that during the recent shooting events law enforcement agents from all over the state were working in Baton Rouge providing assistance to local responders. LWIN provided seamless communications between local officers and deputies and those from around the state and was invaluable to the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office during this event.

Julio Peck informed the committee that LSP Radio Communications (LSPRC) has been working with Region 5 to investigate coverage problems in the “Alligator Park” recreation area in Starks. Coverage issues were found, but not sufficient to warrant a new tower site. LSPRC will work with Region 5 to provide an LWIN tower trailer if the need arises.

Vermillion parish also asked LSPRC to look into potential coverage issues within the parish. The testing is scheduled for next week. Additionally LSPRC identified 40 local LWIN radios that were off frequency causing reception issues.

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

BSC Chairman LTC Adam White provided the following report.

The BSC met in May where they reviewed the activities of the Louisiana FirstNet office. LA FirstNet staff scheduled upcoming workshops in each of the 9 GOHSEP regions. A new task-order was issued for contract GIS support for the regional meetings to GCR. The staff has also been engaging the public and stakeholders through social media and staying fully engaged with Federal FirstNet activities.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

Wes Edge informed the committee that during the recent flooding in north Louisiana, Desoto Fire District No. 1 had no interoperable communications in downtown Logansport due to an identified coverage gap in that area. Mr. Edge asked that the TSC look into the issue and attempt to identify possible solutions. Vice Chairman Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked the TSC to review before the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Wiley-Gremillion also asked Motorola if an LWIN site co-located with the new Rapides Parish 800 MHz system site going up in northwest corner of Rapides Parish would provide coverage to the identified LWIN gap between the Chopin and Hornbeck tower sites. Motorola will produce coverage maps for review.

Lorn Bourgeois relayed a request on behalf of Aaron Miller to authorize a bi-directional amplifier (BDA) inside the newly constructed Veterans Administration hospital in New Orleans. Julio Peck said he was working with representatives from the VA on the issue. Vice Chairman Wiley-Gremillion asked that the TSC be kept in the loop.

Julio Peck stated that LSPRC recently addressed issues with LWIN caused by a local patch to a VHF system. He asked that the regional representatives remind the users in their regions not to make unauthorized patches to the system.

SFC Cockerham asked if all 14 statewide interoperability talkgroups were in use during the shooting incidents, and asked if any parish or regional talkgroups were used. Travis Johnson responded that for several days all statewide interoperability talkgroups were in use, but there were still 27 regional talkgroups that are required to be in all LWIN radios that could potentially have been used if needed. The SIEC then discussed the possibility of adding more interoperability talkgroups and adding law enforcement encryption talkgroups, but no action was taken.

IX. Public Comments

Lt. David Benada with the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office voiced support for a tactical encrypted channel.

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sonya Wiley-Gremillion notified the members that next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016.

AJ Powell made a motion to adjourn. Stacey Blanchard seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.