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

CHRIS GUILBEAUX  
CHAIRMAN  
SONYA WILEY-GREMILION  
VICE CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES**  
January 22, 2014

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at The Louisiana State Police Headquarters, Conference Room B, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Chris Guilbeaux called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

The following SIEC members were present or absent as noted:

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Chris Guilbeaux	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Ivory Junius, proxy for Neal Underwood	Division of Administration
Chief Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Jeb Tate, proxy for Aaron Miller	Region 1
Anthony Summers, proxy Billie Giroir	Region 2
Lee Hebert	Region 4
Lieutenant Chris Oakes, proxy for Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Kenneth Moore, proxy for Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
Artice Dowdy	Region 8
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9

<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Captain Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Eric Deroche	Region 3
William Edge	Region 7

### III. Approval of Minutes

Chief Ronald Bourque made a motion to approve the October 23, 2013 meeting minutes. Lee Hebert seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2013 meeting.

### IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Guilbeaux began his report by updating the members on the new tower site coming online in Bossier City. The tower work is complete, all equipment has been installed, and frequencies have been identified and applications sent to the FCC for approval. Once the frequencies are approved the site will be turned on and in service.

Houma Update; the equipment is in place waiting to be installed. Frequencies have been identified and applications sent to the FCC for approval. The site will go online once the equipment is hooked up and the frequencies are approved.

Chairman Guilbeaux the provided an update on the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Most of the committee has seen the SCIP which was written in 2009. Chairman Guilbeaux just finished looking it over again. It's time for an update. Obviously there are a lot of names and information such as tower sites and number of subscribers that has changed. Jeya Selvaratnam and Travis Johnson have worked with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and in early February they are coming in with a team to assist us in re-writing the SCIP. Chairman Guilbeaux stated he gave Travis the guidance that he needed something by June of this year. Jeya and Travis both feel this is doable, so you can expect a new SCIP by June of 2014. Again most of the updates are quantities and personnel changes, but new long term goals will be added such as public safety broadband which Jeya chairs our subcommittee. More updates will be coming in the next meeting.

Chairman Guilbeaux then briefed the SIEC on some of the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) interoperability activities since the last meeting. Interoperability talkgroups were used sixty-one times for multiple events since the last meeting including LSU Football, Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop B / Department Of Transportation Development closing I-10 eastbound at

Clearview Parkway, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office SWAT / LSP SWAT team joint operation, Natchitoches Christmas Festival law enforcement coordination, Mississippi coordination for Sugar Bowl, Louisiana Marathon, and Martin Luther King Day festivities law enforcement coordination.

Chairman Guilbeaux stated he sees the emails requesting the talkgroups and many others go straight to Jeya, Julio Peck, and Travis, who include him on the response so he sees how much these talkgroups are being utilized as more people understand the value they provide, especially in joint law enforcement endeavors.

Chairman Guilbeaux then asked SIEC Secretary Travis Johnson to provide the committee an update on interstate interoperability. Mr. Johnson reminded the committee that we set up talkgroups along the gulf coast known as Gulf Coast Interoperability (GCI) talkgroups during the oil spill of 2010. We have sixteen in Louisiana, Mississippi Wireless Integrated Network (MSWIN) in Mississippi, several Texas systems, and one talkgroup on the Orange Beach, Alabama system. Many of those connections are no longer operational due to financial reasons, but the first four talkgroups, GCI-1 – GCI-4 are permanently connected between MSWIN and LWIN. These are the talkgroups that allowed Mississippi personnel to communicate to MSWIN from New Orleans during the Sugar Bowl as Chairman Guilbeaux mentioned. We also have talkgroups linked with the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN). The Arkansas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) is working with our Louisiana SWIC, Jeya Selvaratnam, to add a second LWIN-AWIN link location for redundancy. We are working on more formalized testing and coordination on these talkgroups going forward.

## **V. Statewide System Maintenance**

Terry Waggenpack with DPS Radio Maintenance provided an LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)**

No report.

### **B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)**

SIEC Secretary Travis Johnson reported that the policy and planning subcommittee is looking at the Network patching Policy to see if there are any ramifications from some of the new third party technology out that allows

patching from multiple locations. Subcommittee Chairman Bill Vincent has been in contact with Travis and is looking into this.

#### C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Christina Dayries advised the committee on behalf of Subcommittee Chairman Ricky Edwards that the Division of Administration will present the governor's executive budget for FY14/15 this Friday at nine o'clock to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and at that time we will find out what the SIEC funding will be. The total funding is now directed at DPS for system maintenance requirements.

#### D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

Subcommittee Chairman Jeya Selvaratnam advised the committee that although we did not receive the State Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) funds he will be working with FirstNet. They are coming to Louisiana to meet with us to look at the coverage we need and the infrastructure assets that may be leveraged for FirstNet build-out and operation. Jeya will be reaching out to some of the committee members to sit in on the meetings. We are also going to begin an outreach program to talk about FirstNet with responders from around the state to make sure everyone is aware of FirstNet and up to date with the latest information.

Chief Ronald Bourque advised the committee that recently he received a call from someone regarding speed testing his cellular data network and wondered if it was related. It was suggested that this may have been related to the Louisiana Broadband Initiative and not FirstNet.

### **VII. Old Business**

Chairman Guilbeaux stated that Kenneth Moore sent him an email regarding the status of LWIN adoption in Vernon parish. They have made strides in getting local responders on the LWIN system, but the coverage gap on the west side of the parish near Toledo Bend is holding back some agencies adoption of LWIN. Vernon parish coverage is on the list of LWIN infrastructure priorities. Chairman Guilbeaux stated the capital outlay estimate for the project is approximately \$330,000.00, and asked Jeya Selvaratnam if this was a realistic figure. Mr. Selvaratnam stated he would answer in two parts. If there was a tower and shelter available it would be approximately \$327,000.00 to purchase the hardware to install at a site. Additional costs would be incurred for tower rental, T-1 line rental, and other operational costs such as generator fuel and maintenance. These are reoccurring costs paid out of the maintenance budget, and the maintenance budget hasn't been increased since 2008. The budget has actually been cut, but due to cost

savings in certain areas the system has been able to not only operate within in the budget, but to add many sites. Each site adds an additional \$35,000.00-\$45,000.00 to the yearly maintenance costs. The SIEC is committed to improving the coverage in Vernon parish, but the challenge is to find a way to improve coverage without incurring all the additional unfunded operational costs. We would like to find an available tower on the west side of the parish. A tower at least 150-200 feet all should cover the area where they do not have coverage. We are currently looking for a tower that will provide this coverage without adding additional tower rental costs. Vernon parish can assist by helping us to identify such a tower at least halfway between Leesville and the parish line.

Chairman Guilbeaux suggested the Sabine River Authority (SRA) might be interested in joining LWIN and may have access to resources in the area. Mr. Moore advised the committee that he has been in contact with the SRA and they would be interested in putting an LWIN radio at the dam site to communicate with local authorities. Chairman Guilbeaux would like to investigate any potentially mutually beneficial arrangements that might exist with the SRA.

## **VIII. New Business**

Chairman Guilbeaux addressed the committee about the eight parishes in the northeast portion of the stat that need to be able to communication to the National Weather Service in Jackson, Mississippi via LWIN. If this can be accomplished with radios and bridging equipment he will make funds available, but this project has to be completed. Jeya Selvaratnam stated he will make it happen before the next meeting.

The LWIN and Tactical Interoperable Communications Field Operations Guide (TICFOG) smartphone applications (apps) are in need of an update. Chairman Guilbeaux feels the LWIN app tower map feature remains useful, but is outdated. There are also many names associated with the SIEC that have changed and need updating. We would like to take all links besides the map feature and point them to the GOHSEP web page. This will allow us to make updates as necessary without having to pay any fees. Similarly, the TICFOG is not currently useful as an app, but it would make a great website. The TICFOG app will not be continued, but the LWIN app will, with much of the content pointing to the website. The app will also be ported to the Android OS.

At this point Lieutenant Chris Oakes advised the committee of some new business from Region 5. Region 5 officials have partnered with several regional fire departments to apply for Assistance to Firefighters Grant money to construct a new LWIN site. They don't have the resources to build a tower, but they are in talks to partner with someone with land and a tower, and have

budgeted for 350-400 new portable LWIN radios to add to the system along with the complete site equipment including repeaters, antenna, backup generator, and UPSs. This site is to address a coverage gap that is hindering efforts to get more agencies on LWIN. Fire District One took the lead on applying for this two million dollar grant.

Chairman Guilbeaux informed the committee that he was late for an essential meeting downtown and asked SIEC Secretary Travis Johnson to continue the meeting.

Chief Merrick Tassin provided an update on the St. Tammany Parish LWIN project. The sheriff's office has gone to the bond commission and as of March 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 thirteen million dollars will be available to enhance LWIN in the parish. The parish has been in talks with the state and Motorola to identify additional infrastructure needs to increase coverage in St. Tammany and parts of Washington Parish. Jeya Selvaratnam added that the state is additionally working with the parish on microwave connectivity needs the parish will use for backhaul on the new sites.

#### **IX. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Travis Johnson advised that the next regular meeting date would fall on Wednesday April 23rd, 2014, and a message containing the meeting minutes and the official next meeting date would be sent out next week.

Chief Ronald Bourque made a motion to adjourn. Lieutenant Chris Oakes seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.