

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



NEAL FUDGE
CHAIRMAN

APPROVED - MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2023

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the State Emergency Operations Center, located at 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

I. Call to Order

A. Chairman Neal Fudge called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A. GOHSEP, Jake Chatfield, conducted the SIEC roll call and a quorum was established.

B. The following SIEC members were present or absent as noted:

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Neal Fudge - Assistant Deputy Director (ADD) of Homeland Security & Interoperability Division	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Richard "Dick" Gremillion, Director Calcasieu OHSEP	Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director's Committee
LT. Jesse Brown Superintendent	State of Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services, Louisiana State Police (DPS)
Jayson Richardson Sheriff of Desoto Parish	Louisiana Sheriff's Association
Bill Vincent, Secretary/Treasurer APCO Lafayette Parish Communications District (Ret.)	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
Jeb Tate Director, IT & Telecommunications, Jefferson Parish Government	Region 1
Billie Metz Giroir Chief Civil Deputy West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 2
Conrad Baker, CPT Technology/911 OPS Center	Region 3

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
St. John Parish Sheriff's Office	
Richard McGuire Executive Director Calcasieu Parish Communications District	Region 5
Robert "Bobby" Moore, RPL Assistant to Chief West Monroe	Region 8
Mike Allison OTS Chief Technology Officer	Deputy Chief Information Officer
Steven Cockerham S6 Communications Chief	Louisiana National Guard

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Stacey Blanchard, CPT Assistant Director, St. Martin Sheriff's Office/OHSEP	Region 4
Ellis Boothe Parish Director	Region 6
Doyle Dempsey, MAJ Support Bureau / Asset Management Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 7
Michael "Mike" Moore, SGT Canine & Patrol Division Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 9
Robert Daughdril Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
Pat Arnould Executive Director	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Robert Benoit, Chief Lafayette Fire Department	Louisiana Fire Chief's Association
Bryan Zeringue, Chief Thibodaux Police Department	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Billie Giroir made a motion to approve the May 3, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Jayson Richardson seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

- A. Chairman Neal Fudge began by thanking the members for attending the meeting, and informing the members, that he has accepted the position as the Assistant

Director of Emergency Management. He advised that GOHSEP is posting the Assistant Director of Homeland Security and Interoperability position immediately.

- B. Interoperability Program Manager, Jake Chatfield discussed he has completed the update to the FEMA's Annex guide along with the State Communications Interoperability Procedures (SCIP). He also updated the committee on the status of the Leesville and Merryville generators. He discussed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program status that is supplying fifty-two generators for LWIN sites.
- C. Statewide System Maintenance Report – Fefe Franklin with the DPS Radio Communications Section provided detailed information about the LWIN system. This presentation is available on the SIEC Website under the Meeting Minutes link.

V. Advisory Committee Reports

A. Budget and Finance

Sheriff Richardson advised that the budget would be in the process of closing out for the fiscal year. Sheriff advised that if there are any additional request for the upcoming year it needs submitted by November 1 to make the budget.

B. Technical

Billie Giroir advised that the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) has not met since January 18, 2023. The committee will be scheduling a meeting immediately to discuss governance and policy for Smart Connect and Critical Connect.

C. Policy and Planning

Bill Vincent spoke on the new updates for the SCIP.

D. Broadband Advisory

Jesse Brown advised the committee that FirstNet has completed ten new sites are on schedule to be completed by FY 2024.

E. Training and Outreach

No update to training and outreach.

II. Unfinished Business

- A. Chairman Neal discussed the status of Independence Tower site. Vernon McFadden discussed the two sites proposed for Independence. Chairman Neal explained that the funds allocated for this site would be to purchase the radio equipment while the state continues to evaluate the optimum location for a tower site in the parish.
- B. Julio discussed the status with the statewide upgrade to the Ethernet Project. This presentation is available on the SIEC Website under the Meeting link.
- C. Vernon detailed what the status of the Interoperability Channels and discussed the thirteen additional channels and the need for three additional AES talk groups.

LSP will be sending an update soon with all the instructions on what each parish needs to do to receive this upgrade.

- D. Chairman Neal questioned the committee for an update on the state Starlink contract and when can parishes purchase their own. Mike Allison from Office of Technology Services (OTS) detailed the issues with the state issuing out all the satellite units, and why it is not realistic at this time due to billing issues with the company.

III. New Business

- A. Chairman Neal Fudge wanted to elaborate on Smart Connect. He asked Travis Johnson from CISA to explain how the state should break up the SSID's. Travis recommending either doing a statewide, or by regions to ensure it is being used properly. This will also help in standardizing the programing statewide. The technical committee plans to make a decision at the upcoming meeting.

IV. Public Comments

Reginald Carolina updated the committee on the ten prioritized LWIN tower site generators for the HMGP.

V. Next Quarterly Meeting

Chairman Neal Fudge advised the committee that without objection, the next quarterly meeting of the SIEC would be October 25, 2023 at 1:30 PM, in person at the GOHSEP's EOC. There were no objections.

VI. Adjournment

Richard McGuire made a motion to adjourn. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:35 pm.