

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee  
State of Louisiana

<http://gohsep.la.gov/SIEC>

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



NEAL FUDGE  
CHAIRMAN

**APPROVED - MEETING MINUTES**

April 28, 2021

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at the State Emergency Operations Center, located at 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, and via Teleconference.

**I. Call to Order**

A. Chairman Neal Fudge called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A. GOHSEP Interoperability Program Manager, Travis Johnson, conducted the SIEC roll call and a quorum was established.

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

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
<b>Neal Fudge</b> - Assistant Deputy Director (ADD) of Homeland Security & Interoperability Division	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
<b>David Dousay, Designee for Neal Underwood,</b> Deputy Chief Information Officer	State of Louisiana Division of Administration (DOA)/Office of Technology Support (OTS)
<b>Ricky Edwards</b> Sheriff Jeff Davis, Ret.	Louisiana Sheriff's Association
<b>Bryan Zeringue, Chief</b> Thibodaux Police Department	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
<b>Richard "Dick" Gremillion, Director</b> Calcasieu OHSEP	Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director's Committee
<b>Chris Eskew, LTC – Designee for Layne Barnum, LTC</b> Deputy Superintendent	State of Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services, Louisiana State Police (DPS)
<b>Pat Arnould</b> Executive Director	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
<b>Robert Daughdril</b> Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
<b>Jeb Tate</b> Director, IT & Telecommunications, Jefferson Parish Government	Region 1
<b>David Luker, LT – Designee for Billie Metz Giroir, DPTY</b> Chief Civil Deputy, West Feliciana Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 2
<b>John Robichaux, LT – Designee for Conrad Baker, LT</b> Technology/911 OPS Center St. John Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 3
<b>Stacey Blanchard, CPT</b> Assistant Director, St. Martin Sheriff’s Office/OHSEP	Region 4
<b>Richard McGuire</b> Executive Director Calcasieu Parish Communications District	Region 5 Representative
<b>Sonya Wiley-Gremillion</b> Director, Rapides Parish 911/ OHSEP	Vice Chair Region 6 Representative
<b>Doyle Dempsey, MAJ</b> Support Bureau / Asset Management Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 7
<b>Robert “Bobby” Moore,</b> Fire Service & Supply Technician, Ouachita Parish Fire Department	Region 8

<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
<b>Stephen Cockerham, SFC</b>	Louisiana National Guard
<b>Robert Benoit, Chief</b> Lafayette Fire Department	Louisiana Fire Chief’s Association
<b>Bill Vincent,</b> Secretary/Treasurer APCO Lafayette Parish Communications District (Ret.)	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
<b>Charles Schlicker Designee for Michael “Mike” Moore, SGT</b> Canine & Patrol Division Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 9

### III. Approval of Minutes



Bryan Zeringue made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting.

#### IV. Chairman's Report

- A. Chairman Neal Fudge began by thanking the members for attending the meeting.
- B. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Presentation – Jim Lundsted, Emergency Communications Coordinator – FEMA Regions 6 & 7, and Larry Clutts, Priority Telecommunications Services Area Representative – FEMA Regions 6 & 9, provided the committee a briefing on current CISA training, resources, and program adoption rates within the State of Louisiana. This presentation is available on the SIEC Website under the Meeting Minutes link
- C. Statewide System Maintenance Report - Vernon McFadden 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.
- D. LTC Layne Barnum announced his retirement from the Louisiana State Police (LSP) and introduced LTC Chris Eskew, who will be the new LSP representative. Chairman Fudge thanked LTC Barnum for all of his hard work and valuable contributions to the committee.
- E. Ethernet Upgrade Overview - Committee Secretary Travis Johnson reported that as this topic has been discussed at the last several meetings, users have begun asking questions. To help get the answers to these questions out to the users, please let GOHSEP and DPS staff know of any opportunities to present this information to the responders you represent. Mr. Johnson then introduced Blaine Kelly with AT&T and Chance Delome with Motorola Solutions who jointly provided an Ethernet Upgrade Presentation created in conjunction with GOHSEP/DPS Staff.

This presentation is available on the SIEC Website under the Meeting Minutes link.

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked for clarification on the timeline of the project, as a key point of the presentation centered on one-time and reoccurring costs to local user agencies with LWIN console sites. Mike Sittig advised that the Request For Proposal award process wasn't finalized, so contract negotiations have not begun, nor has funding been identified. Based on this the project will probably not begin until late 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year. That would put the phase of the upgrade where the first local agencies would incur the additional cost around June of 2022. Total project time will be approximately 24 months from start date.

Chance Delome added that Motorola is aware that the labor costs to change the equipment that will be incurred by the user agencies may fall between budget cycles, so they have put financing options in place.

Travis Johnson stated that the goal is to make sure all user agencies are aware of these costs so they can begin planning as soon as possible, and are

requesting the SIEC Members help by getting this information to the groups they represent. GOHSEP and DPS staff will be available to present this information to anyone, statewide, on request.

## **V. Advisory Committee Reports**

### **A. Budget and Finance**

Christina Dayries reported on behalf of subcommittee chair Ricky Edwards that there have not been any substantial changes from the last update. The 2022 budget request still includes the 11.5 million in annual maintenance for LWIN, which includes the increase in the professional services contract with Motorola Solutions. Other line items in the budget include the GOHSEP and DPS support staff salaries and reimbursements to five local sheriff's offices for maintenance expenses. House Bill 1 is expected to pass out of appropriations on Monday. Although many amendments are expected, we have not heard of any that would affect the LWIN budget. There are several steps after that through the end of the legislative session in June. This request does not include any new tower sites or other enhancements.

A quick note about this year's budget; we have applied for a federal grant to cover the state's cost of the ethernet project that was just briefed. In GOHSEP's supplemental bill for the current budget that ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, we have requested the cost-share associated with those grant funds. This will allow us to carry those funds over to the upcoming fiscal year to start expenditures. We are still waiting to see if we are awarded those grant funds.

### **B. Technical**

Chairman Billie Giroir was unable to make the meeting and no other subcommittee member had any update at this time.

### **C. Policy and Planning**

Chairman Bill Vincent was unable to attend and asked Travis Johnson to provide the following report: Although the Policy and Planning Subcommittee did not meet, the GOHSEP Office of Interoperability reached out to Chairman Vincent for LWIN policy clarification. SIEC staff received a request to join the system from a volunteer private sector organization that did not appear to meet the requirements to join LWIN. We recognize that they do valuable work, however, they are not first responder or part of a government agency. Mr. Vincent agreed that they do not meet the specified requirements to have radios on the system, if volunteer organizations wanted to utilize the system they could contact the LWIN user agency having jurisdiction over the function they are performing. In this case the volunteers performed search and rescue functions, which are coordinated by Emergency Support Function 9 (ESF-9). The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is the Louisiana lead agency for ESF-9, and as such, LDWF could request access on their behalf and take responsibility for the radio and talkgroups used.

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion stated that she agreed with the recommendation.

Julio Peck reminded the committee that LWIN agencies can also provide volunteer groups with “loaner” radios if/when they find it beneficial.

D. Broadband

Chairman Layne Barnum advised that the subcommittee has nothing to report at this time.

E. Training and Outreach

Subcommittee chair Jeb Tate advised the subcommittee has no report at this time.

## II. Unfinished Business

- A. 4.9 GHz – Robert Moore reported that the bill concerning leasing of the 4.9GHz spectrum has passed the Louisiana House of Representatives and is moving on to the state Senate, so if any members or agencies would like to provide input or recommend amendments before the final vote, now is the time to get with your senator.

## III. New Business

Jeb Tate brought up the following new business related to expending Region 1 maintenance funds:

- A. Ochsner Kenner Hospital requested that the SIEC relocate an antenna. The quotes for the move the antenna is approximately \$19,000.
- B. The backup generator for the Zone 2 Master Site in Gretna needs to be replaced. The current generator is approximately 24 years old and is no longer reliable. Engineering studies will cost approximately \$22,000, which would be paid out of this year’s funds. The generator replacement as well as fuel tank capacity increase will be paid for out of next fiscal year’s funding.

Neither project would require an increase in funding,

- C. Robert Moore brought to the attention of the committee LWIN issues in Richland Parish due to issues with the backhaul T1 circuit of the local LWIN tower at Delhi. Due to inclement weather the site has been in site trunking for extended periods lately causing communications issues for the Sheriff’s Office and Rayville Police Department. Mr. Moore asked if a satellite backhaul trailer can be staged locally in order to get the site back online faster since these events happen frequently. Julio Peck stated that even if the satellite equipment was housed locally, the operational staff still has to be deployed to set it up. Mr. Peck stated that there was a meeting scheduled for next week with Richland Parish Office Of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Director Dawn Williams where they will look into a possible solution utilizing patches to keep key talkgroups operational in wide-area, even if the Delhi site is in site trunking by linking to adjacent towers. DPS Radio communications is also in talks with AT&T to determine why the T1 has so many issue whenever it rains, and what can be done to fix the problem.

**IV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**V. Next Quarterly Meeting**

Chairman Neal Fudge advised the committee that without objection, the next quarterly meeting of the SIEC would be July 28, 2021 at 1:30 PM, either via conference call or in the State Emergency Operation Center, depending on COVID-19 situation; check meeting invite for confirmation. There were no objections.

**VI. Adjournment**



Sonya Wiley-Gremillion made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Dousay. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:27 pm.