

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



NEAL FUDGE
CHAIRMAN

APPROVED - MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2023

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, January 31, 2023, 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 1:36 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)
Jake Chatfield - Interoperability Program Manager	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Bill Vincent , Secretary/Treasurer APCO Lafayette Parish Communications District (Ret.)	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
Bryan Zeringue , Chief Thibodaux Police Department	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Jayson Richardson Sheriff of Desoto Parish	Louisiana Sheriff's Association
Jeb Tate	Region 1

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Director, IT & Telecommunications, Jefferson Parish Government	
Billie Metz Giroir, DPTY Chief Civil Deputy, West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 2
Conrad Baker, CPT Technology/911 OPS Center St. John Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 3
Richard McGuire Executive Director Calcasieu Parish Communications District	Region 5
Ellis Boothe Parish Director	Region 6
Robert "Bobby" Moore, Fire Service & Supply Technician, Ouachita Parish Fire Department	Region 8

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Stacey Blanchard, CPT Assistant Director, St. Martin Sheriff's Office/OHSEP	Region 4
Doyle Dempsey, MAJ Support Bureau / Asset Management Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 7
Mike Allison OTS Chief Technology Officer	Deputy Chief Information Officer
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
Michael "Mike" Moore, SGT Canine & Patrol Division Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office	Region 9

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Richard McGuire made a motion to approve the September 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Jayson Richardson seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

- A. Chairman Neal Fudge began by thanking the members for attending the meeting and informing the members that there is a lot to cover this meeting so we will do our best to respect your time and keep it moving.
- B. Interoperability Program Manager, Jake Chatfield discussed the state completing the statewide Commercial Carrier Group Standard Operating Procedures, and finalizing the Louisiana Statewide Alerts and Warnings for IPAWS Standard Operation Procedures. Jake also discussed that he is working on getting an App approved for state interop channels. This technology would allow for more transparency along with making it easier to request channels.
- C. Statewide System Maintenance Report – Ravi Penumarthi 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**

Wayne Tedesco detailed that they had met with the Division of Administration Commissioner's Office concerning the FY2024 budget. GOHSEP is requesting additional \$1.5 million for the SIEC budget for maintenance and upgrades. The Commissioner's Office has not provided any feedback on the request at this time.

B. Technical

Billie Giroir advised that the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) met on January 18th. The committee discussed critical connect thru Motorola and the increased monthly subscription fee. The committee explained that the state needs approve and maintain this technology. The technical committee will discuss more after it gets approved.

Billie explained that the state needs to approve Smart Connect thru Motorola. If approved then DPS Radio Communications will be working on an application for parishes wanting to use it. Billie proposed the motion to use smart connect to LWIN system. Bill Vincent second the motion, and the motion carried by the SIEC Committee.

Billie proposed the motion for the addition for a tower at the Pelican Site. Bryon Zeringue seconded the motion. The motion carries by the SIEC Committee.

The subcommittee approved the addition of two new towers in Desoto Parish. These towers will be added to the statewide radio system, and after two years the state will be responsible for the maintenance for the additional towers.

Billie clarified the questions concerning the added 16 encrypted law enforcement talk groups that were voted in from the last SIEC meeting that consisted of 13 using ADP, and 3 using AES.

C. Policy and Planning

Bill Vincent did not have any updates.

D. Training and Outreach

Chairman Fudge advised that Jeb Tate is stepping down as the Training Officer Chairman.

II. Unfinished Business

A. Jake Chatfield discussed the State is working on a spreadsheet for the GOHSEP issuing out Startlink units to all the state agencies that requested them. Training will be conducted for those agencies requesting it.

B. Julio discussed the current status with the statewide upgrade to the Ethernet Project. DPS is waiting on all the equipment to come in to start the project.

C. Vernon McFadden updated the committee on the building of Bell City and Starks towers. Project is on time and projected to be completed by July.

III. New Business

A. Jeb Tate requested to move Pan Am and Bridge City towers out of zone 1 into zone 2 for better coverage. The committee voted to conduct more research on the coverage issues and discuss at the next quarterly meeting.

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 April 26, 2023 at 1:30 PM, in person at the GOHSEP's EOC. There were no objections.

VI. Adjournment

Bryan Zeringue made a motion to adjourn. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:05 pm.