

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



CHRIS GUILBEAUX
CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
April 27, 2016

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Guilbeaux called the meeting to order at 1:00 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
Chris Guilbeaux	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Neal Underwood	Division of Administration (DOA)
Chief Robert Benoit	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Lloyd Miller, designee for Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
LTC Adam White	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Aaron Miller	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
Stacey Blanchard	Region 4
AJ Powell, designee for Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
Sean Christian	Region 8
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Major Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association

Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Wes Edge	Region 7
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

III. Approval of Minutes

Merrick Tassin made a motion to approve the January 27, 2016 meeting minutes. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

A. Introductions – Chairman Guilbeaux introduced the following guests:

James Waskom, GOHSEP Director; Rich Reed, Director of State Plans, FirstNet; Jacque Miller-Waring, Region VI Consultation Lead, FirstNet; Vicki Lee, Western Area Advisor, FirstNet; Elise Simmons, Contract Support, FirstNet; Lt. Commander Sabrina Richardson, newly appointed Commander NOPD Radio Shop; Edward Ordogne, Supervisor NOPD Radio Shop; and Lt. Adam Brickeen of NO EMS.

B. Region 5 LWIN / Southeast Texas Regional Radio System (SETRRS) radio patch – Chairman Guilbeaux asked Lloyd Miller to report on the progress of the project. Mr. Miller reported that the patch was now operational. Julio Peck with the OTS Radio Communications Section was able to successfully communicate with the Texas radio technicians from his LWIN radio in Baton Rouge. Currently four of the eight ports on the bridging equipment are in use.

C. Recent LWIN Interoperability activities and talk group request. - Since the last meeting 67 LWIN interoperability talkgroups have been assigned for events such as: Mardi Gras in St. Charles Parish, Orleans Parish, and Livonia; Presidential Campaign Event; two Vice Presidential Visits; Flood Response Operations in Washington, St. James, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany Parishes; Multiple LANG Air Rescue Operations; Strawberry Festival; Oschner Ironman Triathlon; and the Vigilant Guard 16 Exercise. LWIN also deployed the following mobile communications equipment: Mobile satellite deployments to Sentell - Caddo Parish, Hagedwood - Natchitoches Parish, Merryville - Beauregard Parish; Mobile tower trailer deployed to Caldwell Parish.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

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

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked for a breakdown of LWIN subscribers by discipline. Chairman Guilbeaux asked OTS Radio Communications to provide the report to him as well so he could share it with the committee.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Christina Dayries provided the following report on behalf of BFSC Chairman Ricky Edwards. The state revenue estimating conference will meet on May 12th. Once the conference recognizes approximately 39 million dollars in available public safety services fees and self-generated revenue it will be available for use to potentially fund LWIN software/hardware upgrade. GOHSEP will then propose a budget amendment to House Bill 1 to transfer 11.4 million dollars of those fees into GOHSEP's budget to fund the LWIN system software upgrade which also includes the incentive for the console replacement.

Neal Underwood added that there will be one internal organizational change regarding the LWIN budget; the Radio Communications Section will move from the Office of Technology Services (OTS) back to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The section more closely aligns with the public safety arena than the state OTS IT consolidation process. Mr. Underwood informed the committee that the change will be transparent to LWIN users and operations and should be effective for July 1st.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

Travis Johnson advised that there was no update at this time on behalf of Chairman Bill Vincent. Christina Dayries stated that the LWIN policies will be updated to reflect the Radio Communications Section's move back to DPS from OTS and presented to the SIEC for adoption.

C. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)

TSC Chairman Billie Giroir provided the following report.

South Baton Rouge Tower Relocation Request – The TSC tabled discussion on the potential tower relocation until comprehensive signal testing can be accomplished to provide a clear picture of any potential coverage changes associated with the move. The new potential tower has not been built yet so the TSC did not feel a need to rush the testing.

East Feliciana Coverage – DEMCO is building a tower in a location that would alleviate the coverage gap in East Feliciana Parish. DEMCO has

offered to allow LWIN space on the tower and the building free of charge to include backup generator power. The TSC recommends the SIEC add this location to the list of new LWIN sites pending funding.

Subcommittee Chairman Giroir also informed the SIEC that the lower Livingston Parish site was approved by the SIEC ahead of the Chatham site in Jackson Parish, but due to difficulties in securing property for the lower Livingston Parish site the TSC recommends installing the Chatham site first as it is ready to move forward at this time. The lower Livingston site can then proceed when land becomes available. Ms. Dayries reminded the committee that the SIEC has already purchased the equipment and it needs to be installed and operational so the billing can be completed to avoid carrying funding forward into the next fiscal year.

Chief Tassin motioned to accept the recommendation of the TSC and approve the addition of a tower site at the DEMCO location in East Feliciana Parish as funds become available. Sean Christian Seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

BSC Chairman LTC Adam White provided the following report.

The BSC has not met since the last SIEC meeting but the LA FirstNet Staff has been busy with outreach activities. The FirstNet Team has been awarded two international awards by the International Academy of Visual Arts; 2016 Silver Award of Distinction for the FirstNet workshop materials and 2016 Silver Award of Distinction for the LA FirstNet website. LTC White congratulated the team and praised the work done on the constant updates to the website.

Federal FirstNet hosted a State Point of Contact (SPOC) meeting in Washington, D.C. earlier this month attended by Director Waskom, COL Edmonson, and Jeya Selvaratnam. The meeting was to inform them what they can expect during the state consultations.

The LA FirstNet team will host meetings in all nine GOHSEP regions beginning in September. All members are asked to encourage the first responders and key personnel in their region to attend and provide input. You will be provided an opportunity to review the coverage objectives provided to FirstNet on your behalf and provide feedback. A registration flyer will be sent out to everyone soon.

VII. FirstNet Governance

Jacque Miller-Waring, Rich Reed, and Vicki Lee gave the SIEC a presentation on current and upcoming FirstNet activities. A copy of the presentation can be found on the SIEC website.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

Lloyd Miller asked the TSC to investigate a coverage issue at the Alligator Park facility near Starks. During the recent flooding event the LWIN system worked very well, but while working in this area responders lost coverage. Lt. David Benada with the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office stated this is a parish park facility in a populated area and his deputies respond to the location on a regular basis. Mr. Miller requested the TSC examining the antenna pattern of the Vinton LWIN site to see if adjusting the antenna could alleviate the coverage issue.

Billie Giroir reported to the committee that during recent multijurisdictional events it was discovered that some LWIN radios did not have all the interoperability talkgroups programmed as required by LWIN policy. Before the TSC committee meeting they discussed asking the staff to put together a "New Agency Packet" that includes all policies. Chairman Guilbeaux agreed and also asked the staff to produce a one page reminder of the policy that he could send to the users. Director Waskom suggested providing agencies with refresher training as well. Chairman Guilbeaux also encouraged all SIEC members to get the word out to their regions and the responders they represent.

X. Public Comments

There were no public comments

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Chris Guilbeaux recommended that next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. All members concurred.

AJ Powell made a motion to adjourn. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.