

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
State of Louisiana

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

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Mark Ward
CHAIRMAN

APPROVED - MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the State Emergency Operations Center, located at 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

I. Call to Order

A. Chairman Mark Ward called the meeting to order at 1:34 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
Mark Ward – Response Division Director	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Steven Cockerham – Designee for Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard	Louisiana National Guard
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, 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
Stacey Blanchard, CPT Assistant Director, St. Martin Sheriff's Office/OHSEP	Region 4
Robert "Bobby" Moore,	Region 8

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Fire Chief, Ouachita Parish Fire Department	
Michael “Mike” Moore, SGT Canine & Patrol Division Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 9
Derek Sentino, LT Director of Mobility & Communication Services	State of Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services, Louisiana State Police (DPS)
Christin Verdin	Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs
Jayson Richardson Sheriff of Desoto Parish	Louisiana Sheriff’s Association
Brian Champagn, Chief Lafayette Fire Department	Louisiana Fire Chief’s Association

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Jason Lionberger, Director Calcasieu OHSEP	Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director’s Committee
Richard McGuire Executive Director Calcasieu Parish Communications District	Region 5
Ellis Boothe Parish Director	Region 6
Doyle Dempsey, MAJ Support Bureau / Asset Management Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office	Region 7
Robert Daughdril Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
Bryan Zeringue, Chief Thibodaux Police Department	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

III. Approval of Minutes

Dawson Primes made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Steven Cockerham seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting.

IV. Chairman’s Report

- A. Chairman Mark Ward began by thanking the members for attending the meeting and introducing himself as the new Chairman.

- B. Interoperability Program Manager, Jake Chatfield updated the board on the status of the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Project. Also, Jake encouraged the committee to advertise the upcoming COM-L course being held at GOHSEP. Due to the lack of certified COM certifications throughout the state. Jake updated the committee that the new portable tower trailer has been delivered from Motorola and is currently getting outfitted at Bearcom with equipment.
- C. Statewide System Maintenance Report – Fefe Franklin with the DPS Radio Communications Section provided detailed information about the LWIN system. This information is available on the SIEC Website under the Meeting Minutes link.

V. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Budget and Finance
Laura Beth provided detailed information about the FY2026 Budget proposal.
- B. Technical
No updates.
- C. Policy and Planning
Bill Vincent briefed the updated Bylaws and Policies that was reviewed. The subcommittee voted unanimously to pass. Sheriff Jayson Richardson made a motion to approve the Bylaws and Policies for the SIEC. Steven Cockerham second the motion. The committee voted unanimously to pass. The updated Bylaws and Policies information is available on the SIEC Website under SIEC Library.
- D. Training and Outreach
No update to training and outreach.

II. Unfinished Business

- A. SIEC Committee voted upon this agenda item during the Advisory Committee Reports.
- B. Jake Chatfield briefed the committee on the updated SIEC Subcommittees. It is recommended that subcommittees will be conducted more frequently and researching if they can be legally conducted via Teams calls to allow committee members to meet without driving to Baton Rouge. Jake will update the committee after he gets guidance from GOHSEP Legal Department.

III. New Business

- A. Thibodeaux Tower was already confirmed to be under the Louisiana maintenance contract in an earlier SIEC Committee meeting.
- B. Hunter Tower request to be added to the states maintenance contract was unable to be discussed due to a lack of documentation to support the request.
- C. Cleve Franklin detailed why it would benefit the state for the addition to Interop Channels 11 & 12. Conrad Baker made the motion for the addition of the two channels and Bobby Moore second the motion. The committee voted unanimously to pass the two additional Interop Channels.

- D. Cleve Franklin discussed establishing a Legislative Affairs Subcommittee as per the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The committee discussed the pros and cons of establishing this subcommittee, and decided not to establish the Legislative Affairs Subcommittee due to the organization has a legislative council that serves this function.
- E. Jake Chatfield recommended to the SIEC Committee to nominate a Co-Chair in case Mark Ward the chairman is unable to conduct future meetings. Captain Conrad Baker was nominated. Bill Vincent made a motion for the addition, and Mike Moore second the motion. The committee voted unanimously to pass Conrad Baker to be the Co-Chair of the SIEC Board.
- F. Committee discussed upcoming tower projects for Golden Meadow, Zachary, and Iberville tower sites. All the sites have been approved and the board is waiting on funding to move forward with all projects.

IV. Public Comments

No Comments

V. Next Quarterly Meeting

Chairman Mark Ward advised the committee that without objection, the next quarterly meeting of the SIEC would be April 26, 2026 at 1:30 PM, in person at the GOHSEP's EOC. There were no objections.

VI. Adjournment

Bobby Moore made a motion to adjourn, and Dawson Primes second the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:25 pm.