



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
<http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/interop.htm>

BRANT MITCHELL
CHAIRMAN
SONYA WILEY-GREMILLION
VICE CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
July 25, 2012

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at The Louisiana State Police Headquarters, Conference Room B, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Pat Santos called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The SIEC roll call was called by Travis Johnson, and a quorum was established.

The following SIEC members were present or absent as noted:

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Pat Santos	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)-Office of Interoperability
Major Brant Mitchell	Louisiana National Guard
Mike Gusky (Proxy for Ed Driesse)	Division of Administration
Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Richard "Dick" Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Randall Dunaway (Proxy for Chief Mike Knaps)	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Ken Hughes	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Doug Hebert	Region 5
Eric Derouche (proxy for Sonya Wiley-Gremillion)	Region 6
William Edge	Region 7
Merrick Tassin	Region 9

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Frank Jordan	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
Tracy Hilburn	Region 8
Lee Hebert	Region 4

III. Approval of Minutes

Merrick Tassin made a motion to approve the September 28th, 2012 meeting minutes. Ken Hughes seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2012 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Pat Santos began by welcoming all members to the meeting.

Chairman Santos went over personnel changes within the SIEC as well as GOHSEP. Brant Mitchell has taken a position at the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute at LSU. He thanked Brant for all the work he did to move communications and interoperability forward not only with the SIEC, but also at GOHSEP. The Louisiana National Guard has appointed Brant as the LANG representative to the SIEC so his knowledge and experience will still benefit the committee. He also noted that SIEC Secretary Travis Johnson has returned from his military deployment to Afghanistan. He thanked Travis for his service and noted that Travis will be taking over the administrative responsibilities that Brant was handling.

Chairman Santos updated the SIEC on the Louisiana 700MHz Narrowbanding waiver status. The FCC published the Louisiana waiver request for public comment Friday, July 20th for 14 days, ending August 3rd. The full FCC will be brought before the full commission after the public comment period.

Chairman Santos then discussed the National Governor's Association National Broadband Plan meeting in Washington DC. A group from Louisiana met with the NTIA, NGA, and the FCC. The group brought back handouts from the meeting and provided them to the SIEC members in their meeting binders to update the members on the current status of the project. This will be a multi-year project that each state will have to decide to opt into or opt out of. There are pros and cons to each position. Later in the meeting Jeya Selvaratnam will give a presentation that the group received at the meeting to give the SIEC a high level overview of the issue.

Chairman Santos also provided the SIEC with an overview of a consulting contract GOHSEP entered into with a Washington DC consulting firm called The Digital Decision, headed by Robert LeGrande. The contract was less than twenty thousand dollars, and provides support reviewing the SCIP to identify

updates needed to integrate a broadband build out, as well as meeting coordination in Washington to address issues such as broadbanding.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

DPS provided a LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website as noted by Chairman Santos.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Technical Sub-Committee

Mr. Eric Deroche reported that the committee had a meeting pertaining to three requests to the SIEC for LWIN infrastructure issues. The first was a request from West Baton Rouge Parish to utilize a microwave loop installed in the Baton Rouge area to utilize part of the microwave path to tie in their mobile command post. After review this was approved. Pointe Coupee Parish put in a request to add a tower and channels to existing LWIN sites but has not submitted the proper documentation per LWIN policy. Their consultant has been notified and is working on getting proper documentation submitted for review. Bossier Parish requested to use the existing T1 in place from an LWIN site in the Shreveport area back to the Zone Controller to put their backup fire dispatch consoles on it. This required SIEC approval for the use of the T1 line and DPS/DOTD approval to access the DPS tower built on DOTD property for their equipment. The Technical Subcommittee has requested some additional information on the project.

B. Policy and Planning Sub-Committee

No Report

C. Budget and Finance Sub-Committee

Christina Dayries reported there was no appreciable change to the budget from FY12 to FY13. Out of the 9.2 million dollars appropriated to GOHSEP for FY13 that starts July 1, 8.9 Million is transferred to DPS for system maintenance. The money also pays for 6 positions at DPS and 4 positions at GOHSEP and a small amount for travel and operating services for the mobile command post and basic supplies.

VII. Old Business

Jeya Selvaratnam gave a presentation that the Louisiana delegation received at the National Governor's Association Broadband meeting in Washington DC to give the SIEC a high level overview of the issue.

VIII. New Business

- A. Chairman Santos asked Ken Hughes to report on his involvement in the FirstNet Technical Advisory Board.

Mr. Hughes reported he was selected as one of the 14 members of the FirstNet Technical Advisory Board. The board wrote the technical requirements for the Public Safety Broadband project. The result is a 100 page report that was posted to the FCC website. One of the issues the committee struggled with in building the framework that FirstNet will use in putting out their RFP was trying to keep public safety interests balanced with commercial carrier compatibility. One example is prioritization where public safety would like priority over all other users, a prospect that is difficult for commercial carriers to support. Mr. Hughes advised the committee that as the system is built out there is a fine line to walk between the features needed by public safety users and the ability to roam onto commercial broadband systems. This system will be built out over the next decade, and just like any other cellular system will be built out in the bigger cities and along the interstate system and slowly move out to the rest of the country, meaning the public safety community in Louisiana will be dependent on commercial carriers for quite some time.

- B. Super Bowl Communications

Ken Hughes informed the committee that during the Super Bowl Region 1 is planning on creating a communications plan that may include many of the Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups as well as the possibility of requesting the use of Coordination Talk One and Two Talkgroups from other regions for the week of the Super Bowl. Mr. Hughes also expressed concern over the possibility of “eavesdropping” by personnel outside the region adversely affecting communications, and asked that the existing policy regarding eavesdropping (Policy 003 Interoperable Channels and Talkgroups Policy, section 5 Monitoring of Talkgroups/ Eavesdropping) be enforced. Jeya Selvaratnam stated that DPS Radio Maintenance has the ability to use the LWIN system technology to prevent individual users from eavesdropping.

Bill Vincent expressed concerns over using the Regional Coordination Talk talkgroups for the Super Bowl, and asked that work be done to limit the use of those talkgroups. Mr. Hughes assured the committee that the Super Bowl Communications Subcommittee will work to create a communications plan that will use system resources efficiently.

- C. Requesting Interoperability Talkgroups

Richard Gremillion asked how requests for Interoperability Talkgroups were handled. Several members commented that there is an SIEC policy (Policy

007 Network Coordination) that outlines the procedure and responsibilities to request the Interoperability Talkgroups.

D. System Software Upgrade

Mr. Hughes expressed concern over the possibility of upgrading the LWIN system software in close proximity to the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras operations. Mr. Selvaratnam assured the committee that all upgrades would be complete before the operations, and that no updates would take place at that time.

E. LWIN Revenue

William Edge asked the committee if there were any new developments in the search for new funding sources for LWIN. The discussion centered on the opposition from all parties of the user fee model, and another source would have to be identified.

F. Contact Procedures for Users with LWIN Issues

Mr. Edge asked what the procedure is for users to bring technical problems and other LWIN issues to the proper parties as several user agencies in Region 7 have contacted him with LWIN issues. Several members responded that there are DPS Radio Maintenance phone numbers on the LWIN website for technical issues. Travis Johnson stated that the SIEC Regional Members are the local points of contact for the regional users.

G. LWIN Coverage Issues

Ricky Edwards brought up that in the meeting minutes from the February meeting coverage issues in St. Mary Parish were discussed. Mr. Edwards inquired what the outcome of that discussion was, and whether there was a resolution to the issue. Eric Derouche stated the issue was discussed by the Technical Subcommittee, but no funds are available to fix the coverage gap. Mr. Selvaratnam stated that there were similar issues around that state where coverage issues exist that are not large enough to utilize a new site cost effectively, but large enough to effect the service of the local users. Chairman Santos stated that there was a similar issue in Allen Parish and asked Travis Johnson and Jeya Selvaratnam to investigate the issue and look into possible solutions. Randall Dunaway stated that at the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police meeting the week prior in Shreveport Chief McGuire from Franklin indicated that over 50% of the city of Franklin was a "dead zone" and asked that the issue be addressed at the meeting. Chairman Santos reiterated that the issue would be investigated along with the issue in Allen Parish.

H. Mutual Aid Repeaters

Mr. Gremillion reported that Sonya Wiley-Gremillion had inquired about the status of the mutual aid repeaters throughout the state. Mr. Selvaratnam stated that although there is no longer a mandate for mutual aid repeaters, wherever there was a mutual aid repeater on the old system there is an operational mutual aid repeater with the new rebanded mutual aid frequencies. Bill Vincent stated that there are agencies throughout the state in varying states of the rebanding process, and there are a mixture of old, new, and “back-to-back” co-located old and new repeaters.

IX. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Santos recommended the next SIEC meeting be scheduled for October in order to provide more time for FirstNet to be seated and possibly provide Broadband guidance.

William Edge made a motion to adjourn. Ronald Bourque seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.