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

CHRIS GUILBEAUX  
CHAIRMAN  
SONYA WILEY-GREMILLION  
VICE CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES**  
January 28, 2015

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters, Conference Room B, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Chris Guilbeaux called the meeting to order at 1:30 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:

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Chris Guilbeaux	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Ivory Junius proxy for Neal Underwood	Division of Administration
SFC Stephen Cockerham proxy for Major Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Randall Dunaway proxy for Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Robert Benoit	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
LTC Adam White	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
Eric Miller proxy for John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Jeb Tate proxy for Aaron Miller	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Stacey Blanchard	Region 4
Lt. Chris Oakes, proxy for Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
Wes Edge	Region 7
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9

<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Artice Dowdy	Region 8
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion made a motion to approve the October 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Chief Merrick Tassin seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2014 meeting.

### **IV. Chairman's Report**

#### **A. Ponchatoula Coverage**

The Hammond tower antenna was moved, greatly improving Ponchatoula coverage. Thanks to Tom Frick from Radio Communications for all the hard work. Chris mentioned that the Ponchatoula Chief of Police stated that due to improved coverage they will not need the mobile LWIN Trailer at the Strawberry Festival this year.

#### **B. Anacoco site**

The Anacoco site in Vernon Parish just north of Leesville went on air January 5<sup>th</sup>. Vernon Parish OHSEP Director Kenneth Moore advised that interoperability along the Texas border has increased substantially due to the new tower.

#### **C. Recent LWIN Interoperability Activities**

Since the last SIEC meeting statewide interoperability talkgroups have been used for numerous events including Southern Football, LSU Football, Harahan Christmas Parade, Natchitoches Christmas festival, Louisiana Marathon, MLK parade, Ascension Sheriff Office manhunt, and a Prayer Rally at LSU.

#### **D. LWIN Roadmap**

Chairman Guilbeaux reminded the committee of the ongoing discussions regarding LWIN system software version upgrades, and that some of the upgrades will require new software or hardware and associated equipment such as repeater sites, and consoles. Specifically, Motorola has advised the State that older consoles purchased before 2011 will need to be upgraded when the State upgrades the system software. Motorola also advised that the estimated cost is \$40,000.00 per console. Chris advised that the State has not decided on a date for the next software version

upgrade and that he will request that the SIEC Technical Subcommittee review the information provided by Motorola and provide a recommendation to the SIEC. This preliminary console cost is to allow time for local agencies who may be impacted to begin budget preparations.

Eric Deroche requested that the SIEC provide a letter to the local agencies outlining the State's reasons for the upgrade, timeline, and projected cost once a final implementation plan is completed by the SIEC.

Chairman Guilbeaux agreed and advised he will prepare a letter once the SIEC has finalized its plan.

## **V. Statewide System Maintenance**

Terry Waggenpack with the Office of Technology Services (OTS) Radio Communications section provided the LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)**

BFSC Chairman Ricky Edwards was not in attendance so Christina Dayries provide an update on the Budget.

Christina stated that there have been no recent changes in the LWIN Budget. Capacity and coverage upgrades were funded through remaining re-banding funds. The LWIN budget continues to being funded by Louisiana State Police riverboat gaming funds. The staff and expenditures are within the Office of Technology Services Radio Communications sections under the Division of Administration, and GOHSEP only provides administrative assistance to OTS and LSP.

### **B. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)**

TSC Chairman Eric Deroche provided the following report:

- Catahoula coverage request – The proposed existing tower location did not provide adequate coverage. A new tower location was identified between Harrisonburg and Enterprise to better serve the area.
- Allen Parish new site – After reviewing available options the tower to be located at the new Allen Parish Sherriff's Office location on

Raymond Reed Rd. in Oberlin was selected. The projected completion date is March 2015.

- Rapides Parish Coverage – the OTS Radio Communications Section study found generally good portable radio coverage in the area tested, with some low signal levels. A coverage gap was identified on LA 28 at the parish line. In addition, there was no in-building coverage at Buckeye High School, Buckeye Middle School, and H.R. Lawrence Elementary School. OTS Radio Communications is working with the Technical Subcommittee and local officials to find a suitable location for a new tower as well as possible funding for the new site.

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion advised the committee that Kay Radio is researching possible locations to build a tower including one location at the intersection of LA28 East and LA115 for the new Rapides Parish P25 radio system. According to projected coverage maps this site would also provide coverage for the LWIN coverage gap identified at the same location as well as providing in-building coverage at the schools listed in the OTS Radio Communications report. Chairman Guilbeaux asked that the coverage maps and any other pertinent information be sent to the Radio Communications for review so the site can be added to the list and prioritized for funding.

Ellis Boothe, director at the Catahoula Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, stated that a tower in the northern part of Rapides Parish would also benefit the southern portion of Catahoula Parish, as well as Grant and LaSalle Parishes. Director Boothe went on to say the proposed Catahoula tower would also benefit Franklin, LaSalle, and Caldwell Parishes. Chairman Guilbeaux asked if there was a similar plan to build a tower for the Catahoula site. Dale Weishuhn with Kay Radio stated they have a verbal agreement for the land for a tower and are ready to build if there is an agreement to put an LWIN site in the north Catahoula location.

- Livingston Parish- OTS Radio Communications is investigating possible solutions to the coverage issue in the south-east corner of the parish.
- Sonya Wiley-Gremillion made a motion to give approval for an LWIN tower site at the Harrisonburg site in North Catahoula parish pending all proper paperwork, documentation, and funding. Dick Gremillion seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### C. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

No report.

#### D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

LTC Adam White provided the following report.

Under the activities of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP):

- Hired Jeya Selvaratnam within GOHSEP as a part-time Technology Consultant.
- Selected Allison McLeary as SLIGP Program Manager, hiring date scheduled for February 6, 2015.
- We will be hiring a SLIGP Outreach Coordinator position soon.

The main goal of the first phase of the SLIGP grant is outreach to determine the broadband needs of the first responder community. The outreach activities are underway. Louisiana FirstNet presentations were given at the GOHSEP's Annual Conference to inform and educate the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) Directors about the FirstNet project. Outreach will continue and will request that an outreach meeting be held in each of our 64 parishes. We will also be reaching out to the various Louisiana first responder associations to schedule presentations at their conferences or meetings. If anyone is interested in hosting an outreach presentation session, please contact our SLIGP staff.

We are currently developing a new website for the Louisiana FirstNet efforts at "FirstNet.LA.gov". A Twitter account "@LAFirstNet", and an email address for FirstNet activities "[FirstNet@LA.gov](mailto:FirstNet@LA.gov)" has been established.

As part of the SLIGP grant requirements, there will be an "Initial Consultation Meeting" with the FirstNet members scheduled late spring or summer. All SIEC members and statewide first responder stakeholders will be invited.

LTC White suggested adding a representative from the fire department community to the broadband subcommittee. Chairman Guilbeaux agreed and advised he will appoint a fire department member prior to the next subcommittee meeting.

#### **VII. Old Business**

None

#### **VIII. New Business**

Julio Peck from OTS Radio Communications informed the committee that Livingston Parish OHSEP Director Mark Harrell contacted his office regarding in-building coverage issues in the Denham Springs area and that Mr. Harrell requested the SIEC look into addressing his concerns. Julio stated that this area is part of the Baton Rouge Major Metropolitan Area. Chairman Guilbeaux asked that Region 2 representative Billie Giroir coordinate with Mr. Harrell and provide information to the Technical Subcommittee for review and recommendation.

#### **IX. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Chairman Chris Guilbeaux recommended that next regular meeting date be held on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. All members concurred.

Eric Deroche made a motion to adjourn. Wes Edge seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.