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State of Louisiana
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
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CHRIS GUILBEAUX
CHAIRMAN
SONYA WILEY-GREMILION
VICE CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
August 27, 2014

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at The Louisiana State Police Headquarters, Conference Rooms C&D, 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 called 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
Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
SFC Stephen Cockerham proxy for Captain Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Aaron Miller	Region 1
Anthony Summers, proxy for Billie Giroir	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Stacey Blanchard	Region 4
Lloyd Miller	Region 5
William Edge	Region 7
Artice Dowdy	Region 8
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Robert Benoit	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6

III. Approval of Minutes

Ricky Edwards made a motion to approve the January 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Chief Merrick Tassin seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014 meeting.

Chief Tassin asked if the meeting that was held in May should be noted in the minutes. It was decided that since there was no quorum at that meeting no official business took place, but a note would be made on the SIEC website showing a meeting was scheduled but no quorum was present.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Guilbeaux presented the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and advised that the SIEC was provided technical assistance from the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to revise the SCIP. The received a draft copy of the SCIP four weeks ago for their review and comments.

Bill Vincent made a motion to adopt the SCIP. Dick Gremillion seconded the motion. Christina Dayries noted that the SCIP references "DPS Radio Communications" and that the section has been officially consolidated with the Office of Technology Services (OTS) under the Division of Administration (DOA) and the SCIP should reflect the agencies correct name.

Dick Gremillion asked if administrative changes such as updating an agency's name or spelling corrections that did not substantively change anything were not required to go before the committee to be changed.

Bill Vincent amended his motion to approve the SCIP with the name change from DPS Radio Communications to DOA/OTS accordingly. Dick Gremillion seconded the motion as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Guilbeaux told Dick Gremillion that he would look into the issue of whether or not clerical changes that do not materially change the intent or plan can be handled at the Chair's discretion.

Chairman Guilbeaux then briefed the SIEC on the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) interoperability activities since the last meeting. Interoperability talkgroups were used for a homicide investigation at East Feliciana, Bayou Country Superfest, a manhunt in Tangipahoa parish, and a NOLA Task Force among others. Successful deployment of LWIN tower trailers at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival in April and the Marengo Swamp ride in June.

Chairman Guilbeaux requested that the SIEC review the current representation and subcommittee membership to determine if changes are needed.

After discussion among the members, the Budget and Finance subcommittee will add a representative from DOA/OTS and the Technical subcommittee will add a Louisiana National Guard representative.

Chairman Guilbeaux welcomed the new representative from Region 4, Stacey Blanchard, noting that many of the members are probably already familiar with her from her work with APCO and the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office. Chairman Guilbeaux thanked Stacey for serving on the committee.

Chief Robert Benoit, Lafayette Fire Department is replacing Chief Ronald Bourque who retired as the Louisiana Fire Chief's Association.

Chairman Guilbeaux presented the LWIN video (approximately 15 min) produced by Tusa Consulting Services. LWIN is a true success story as evidence by how inclusive the system is of all first responders and how many users are taking advantage of the system.

Jeya Selvaratnam advised that the plan is to roll out the video to the public, provide CD copies of the video to SIEC members and publish to the internet at the committee's discretion. Chairman Guilbeaux advised he would add to the LWIN website. Jeya said he encouraged local agencies to put it on their website. Jeya asked that the SIEC vote to accept the video and distribute it.

Chief Tassin so moved, seconded by SFC Cockerham. The motion passed unanimously. Christina Dayries asked that there be an edit to the funding wording to add information about state and local funds that were leveraged to build and implement the LWIN. Christina was requested to provide Tusa Consulting the updated wording for the video. Chief Tassin amended his motion accordingly and SFC Cockerham again seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

Julio Peck with OTS Radio Communications provided the LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)

The TSC had a conference call to discuss New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD)'s request to use Integrated Voice and Data (IV&D) services to allow the transmission of GPS data and status messaging from fire equipment to improve response time for Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) ratings and approved to recommend that the SIEC approve as long as voice takes precedence over data on the system with the condition that NOFD share the server for other agencies that would like to use that system.

Eric Deroche made a motion to allow NOFD to use IV&D. Wes Edge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

Bill Vincent stated the subcommittee has had nothing before it to report.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Ricky Edwards asked Christina to provide an update on the Budget.

Christina Dayries stated that the LWIN maintenance budget was passed in the recent legislative session. The funding source for the continued maintenance would be absorbed by DPS Riverboat Gaming Funds totaling approximately \$8.9 million

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

Jeya Selvaratnam advised the SIEC that Louisiana received the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) award from the Department of Commerce in order to prepare for FirstNet. The grant is approximately \$2.4 million with 20% state matching funds of approximately \$400 thousand and an 80% federal share of approximately \$1.9 million. Jeya explained that the grant is two phases. The first phase is to help with outreach, education, and facilitating meetings with the potential customers to discuss issues such as what coverage they are looking for and how many subscriber units they may have on the system. Jeya stated that outreach and education will begin soon. The single point of contact for the grant appointed by the governor is Colonel Mike Edmonson and he will receive input from the SIEC. Grant funding will be used toward hiring a consultant and additional staff to implement the education and outreach

activities. Jeya said that Colonel Edmonson will work with GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis to address these issues.

VII. Old Business

A. Region 5 – Texas Patch

Lloyd Miller reminded the committee that last October he asked the SIEC to consider an interoperability patch in Region 5 (R5) between LWIN and the local system in Southeast Texas. It was Mr. Miller's understanding this patch is similar to the patches with Mississippi and Arkansas. He advised that this is of particular interest to law enforcement agencies for pursuits that cross the state line. Vinton Fire Department also regularly works with the Orange Fire Department in Texas for various reasons including forestry issues and the local ambulance provider crosses the border daily. The project is now at a standstill. The original plan was to use an audio bridging device and this idea was presented to the SIEC in October of 2013 for approval. Mr. Miller continued that Eric Deroche told him the TSC had approved this, so he would like a status report.

After a in-depth discussion to gather more details by SIEC members, it was determined that Mr. Miller resubmit a detailed scope of operations including any related funding requests to the Technical subcommittee.

Bill Vincent made a motion that once the TSC had the updated request and if they unanimously approved with no funding issues that the SIEC approve the request under those conditions. Ricky Edwards seconded the motion. Chief Tassin requested that the results of the TSC decision be disseminated to the full committee. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve.

B. City of Ponchatoula

Jeya Selvaratnam advised the SIEC that the Radio Communications section checked out the antenna on the Hammond site and found that the antenna is mounted on the opposite side of the tower from the city. The initial plan was to look into moving the antenna, but Motorola did not believe based on their studies that this would solve the problem. Consequently there is no technical solution at this time other than adding another site.

C. Catahoula

Jeya Selvaratnam advised that the Radio Communications section determined that the tower suggested by the local users would not adequately cover the gap based on location and height. Another site is

needed to cover that gap. He and his staff are continuing to work with the City and Motorola to identify potential solutions.

Chairman Guilbeaux asked for a written response on behalf of the SIEC be drafted in regards to the Catahoula tower and sent to the Region 6 Representative Sonya Wiley-Gremillion and Catahoula OHSEP Director, Ellis Boothe. Mr. Selvaratnam stated he would provide something in writing.

D. Morehouse

Mr. Selvaratnam informed the SIEC that Radio Communications in Alexandria checked the coverage and was unable to find any coverage issues. He advised that Radio Communication will continue to work with the local Emergency Management office to identify the trouble spots.

VIII. New Business

A. Allen Parish

Lloyd Miller advised the SIEC of coverage issues in Allen Parish and that if needed Lt. Chris Oakes from the Allen Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO) is in attendance to explain the issue

Lt. Oakes mentioned that the APSO has a 350' tower that has been FCC approved and is ready to be built in the Oberlin area that will provide full coverage to the areas with coverage issues. The parish can commit the tower, building, and generator if they can identify funding for the repeater package.

Jeya Selvaratnam added that this coverage issue was identified as a hole in the past and the SIEC was going to cover the gap but the local response agencies stated LWIN wasn't a priority at that time, so the funds were used elsewhere. Mr. Selvaratnam asked if Lt. Oakes had the Sheriff's blessing for this request and whether a six channel site would be sufficient. Lt. Oakes said the Sheriff was now supportive and that a six channels would be sufficient and that they have coverage maps that show with the addition of that site Allen Parish would have full coverage.

Jeya Selvaratnam suggested a motion be made by the SIEC to build a site if funds are available utilizing the tower provided by the parish.

Mr. Gremillion made the motion that the site be built if the funds were available as the site would benefit St. Landry, Acadia and Jeff Davis Parish as well. Ricky Edwards seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the motion.

B. 911 Funding

Chief Tassin advised the committee that they may need support as some of the 911 centers are working with APCO to pass legislation to allow 911 centers to receive mandated fees. Many 911 districts have seen home fees go down as consumers switch from dedicated home phone lines that are charged a 911 fee to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) type lines that are not charged. Bill Vincent informed the committee that the Louisiana chapter of APCO has an active legislative committee that is looking at the potential for a legislative package possibly in the upcoming legislative session to address these issues. Nothing has been finalized but it is being looked at and he will keep the SIEC informed of the progress. Chief Tassin stated that he believed it is important to also allow local jurisdictions the ability to raise cell phone fees. Mr. Vincent encouraged the SIEC to become involved in APCO as they are looking into all aspects of this issue.

C. In-Building Coverage Ordinances

Aaron Miller asked the SIEC to provide him any information members may be aware of regarding International Fire Consultants (IFC) chapter 510 Emergency Responder Radio Coverage in buildings. Mr. Miller is soliciting information regarding local regulations to mandate buildings have bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) to ensure in building coverage.

Chairman Guilbeaux asked the SIEC to send any information they may have to Mr. Miller in addition to the SIEC as this may be an issue that comes up again in another area.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Guilbeaux advised that the next regular meeting date would fall on Wednesday October 22nd, 2014.

Eric Deroche made a motion to adjourn. Chief Tassin seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.