



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

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

BRANT MITCHELL
CHAIRMAN
SONYA WILEY-GREMILION
VICE CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
October 24, 2012

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at The Louisiana State Police Headquarters, Conference Room C&D, 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
Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Randall Dunaway (Proxy for Chief Mike Knaps)	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Ken Hughes	Region 1
Lt. David Luker (Proxy for Billie Giroir)	Region 2
Lee Hebert	Region 4
Lloyd Miller (proxy for Doug Hebert)	Region 5
William Edge	Region 7
Artice Dowdy	Region 8
Merrick Tassin	Region 9
Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Major Brant Mitchell	Louisiana National Guard
Mike Gusky (Proxy for Ed Driesse)	Division of Administration
Richard "Dick" Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security &

	Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6

III. Approval of Minutes

Randall Dunaway made a motion to approve the July 25, 2012 meeting minutes. William Edge seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2012 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Pat Santos began by welcoming two new SIEC members, Artice Dowdy who will represent Region 8, and John Taylor, representing the Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance.

Chairman Santos informed the SIEC that Louisiana's 700MHz narrowbanding waiver request had been approved by the FCC, and a copy was provided in the meeting binder. Two important points relating to the waiver were addressed. First, according to the FCC's ruling, Louisiana is responsible for resolving any interference caused by our wideband operation. Also, we have no recourse if neighboring states cause us interference as a result of narrowbanding.

Chairman Santos next relayed that the State of Arkansas, who submitted a letter of support for our waiver, submitted a waiver request of their own on September 5, 2012 for an extension of the narrowbanding deadline until 2024, just as the Louisiana waiver requested. The SIEC Staff will draft a letter in support of Arkansas's request when the FCC opens the request to public comment.

Chairman Santos then discussed UHF/VHF narrowbanding. The SIEC was reminded that the UHF/VHF narrowbanding and 700MHz narrowbanding are two different issues. VHF/UHF narrowbanding must be complete by January 1, 2013. The FCC has made it clear that there will be no waivers or extensions to this deadline. There is a tab in the meeting binder that shows the latest percentages from the FCC website.

Chairman Santos also provided the SIEC with an update on Public Safety Broadband. The governor of each state must appoint a person or committee to be the point of contact for a state's broadband efforts. Jeya Selvaratnam and Chairman Santos met with GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis and State Police Superintendent Mike Edmonson to keep them up to date on the issue. They concurred that the SIEC will be updated by the advisory committee. The final authority for any broadband decisions rests with the governor, including

whether to go with the national plan or to go with a state plan. There is a lot of work that needs to be done between now and somewhere in 2014 when the governor needs to make that decision.

We will create a subcommittee within the SIEC to focus on the broadband initiatives here in Louisiana. The people who are solicited to be on that committee will be selected based on their technical ability, local representations, and the other criteria the FCC and NTIA have suggested as the way forward. This committee will have a lot of work to do, including assessing where we stand as a state with the hardware and equipment we have on hand, and assessing the viability of existing towers for broadband use. Chairman Santos stated that he would like to solicit and get the membership on that committee in place by the next meeting on January 23rd, 2012.

The next topic discussed was the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, or IECGP. There are no new IECGP funds for 2012-2013. Remaining funds will be used to schedule the remaining Regional Interoperable Communications Training Events in regions 3, 4, and 6. Travis Johnson will resume that project in early 2013.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

DPS provided a LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Technical Sub-Committee

Travis Johnson provided the Technical Subcommittee report for Chairman Eric Deroche who was unable to attend the meeting. There was a technical subcommittee (TSC) meeting in September, and one of the topics was the Pointe Coupee Parish infrastructure project. The TSC looked at all the paperwork submitted by the parish and found everything to be in order. The subcommittee also looked at several coverage issues. Bill Vincent suggested using the mobile tower sites that are stored in different locations around the state to alleviate coverage issues such as the one in St. Mary Parish. The parish would agree to pay for the antenna, transmission lines, and utilities, and the state would provide the trailer until it was needed to replace a permanent tower elsewhere. Travis was asked by the TSC to contact St. Mary officials to see if this is something they would be interested in. Travis contacted OEP Director Duval Arthur, who said they are interested, and would like an estimate on the installation and monthly utility fees they would be responsible for. This request has been turned over to DPS. If the parish agrees, the issue would be brought back to the full SIEC for a vote.

B. Policy and Planning Sub-Committee

No Report

C. Budget and Finance Sub-Committee

Christina Dayries reported that GOHSEP has been working with DPS to complete our yearly budget request which is due November 1st. We are asking for an increase of about \$477,000 over our normal 9.2 million dollar budget to offset increases in maintenance expenditures.

VII. Old Business

Chairman Santos noted that Travis already covered the St. Mary Parish coverage issues. There was also a coverage issue in Allen Parish discussed at the last SIEC meeting. Chairman Santos asked Travis to go meet with the officials in Allen Parish. He met with Detective Chris Oakes with the Allen Parish Sheriff's Office, who related that the coverage issues were concentrated on the southeast corner of the parish. Travis verified the coverage issues caused by low signal levels in that area. Travis stated that the coverage issues were just north of Elton and up to the reservation, consistent with what our coverage maps show. Travis informed the committee that the sheriff is looking to build out his own VHF system, so it is not going to be a big issue, but something they would like us to look at none the less.

VIII. New Business

Ken Hughes asked if there was going to be an after action report conducted on Hurricane Isaac. Chairman Santos said that the AAR is ongoing, and we are meeting with all the regions. There will also be a state AAR on November 29, 2012. ESF2 will provide information to that report and that information can be brought back to the SIEC. Mr. Hughes requested that the information gathered in the AAR be used in training for the three remaining Regional Interoperable Communications Training Events in regions 3, 4 and 6. Chairman Santos agreed that it was a good idea and said the info would be used.

IX. Public Comments

Todd D'Albor, Chief of Police in Jennings, LA stated that they have coverage holes in the city of Jennings. They spoke with Tom Frick with DPS Radio Maintenance a couple of weeks ago, who came out to Jennings to do testing. Chairman Santos committed to send Travis or someone out to follow up and see what can be done.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Santos recommended the next SIEC meeting be scheduled for January 23rd to allow for the holiday season. Mr. Ricky Edwards asked if that would be an issue with the Super bowl and Mardi Gras events in New Orleans. Ken Hughes stated that the January 23rd date should be fine.

Chief Tassin asked if there were any updates on mapping projects. Christina Dayries provided an update to the committee, informing them that a 2.2 million dollar hazard mitigation grant was transferred from GOHSEP to Stevenson Disaster Management Institute at LSU to complete GIS over flight imagery projects. Brant Mitchell is at SDMI and will oversee this project. There are more flyovers scheduled to attain better resolution. GOHSEP still has a GIS person, Rusti Liner, who will work with Brant on this issue. GOHSEP will still administer Virtual Louisiana.

Lee Hebert made a motion to adjourn. Ken Hughes seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.

DRAFT