



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

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

PAT SANTOS
CHAIRMAN
SONYA WILEY-GREMILION
VICE CHAIRMAN

MINUTES
May 01, 2013

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 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)
Major Brant Mitchell	Louisiana National Guard
Randall Dunaway (Proxy for Chief Mike Knaps)	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Tommy Thiebaud (Proxy for Richard "Dick" Gremillion)	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Lt. David Luker (Proxy for Billie Giroir)	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Lee Hebert	Region 4
Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9
Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Vacant	Division of Administration
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance

Ken Hughes	Region 1
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
William Edge	Region 7
Artice Dowdy	Region 8

III. Approval of Minutes

Chief Ronald Bourque made a motion to approve the January 23rd, 2013 meeting minutes. Chief Merrick Tassin seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2012 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Santos began the meeting by welcoming two new members to the SIEC. Aaron Miller has been appointed to replace Ken Hughes as the Region 1 representative on the SIEC. Mr. Miller was not able to attend the meeting. Lloyd Miller, the new Region 5 Regional Interoperability Committee Chair, will be representing Region 5.

Chairman Santos then briefed the SIEC on some of the LWIN interoperability activities since the last meeting. The interoperability talkgroups were used extensively over the past few months for incidents ranging from the US Coast Guard and local responder coordination on a Tugboat fire in Jefferson Parish to a manhunt in Tangipahoa parish where local law enforcement used LWIN interoperability talkgroups to work with federal air support to apprehend a fugitive wanted in connection with a shooting. Mississippi Emergency Management officials also coordinated with DPS to conduct communications training on the interstate GulfWIN "GCI" interoperability talkgroups. Chairman Santos thanked all those involved with these activities and reminded the SIEC that this is the ultimate purpose of the system.

Chairman Santos next provided the SIEC with an update on several ongoing projects the Technical Subcommittee has been working on to improve coverage.

DPS is moving forward with a new site to address coverage shortfalls in Franklin, Louisiana in St. Mary parish to be called the "Baldwin Site." We have been working with the city police, sheriff's department, and the parish EOC to address that gap in coverage. Chairman Santos recognized the Louisiana Sheriff's Association for providing their mobile tower site in March to test out potential coverage provided by a new site. There is a purchase order in progress.

The Jennings Tower was approved by Technical Subcommittee. A purchase order has been issued and a contract is in place. We expect that tower to be built by June 30th.

We are also partnering with St. Tammany Parish to improve the LWIN system. DPS has been meeting with St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office to coordinate additional infrastructure currently planned to be built in St. Tammany Parish. They are putting up the preponderance of the funds and we are working with them to make that happen.

We had some discussion at the last meeting that led to a meeting with the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL). The two topics involved the NFPA Standard 1221. The discussion centered on the requirement in the standard that all sites have generators that are run in a weekly basis on a full load for one hour. The SIEC found that standard to be cumbersome. During the conversation with the PIAL they relayed that they could not change the national standards. They were asked to bring the issue up to the national board but they were reluctant to do that. LWIN Leases much of our tower space, cannot control all generators. Fortunately not having accomplished this criteria is only a fraction of a point lost.

Chief Boruque advised the committee that there were discussions at the last Fire Chief's Conference regarding wording in the standard that says if you can produce alternate means that meets the same conditions you meet the standard, and LWIN has redundancy built in so he will pursue that avenue.

Chairman Santos advised the committee that they also looked to the Alert FM system to provide paging capabilities to the Fire community. Unfortunately PIAL decided that Alert FM would not satisfy the requirement because the first responders do not own or maintain the Alert FM equipment.

Eric Deroche informed the committee that PIAL has awarded fire departments in his parish credit for redundant communications capabilities based on the ability to send out text based mobile phone messages.

Chairman Santos introduced Blaine Kelly with AT&T to provide an update on the issues brought up at the last SIEC meeting.

Mr. Kelly updated the SIEC on the following topics:

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP). One of the questions brought to AT&T was, "where do we stand with TSP?" The understanding was that the majority of public safety circuits were marked as TSP and that is not the case. AT&T went through the list of statewide 911 center circuits and determined that only out of 561 total trunks, only 137 were marked with TSP. Members are encouraged to get with Topper Hightower with AT&T to get your circuits marked with TSP to ensure they receive priority service as mandated by the FCC. Eric Deroche stated that he had all of his eligible circuits listed. Mr. Kelly also advised that Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) and 911 Centers must

provide authorization if they would like State Interoperability Staff to coordinated TSP status for them. As an example he stated that AT&T cannot release TSP status information to Travis (Johnson) without prior approval from the parish. Bill Vincent inquired as to the process to sign up for TSP. LTC Benjamin Bourgoyne with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) relayed that TSP is worked through the OEC and that he has contacts to help agencies work through the process, and that it was possible to sign up on-line. He advised members to email Travis Johnson if they had any questions as Travis has all of his contact information. Major Mitchell suggested that LTC Bourgoyne capture the steps in an email and sent it to Travis so he can distribute to the members.

The second issue Mr. Kelly addressed was colocation of AT&T personnel at the EOC level. AT&T has agreed to provide 5 or 6 people at the EOC level post storm to act as a liaison (LNO). A question was raised from the gallery regarding other public utilities staging liaisons in the EOCs before the storm. Mr. Kelly responded that it was a liability issue for AT&T but regardless, the LNO would not be able to do anything until after the storm as the repair crews would not be out until then. Chairman Santos elaborated that the liaisons LNOs will be coordinated by ESF2 based on projected storm impacts and EOC needs.

The third issue concerned pre-staging resources and post event dispatch criteria. Resources will be prestaged as close as possible to the projected impact area without endangering them. Similarly, dispatch criteria will be handled based on the specific requirements of the event. Mr. Kelly stated that AT&T will do everything they can to get trucks out as quickly as possible, and they will work to make sure once repair trucks are enroute the local emergency management personnel are notified.

Mr. Kelly's next topic was maintenance, where he described AT&T's yearly maintenance program. Maintenance will be performed on the generators before a hurricane. If you see an issue please report it to AT&T so they can address the issue.

A question was brought up from the gallery regarding difficulties contacting a representative.

Finally, Mr. Kelly introduced the topic of the Large User Council program that Bell South used to host. AT&T will revive this program with half day meetings held in Baton Rouge to discuss service and maintenance, and general process issues. Eric Deroche brought up that in the past quarterly Ongoing Maintenance (OGM) meetings were held regionally for 911 directors and emergency managers.

Chairman Santos then asked Mr. Kelly about AT&T's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) capabilities, and requested Mr. Kelly check to make sure this was enabled on the AT&T network as GOHSEP is about to have those messaging capabilities through the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS).

V. Statewide System Maintenance

Terry Waggenpack with DPS Radio Maintenance provided an LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)

Subcommittee Chairman Eric Deroche advised the committee that most Technical Subcommittee items have been covered with the exception of the Bayou Tower Site discussions with Terrebonne parish. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with Terrebonne parish, the TSC, and DPS to get a clear understanding of what they are trying to accomplish.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

Subcommittee Chairman Bill Vincent advised the committee that the PPSC has not met recently as the current policies have been working well.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Christina Dayries advised the committee on behalf of Subcommittee Chairman Ricky Edwards that there were no changes from the last meeting updates. The budget has been kept at the current levels for in the House and will be sent to the Senate. The current SIEC budget is 7,970,116 (proposed) for FY 13-14 beginning July 1. That is a roughly 2 million dollar reduction over previous years, 1 million in maintenance, and 1 million in eliminating all of GOHSEP's operating budget tied to the SIEC including four full time positions.

Bill Vincent asked if that budget is adopted do we expect any significant effect on the operation of the LWIN system. Jeya Selvaratnam stated that this will not have any direct effect on maintenance and system operation; rather it will limit capital expenditures for new system growth and enhancements. Mr. Selvaratnam stated that before the budget was reduced they were consulted to ensure the cuts would not negatively effect the operation of the system. The decision was not arbitrary and was a well thought out process in his opinion.

Mrs. Dayries also informed the committee there is potential grant money that becomes available as GOHSEP deobligates it from parishes that have not spent it. This money will become available periodically and can be used to help make up for budget cuts.

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

Subcommittee Chairman Jeya Selvaratnam advised the committee that GOHSEP has applied for the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) broadband planning grant on the SIEC's behalf. We expect the grant to be awarded around July. Additionally, Motorola is installing the LTE core that was provided as part of the 4th master site negotiations and have indicated that installation will be complete around August. Once the core is installed we will be able to operate if we have permission from the FCC. We will be able to provide more information in the next meeting.

Mr. Selvaratnam informed the committee that the BBSC met the day before and he briefed them on upcoming events and meetings, and he is planning on calling another meeting of the BBSC after the APCO broadband meeting.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

Deputy Chief of Police Daryl Worley with the Bossier City Police Department advised the committee that they are still having coverage issues. They have taken steps to alleviate some of the issues by installing BDA's to help in-building coverage. Some of the areas with coverage issues are the boardwalk, and between the river and Airline drive. The city is looking at replacing a 200' monopole with a new tower. They would like to ask the committee to put up a new LWIN site if they put up the tower.

Travis Johnson informed the committee that he looked into the issue several months ago and the day he did coverage testing everything worked. All signal levels in the area described were good and he was able to reliably access the system. They discussed programming issues with the subscriber radios as a possible source of the issues.

It was decided that DPS personnel would return to Bossier City to ride along with local responders to check trouble spots. Deputy Chief Worley will serve as the local POC for this issue.

IX. Public Comments

None

X. Adjournment

Chairman Santos suggested and it was agreed that the next meeting date would be Wednesday July 24th, 2013.

Eric Deroche made a motion to adjourn. Lee Hebert seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.

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