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

MINUTES
October 22, 2014

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Classroom One, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

I. Call to Order

Christina Dayries, proxy for 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
Christina Dayries, proxy for Chris Guilbeaux	Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Neal Underwood	Division of Administration
SFC Stephen Cockerham proxy for Major Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
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)
Aaron Miller	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Lt. Chris Oakes, proxy for Lloyd Miller	Region 5
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
William Edge	Region 7
Chief Merrick Tassin	Region 9

Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Stacey Blanchard	Region 4
Artice Dowdy	Region 8

III. Approval of Minutes

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion made a motion to approve the August 27, 2014 meeting minutes. Eric Deroche seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2014 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Ms. Dayries informed the committee that the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) has been updated with the recommendations from the last meeting and posted to the GOHSEP website under the LWIN Policy and Procedures page.

Ms. Dayries notified the committee that the LWIN video shown at the August 27, 2014 meeting has been updated with the funding edits as discussed at the last meeting. The LWIN video was emailed to the committee and has been posted to the LWIN website. CD copies of the video will also be available on request.

Ms. Dayries then briefed the committee on the LWIN interoperability activities since the last meeting.

- Interoperability talkgroups were used for a Nola Task Force
- State Police Troop A – Gonzales Police Department Coordination
- Participate in six Louisiana State University football games

Mrs. Dayries welcomed new SIEC members; Chief Robert Benoit from the Lafayette Fire Department representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association's and Lieutenant Colonel Adam White representing the Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

Terry Waggenpack with the Office of Technology Services (OTS) Radio Communications 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.

GOHSEP, the Office of Technology Services (OTS), and OTS Radio Communications have been worked together to prepare and submit the July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 budget request. The proposal was for a continuation budget of \$8.5 million. This includes approximately \$800,000 for system enhancements. The LWIN budget is projected to continue being funded from the DPS Riverboat Gaming funds.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

No report.

C. Technical Subcommittee (TSC)

TSC Chairman Eric Deroche advised the committee that the TSC met in September to discuss several issues. Chairman Deroche was not in attendance however the meeting was chaired by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion.

Chariman Derouche provided the following report:

- The Vernon Parish LWIN site has been installed, the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) has been granted, and the license application has been submitted to the FCC Region 18 frequency coordination chairman for approval.
- The Gibson LWIN site went on the air on October 21, 2014.
- There were two options discussed for the Allen Parish site, a tower owned by Kay Radio and one being built from Louisiana Radio Communications. The TSC asked that OTS Radio Communications review both proposals with the local responders and provide a recommendation for approval by the SIEC.
 - OTS Radio Communications determined that the Louisiana Radio Communication's proposal of a \$500 per month lease with the Allen Parish Sheriff's Office responsible for utilities, generator, and air conditioning was the best proposal to recommend adding to LWIN.

- The city of Ponchatoula coverage issues are being addressed. The purchase order should be processed soon to pay for a tower crew to move antennas on the Hammond tower site to determine if that will improve or solve the Ponchatoula coverage issue. OTS Radio Communications and the TSC are also looking into the possibility of using a tower under development by Entergy to determine if it will be a viable option. The Ascension parish tower at Di D Bop Lane in Livingston is also being considered. Currently there are engineers looking into possible interference issues with the Ascension parish radio system antennas currently on the tower.
- The Morehouse coverage issue was reviewed by OTS Radio Communications technician Paul Dupree who performed coverage tests in June and did not find any problem areas. Local officials referred him to an approximate two-mile coverage gap near the Arkansas border. Julio Peck stated that he spoke with local representatives of the Morehouse SO and OHSEP and they stated the coverage issue was not a priority for local responders at this time. No further work will be done at this time on the Morehouse coverage issue.
- Paul Dupree performed coverage testing in Catahoula Parish in June along the gap previously identified as “Gap 10” in the LWIN Gap Analysis. Catahoula officials have offered to pay for equipment installation if a suitable location is found. The DOTD tower suggested by the local users would not adequately cover the gap based on location and height. The local officials, OTS Radio Communication, and the TSC are looking for another site to provide the required coverage.

Chairman Derouche stated that the TSC completed a recommended “funding priority list” requested at the last SIEC meeting. The funding priorities identified are:

1. Increase capacity: Hahnville, Alexandria, and Lafayette tower sites
2. Increase coverage: the TSC will work with local officials to address coverage gaps and ask the local users to contribute where possible. The TSC has already discussed coverage issues for Eunice.
3. Purchase of Inter RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) to enable LWIN to be linked to other P25 systems such as the Mississippi Wireless Information Network (MSWIN) and the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN).
4. Microwave backhaul for coastal LWIN sites prone to flooding during a hurricane.

Dick Gremillion asked if the local contributions to assist in fixing gap coverage issues could be a capital expense (one time cost) or maintenance contributions (recurring cost). Mr. Deroche said that the State would accept either, depending on what the local users could offer. Mr. Gremillion then asked if State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds could be used for this. Ms. Dayries informed the committee that SHSP funds can be used for either a onetime capitol expense or recurring maintenance as long as it is within the grant project period. Mr. Gremillion asked that the SIEC let local users know SHSP grant funds can be used to address local LWIN coverage issues.

Vice Chairman Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked if deobligated SHSP funds would be used for these LWIN projects. Ms. Dayries stated the Regional OHSEP Directors Subcommittee meets to discuss Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding and the First Responders Subcommittee meets to discuss SHSP grant funds and both have recommended that 100% of the deobligated funds should go back into LWIN expenses.

Chairman Deroche also stated the SIEC would have to start looking at the costs involved in the next LWIN system software upgrade. Mrs. Dayries stated that here was a significant cost involved that was not covered by existing budget and a special one-time request would have to be prepared for the Executive Office and Legislative approval. OTS Radio communications is working with the vendor to prepare two proposals, one to complete the upgrade all at once, and another as a phased approach which would include onetime equipment cost and recurring maintenance for both the State and local agencies.

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

LTC Adam White from DPS is the new BBSC Chairman due to Jeya Selvaratnam's retirement.

Ms. Dayries reported that there have been administrative changes to the SLIGP grant such as changing the grant point of contact and programmatic reports. The changes have been completed and accepted by the Department of Commerce.

VII. Old Business

A. Region 5 – Texas Patch

This discussion is on hold pending information from Region 5.

VIII. New Business

Lt. Oakes asked the committee when data and GPS services would be available through LWIN. Eric Deroche and Aaron Miller responded that these services require additional equipment purchases from local agencies who wish to utilize them, but are available now and in-use in region one.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Dayries recommended that next regular meeting date be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. All members concurred.

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