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

MINUTES
October 23, 2013

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 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
Randall Dunaway, proxy for Chief Mike Knaps	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Tommy Thiebaud proxy for Dick Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS)
Woody Glover, proxy for Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
John Taylor	Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance
Aaron Miller	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
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
Captain Alan Dunn	Louisiana National Guard
Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
William Edge	Region 7
Artice Dowdy	Region 8

III. Approval of Minutes

Chief Merrick Tassin made a motion to approve the July 24th, 2013 meeting minutes. Chief Ronald Bourque seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 24th, 2013 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Guilbeaux began his report by informing the members that Tropical Storm Karen while not amounting to anything significant for the state provided an opportunity to run through pre-storm checks and procedures for hurricane season. We were fortunate that it came in late in the season and a cold front dissipated storm. Most emergency functions were stood up for the event not only at the State EOC but other state agencies tasked with either supporting or responding to an incident, including all ESF2 and LWIN maintenance checks.

The State Fire Marshall's office distributed 1200 radios to fire agencies throughout the state. All 1200 were purchased with grant funds. All 1200 radios have been programmed by DPS and delivered.

The new Livonia tower site is up and running in wide area service as of today.

Bossier City coverage concerns were discussed at the last SIEC meeting. We are happy to report that DPS is working in coordination with the local responders and a new tower has been installed. Chairman Guilbeaux stated he spoke with Cliff Oliver within the last few days and the tower is in place and we have the additional equipment to get the site up and running. The site should be operational shortly.

Chairman Guilbeaux then briefed the SIEC on some of the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) interoperability activities since the last meeting. Interoperability talkgroups were used fifty-five times for multiple events since the last meeting, including the St. Landry train derailment, a missing tuber on the Bogue Chitto River in Washington Parish, LSA Task Force use in Lincoln Parish, LSU Football, and the Gonzales Balloon Festival.

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)

No report.

B. Policy and Planning Subcommittee (PPSC)

SIEC Secretary Travis Johnson reported that there are no items currently before the PPSC.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFSC)

Christina Dayries advised the committee on behalf of Subcommittee Chairman Ricky Edwards that there is no change in the budget since the last meeting.

D. Broadband Subcommittee (BSC)

Subcommittee Chairman Jeya Selvaratnam advised the committee that we are still waiting on the State Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) funds.

Mr. Selvaratnam added that he would like to take this opportunity to further explain what is happening with Bossier City. The Shreveport, Greenwood, and Sentell sites were upgraded from 12 channels to 18 channels for anticipated growth that didn't occur. Since the need for more capacity never materialized, the extra channels were never activated. When Bossier City experienced coverage issues it was decided that 12 channels of this unused extra capacity could be used to create a new site. These channels in conjunction with the new locally built tower will provide needed on street and in building coverage for these primary LWIN users.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

Lloyd Miller inquired if there was any prohibition on industry using the LWIN system. Mr. Miller stated that there was a lot of industry expansion in the

Calcasieu / Cameron area and previously there was a "CARE" radio system linking the local industries on the City of Lake Charles system. Much of the new expansion will be along the coast in areas the Lake Charles system doesn't cover, but LWIN does.

Christina Dayries stated that according to policy applicants must be in the FCC public safety pool in order to use LWIN. Mrs. Dayries encouraged members to look over the policy to be sure it was within the allowable usage. Mrs. Dayries thought there may be a provision to cover that use if there was a demonstrable public safety need.

Jeya Selvaratnam added that this issue has come up in the past. If it is an industrial complex, Exxon, for instance, and they would like to put an LWIN radio in their control room so they are able to contact ambulance services or the Sheriff's department in an emergency, we encourage that. It is not for an industry to handle their internal business. If it is for the industry to contact LWIN users Mr. Selvaratnam thinks that is acceptable and allowed by policy and encouraged.

Mr. Miller then asked if each industry would have to apply individually or could they apply as an association. Mrs. Dayries responded that it was her understanding that the policy requires them to apply individually.

Mr. Miller also wanted to address the group regarding discussions Region 5 has been having with Southeast Texas public safety representatives. Mr. Miller said he knew during the gulf oil spill connections were made with Mississippi, Alabama, and even into Florida, but asked if connections were ever made with Texas.

Travis Johnson responded that yes, at the time there were connections with several of the systems as Texas is a System of Systems, not a statewide system like LWIN. The problem with the Texas coverage was that unlike the other connections in Mississippi and Alabama, it was an experimental ISSI connection through Motorola in Schaumburg, IL. Motorola provided this service free of charge during the oil spill crisis as a public service and as a test of the new technology. Unfortunately there was a substantial cost involved and after the end of the event there was never a funding source identified to keep paying for the service.

Mr. Miller advised that Texas has completed the system connections all the way from Harris County to Orange County on the Louisiana border, and the Orange county system has given them two talkgroups to use for interstate interoperability via an ACU-1000. Calcasieu Parish has a Motobridge from GOHSEP and will contribute radios to be used to connect to the Texas "super-system".

Chairman Guilbeaux suggested the Technology Subcommittee would look into in and Jeya Selvaratnam as our Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) can deal directly with the Texas SWIC Todd Early to work out any issues.

IX. Public Comments

Michael Murphy from the Lafayette Group commented that in his dealings around the country he works with many states and believes Louisiana has the most efficient system in the nation. The operations and policies are a model to the country, and he consistently sends people to the LWIN website to utilize LWIN policies as a template for their own. Mr. Murphy stated that the SIEC should be proud of the work they have done.

Chairman Guilbeaux thanked Mr. Murphy for his comments and said it was a testament to the work done by the members of the SIEC.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Guilbeaux advised that the next meeting date would be Wednesday January 22nd, 2014.

Tommy Thiebaud made a motion to adjourn. Chief Ronald Bourque seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.