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GOVERNOR

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

BRANT MITCHELL
CHAIRMAN
SONYA WILEY-GREMILION
VICE CHAIRMAN

MINUTES

Wednesday March 25, 2009

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at Louisiana State Police Headquarters, First Floor, Conference Rooms C & D, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brant Mitchell 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 and absent.

Committee Members Present	Representing Agency
Brant Mitchell	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)-Office of Interoperability
Ed Driesse	Division of Administration
Major Benjamin Bourgoyne (Proxy for COL Thibodeaux)	Louisiana National Guard
Sheriff Ricky Edwards	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Chief Freddie Drennan	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Ronnie Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Jeya Selvaratnam	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services
Mark Ford	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, Louisiana Chapter
Donna Newchurch	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
Ken Hughes	Region 1
Captain Bob Hale	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Lee Hebert	Region 4
Ken Harlow	Region 5
Harry Foster (Proxy for Sonya Wiley-Gremillion)	Region 6

Tommy Thiebaud	Region 9
Committee Members Absent	Representing Agency
Vacant	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Gary Peters	Region 8
Sandy Davis	Region 7

III. Approval of Minutes

Eric Deroche made a motion to approve the January 28, 2009 meeting minutes. Lee Hebert seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2009 meeting.

IV. Chairman's Report

A. Opening remarks

Chairman Brant Mitchell thanked Ken Hughes for all his hard work during the last eight months working for GOHSEP as he begins work as the Region 1 Communications Planner and Region 1 SIEC Representative. His hard work is greatly appreciated.

Chairman Mitchell welcomed the Ken Harlow as the new Region 5 representative, Harry Foster filling in for Sonya Wiley-Gremillion – Region 6, and informed the SIEC that Tommy Thiebaud will be representing the Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee by the next meeting.

B. Regional Interoperability Committees

Chairman Mitchell remarked that the Regional Interoperability Committees (RIC's) were coming along well, but several regions have yet to turn in their formal letters.

C. SOP Development Workshop

In lieu of next month's meeting the Department of Homeland Security is providing technical assistance to put on a Standard Operating Procedure Development Workshop April 22nd and 23rd at GOHSEP. All SIEC members are invited to attend.

D. Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) National Conference

The OEC National Conference will be held April 22nd- 25th in Chicago. Chairman Mitchell, Christina Dayries from GOHSEP as well as Jeya Selvaratnam from DPS, Mike Murphy from GSRCP. Chairman Mitchell

will be participation in the Governance Panel representing Louisiana and the SIEC.

E. IECGP Regional Communications events

The Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) funds will be used to hold regional communications events throughout the state. The first event has been confirmed as June 1-5 in Region 5. We will be working in conjunction with the Louisiana Sheriff's Association and other groups in the region. Template is in the process of being confirmed and we will look forward to sharing the final product in May.

F. FY09 Homeland Security Grant Application.

Chairman Mitchell advised that the FY09 Homeland Security Grant Application was submitted Friday for the state. Total amount allowed is approximately twenty-seven million dollars. There is an interoperability investment in application that will be discussed in the finance subcommittee report. New acquisitions are limited, but Mark Cooper has directed that we are going to continue to build out the LWIN system and add capacity. In addition to infrastructure; consoles, subscriber units, mobile assets, microwave redundancy among other items are included in the application.

G. COML Update

The first COML training was held at GOHSEP two weeks ago. Travis Johnson gave a brief update of the nature of the course and future plans for the state COML program.

H. Broadband Stimulus Funding

- I. Christina Dayries gave an update on Broadband Stimulus Funding. GOHSEP and the Office of Telecommunications are monitoring the bill progress and reporting to agency heads and the Governor. Applications should begin coming out in phases in April. Louisiana is interested in this funding and we are looking for the best approach to go after this funding, and will keep local agencies engaged in this progress. Total money allocated is 4.7 million dollars. It's still early in the process, but we will keep the SIEC informed as the program progresses.

J. COPS and Fire Grants

Chairman Mitchell noted that there are two other grants coming out. The COPS grant is being funded for the first time in several years, and the Fire grant will be out as well. If anyone is interested let us know and we will

work with you on endorsement letters or anything else to facilitate your efforts with these grants.

V. Statewide System Maintenance

Jeya Selvaratnam provided an overview of the current status of operational and proposed LWIN sites, subscriber statistics, and system coverage. Mr. Selvaratnam gave the SIEC an update on the status of current sites in progress, and the progress of the 3rd Zone. Chairman Mitchell informed the SIEC that the state stands at approximately 80% portable coverage, but there is an imbalance between the northern and southern parts of the state. South Louisiana stands at 94.3% portable on street coverage, and with the additional towers the coverage will be 95.7%. The goal has been met for South Louisiana. North Louisiana stands at 68.4% portable coverage, and once the current build out is complete the coverage will be 83% portable coverage. Will attempt to cover the shortfall with general funds, but will look at other means such as Homeland Security funds to continue building out to the goal of 95% statewide coverage.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Technical Sub-Committee

Technical Sub-Committee Chairman Eric Deroche presented the Technical Sub-Committee report.

- I. The Technical Sub-Committee met Monday, January 26th at GOHSEP. The Sub-Committee was briefed on an innovative technology for using Global Positioning Satellite chips into devices for emergency notification. The Technology Sub-Committee has taken the proposal under advisement.
- II. The Sub-Committee reviewed proposed tower sites to complete the 20 site project and gave authority to the Executive Committee to approve the remaining sites after GOHSEP and DPS finalize a recommendation.
- III. The Sub-Committee developed a small working group to recommend a redundant solution for the LWIN system to include microwave technology.

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion asked about the status of the 3rd Zone Master site. Jeya Selvaratnam said that Motorola is working on a timeline to implement the site

and conversion from 7.2 to 7.5, which should be complete by May 2008.

B. Policy and Planning Sub-Committee

There was no report from the Policy and Planning Sub-Committee.

Chairman Mitchell stated that GOHSEP is in the process of developing draft policies for Grade of Service, Infrastructure and standardizing the number of talkgroups per agency based on the number of subscriber units.

C. Budget and Finance Sub-Committee

Christina Dayries presented the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee report.

- I. The SIEC submitted an interoperability budget request to the Division of Administration for FY 2010 asking for an increase in funding from the state. The initial feedback GOHSEP is receiving from the DOA is the budget may either be held at or reduced from the continuation level.

VII. Old Business

No report.

VIII. New Business

No report.

IX. Public Comments

No report.

X. Closing

Chairman Mitchell announced the next SIEC meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday in March. There will be no February meeting due to Mardi Gras.

XI. Adjournment

Jeya Selvaratnam made a motion to adjourn. Eric Deroche seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.