



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

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

BRANT MITCHELL  
CHAIRMAN  
SONYA WILEY-GREMILLION  
VICE CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES**  
February 29, 2012

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 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 Tammy Onellion, and a quorum was established.

The following SIEC members were present or absent as noted:

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Pat Santos	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)-Office of Interoperability
SFC Stephen Cockerham (Proxy for LTC Champagne)	Louisiana National Guard
Mike Gusky (Proxy for Ed Driesse)	Division of Administration
Ronald Bourque	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Richard "Dick" Gremillion	Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee
Randall Dunaway (Proxy for Chief Mike Knaps)	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
Julio Peck (Proxy for Jeya Selvaratnam)	Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Services
Chuck Hurst (Proxy for Ricky Edwards)	Louisiana Sheriffs Association
Ken Hughes	Region 1
Billie Giroir	Region 2
Eric Deroche	Region 3
Lloyd Miller (Proxy for Ken Harlow)	Region 5
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6
William Edge	Region 7
Tracy Hilburn	Region 8

Merrick Tassin	Region 9
<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Representing Agency</b>
Vacant	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Bill Vincent	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Frank Jordan	Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
Lee Hebert	Region 4

### III. Approval of Minutes

Eric Deroche made a motion to approve the September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting minutes. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion seconded. The SIEC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting.

### IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Pat Santos began by welcoming all members to the meeting.

Chairman Santos briefed the SIEC Committee on the major reorganization of GOHSEP due to budgetary constraints that recently took place. He discussed how the Deputy Director for Interoperability and Homeland Security were merged into the Deputy Director for Emergency Management. In his address, Chairman Santos mentioned that he currently holds the title and responsibility for all three positions and by statute the Deputy Director for Interoperability chairs the SIEC, moving forward, he will serve as chair of the SIEC.

Chairman Santos noted some personnel updates, specifically Brant Mitchell, commending him on a job well done, his continuance to remain very involved in all matters regarding interoperability and will still oversee the day-to-day responsibilities for the Office of Interoperability within GOHSEP in addition to handling matters for the SIEC.

Chairman Santos gave an update on the build out of LWIN was nearing completion. He stated that in Mid-January, the last two remaining sites had their frequency application approved and were turned on bringing LWIN to a full 118 sites. The only remaining item that exists for the original design of LWIN is the fourth mastersite which is currently being installed by Motorola and DPS. In addition, he highlighted site improvements for better coverage, nearing 95% street portable coverage, addressing holes and continuing to look for opportunities to improve coverage on existing sites.

Chairman Santos gave an update on the FY-2012 Budget, the Governor's submission for FY-12/13 and will maintain the existing funding level for LWIN which is \$9.5 million. He mentioned looking forward to the FY-13/14 budget, the possibility of the need to increase the budget to meet the maintenance requirements of LWIN.

Chairman Santos gave an update on the significant change in Homeland Security Grant funding with the release of the FY-12 Grant Guidance decreasing funding 60% from last year's \$6.9 million to this year's \$2.9 million. He addressed DHS proposing that the grants become competitive on a regional basis meaning that Louisiana will be competing with limited number of dollars between Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. He emphasized GOHSEP's plan to be aggressive, the SIEC role in the process and it's responsibility to the original intent of the grant scope of work.

Chairman Santos addressed needs assessment, especially FY-13 grant guidance with knowing exact funding amounts, specifically knowing each dollar utilized before receiving the award. He detailed that a statewide needs assessment with be done to see parish standing in terms of migrating to LWIN or maintaining their own radio systems in addition to determine expectations for the first responder community as well as LTE.

## **V. Statewide System Maintenance**

DPS provided a LWIN System Maintenance Report. A copy can be found on the LWIN website as noted by Chairman Santos.

## **VI. Sub-Committee Reports**

### **A. Technical Sub-Committee**

Mr. Eric Deroche reported that the committee had a meeting the week prior to the SIEC meeting. The topics discussed were the dead zone in St. Mary Parish; LWIN, the future of the project especially with funding; and upgrades being two versions behind and how to rectify the issue. LTE was discussed and noted that at the Technical Sub-Committee meeting scheduled in April, Motorola will give an LTE presentation that will provide more information in addition to the bill recently signed by the president that will give more direction on the LTE project.

### **B. Policy and Planning Sub-Committee**

No Report

### **C. Budget and Finance Sub-Committee**

No Report

## **VII. Old Business**

Brant Mitchell reported on the FCC Waiver Update. He gave a background that the FCC originally granted 21 waivers for broadband deployment in Round

1. In March 2010, the SIEC authorized GOHSEP to move forward with a waiver for the State on behalf of the SIEC. There are an additional 27 waivers waiting for approval with the FCC including the State's, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans that were filed in 2010. Since the second round of waivers were submitted, only one has been approved and that was through an expansion of an existing waiver in Harris County in which it was made applicable to the entire State of Texas. Since the initial approval's the FCC has hinted that they initially made a mistake in approving municipal/county jurisdiction waivers and should have approved statewide waivers instead. Due to this, a collaborative effort between New Orleans, Baton Rouge and GOHSEP have been working collectively to consolidate our efforts into a single application that will be applicable to the entire state in an effort to encourage the FCC to approve our waiver.

Brant Mitchell detailed the trip to Washington D.C. to meet with our delegation to request a letter of support in which Congressman Cassidy and Congressman Richmond are taking a lead in getting the letter circulated and signed by our delegation. While there state representatives met with Congressman Cassidy and Scalia, along with the staffs of Congressman Richmond, Landry and Senator's Vitter and Landreau. All were very supportive.

Brant Mitchell also said that while in Washington D.C. there was a meeting with the FCC letting the FCC know of our intent to modify the State's waiver to include New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Attending the meeting was Ken Hughes, John Carpenter, the CAO for EBR, a EBR Lobbyist and the EBR Consultant. The group met with Jennifer Manner who is the Deputy Chief for the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. In addition, Chairman Santos and Director Kevin Davis had an opportunity to meet with Admiral Barnett the week before to make an argument for our waiver.

Brant Mitchell stated in moving forward we expect the letter of support from the Congressional Delegation to be filed shortly as they are just returning from a recess. We will have a mended application based on the Texas model that will also be submitted to coincide with the Congressional letter.

## **VIII. New Business**

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion inquired about the status of Mutual Aid Repeaters across the state.

Mr Louis Sigalas – FCC Region VI Representative addressed the SIEC ON his upcoming meetings with some jurisdictions severely impacted by hurricanes. He mentioned that he will be visiting the different Louisiana areas in the future while currently networking to meet the key leaders in order to be proficient in assisting with any future issues and needs of the state.

## **IX. Public Comments**

Merrick Tassin inquired about 9-1-1 funding. Brant Mitchell responded.

## **X. Adjournment**

Chairman Santos recommended the next SIEC meeting be scheduled for July or August.

Eric Derouche made a motion to adjourn. Ronald Bourgue seconded the motion. The SIEC voted unanimously to adjourn.