

Kansas SIEC  
Regular Meeting  
November 4, 2009

Minutes

The Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee met in regular session in the KDOT Executive Conference Room, 700 S.W. Harrison, in Topeka. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Members present.** Kent Koehler, Jimmy Reed, Deb Miller, Col. Terry Maple, Col. Chris Stratmann, Kerry McCue, Tyler Brewer, Richard Old, and Nathan Eberline / proxy for Kimberly Winn.

**Others present.** Lt. Scott Harrington (KHP), Mr. Ed Geer (KDOT), Mr. Scott Ekberg (KS-OEC), and Mr. JL Ellis (KS-OEC).

**Call to order.** The regular meeting of the Kansas SIEC was called to order by Kent Koehler, Chairperson.

**New members.** Kent Koehler reported that as a result of action taken at the August 5, 2009 meeting, two new members have been appointed to the SIEC. New members include Kimberly Winn, representing the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) and Allison Mueller, a county commissioner from Washington County, representing the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). Due to conflicts scheduled prior to their appointment to the committee, neither member could attend today. Moses reported that Kimberly Winn had appointed Nathan Eberline to represent her at today's meeting.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the August 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. With no additions or corrections, Kerry McCue made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Richard Old seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**(Action #09-09)**

**KS-OEC report.** Jason Moses reported on his activities since the last meeting. With the release of the 2009 HLS grant funds, he has been working with a number of regions on new communications projects. The projects include P-25 subscriber units in three regions, conversion of the KDOT tower site in Marion County to P-25 by the SC Region, P-25 control stations for the hospitals in the SC Region, and deployable assets in the NE Region. Moses has also attended several fall conferences for a number of professional organizations where he had updated members on the progress of many projects and demonstrated the ability to operate the MOTOBRIDGE system via the newly installed remote-dispatch application.

Scott Ekberg and JL Ellis presented an update on the training initiative. Accounting for training courses that started mid-year and scheduled courses in November and December, they anticipate ending the year with 85 courses reaching an estimated 2,000

students. Training is currently being delivered to the Kansas Highway Patrol. Upcoming training is planned for the KBI, Kansas National Guard, and some return trips to a number of counties. Members discussed ways to better advertise the training courses. To date, the courses have been coordinated through the County Emergency Managers along with notice to various organizations. Recommendations by committee members and KS-OEC staff included better outreach to professional organizations and the use of the KCJIS system.

**Chair activities.** Kent Koehler reported that he testified before the Joint Committee on Kansas Security in October. During his presentation, he updated committee members on SIEC activities and a number of initiatives concerning emergency communications and communications interoperability. Also in October, Jimmy Reed testified before the Special Utilities Committee on a number of topics including narrowbanding, radio systems, and 911. Both Koehler and Reed felt that their testimony was well received by the committee members.

**Success stories.** Kent Koehler discussed with the committee the need to collect and formally distribute success stories concerning communications interoperability initiatives in Kansas. Discussion followed. Secretary Miller agreed that we need a thorough explanation of what is going on with communications in Kansas. Kerry McCue suggested producing a video. Members discussed several ways in which to disseminate the information. Col. Stratmann agreed to coordinate the effort on behalf of the committee.

**PSIC / IECGP update.** Jason Moses updated the committee on the implementation of the PSIC Grant projects. He reported that all incomplete projects are moving along and should be complete by the September, 2010 deadline. Moses added that legislation had been passed that would allow a one year automatic extension of the PSIC Grant and was awaiting signature by the President.

Moses is preparing a PSIC project modification to accommodate the tower trailers being proposed in the SC Region and would like to submit all modifications to the original grant program at the same time. The Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) project came in under budget and the committee will need to determine how to use the balance of funds. The balance of STR funds is roughly \$231,000.00. The STR funding levels were pre-determined in grant guidance and could not be modified without up-front justification; however, the tower trailer project in the SC Region qualifies as STR and will allow for a budget modification of the \$231,000.00 balance. Understanding that many regions have used funds to enhance the statewide system infrastructure, Moses suggested using the balance of funds to convert another site to P-25 capability. Much discussion followed on potential site location. Moses also discussed the upcoming release of FY 2010 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) guidance. He anticipates the release on December 4, 2009. Moses indicated that there was enough funding in place to continue the planning and training initiatives and suggested using FY 2010 for P-25 site conversions if guidance will allow it. Members continued to discuss possible site locations. The only system sub-zone that will not have a site is NW14. KS-OEC staff and committee members discussed placing a site in NW

14 to provide some level of service. The Thomas County site is in the center of the sub-zone and should allow for mobile coverage along the I-70 corridor. Mr. Ed Geer agreed that the site could be done with the STR funds, but would have to wait until July so KDOT budget funds could cover difference in costs. Tyler Brewer made a motion to transfer the STR funds and convert the Thomas County site to P-25 operations. Kerry McCue seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **(Action #09-10).**

Kent Koehler discussed meeting immediately after the release of the FY 2010 IECGP guidance to determine the next step in project development and suggested a meeting by electronic means. It was the consensus of the committee to hold a meeting via teleconference to discuss the IECGP projects once the guidance was released. Moses agreed to arrange the conference call.

**Adjourn.** With no further business before the committee, Richard Old made a motion to adjourn. Tyler Brewer seconded. Motion Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned. **(Action #09-11)**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason R. Moses  
Interoperable Communications Coordinator  
Kansas Adjutant General's Department  
Office of Emergency Communications

APPROVED:

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Kent Koehler, Chairperson