



State Interoperability Executive Council

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2007

SIEC Members present (10): Chief Jeff Johnson, Dave Hard, Sheriff Russ Burger, Kristi Wilde, Major Peter Spirup, Rock Rakosi, Kathy George, Joe Kuran, John Minnis, and Ken Murphy (quorum = 9)

OWIN Staff Present: Mike Zanon, Don Pfohl, Vickie Warner and Tom Wynkoop

Interested Parties: Steve Hill, Jim Swinyard, Liz Morgan, Eulus Newton, Tom Clemo, John Wilson, Danny Thompson, Randy Kruger, Michael Daversa, Mike Smith, Rob Reish, Dennis Jorgenson, Laura Wolfe, Marla Rae, Steve Marks, Scott McIntyre, Scott Mehal, Hugh Ellsworth, Rod Ashmore, Rick Hinthorne, Terry Barlow, Tom Kyle, Mark Hall, Marty McKillip, Dennis Behm, Jim Switzer, Travis Boettcher, John Murray, Kit Eldridge, Scott Young, Jim Walz, Bill Ostrander, Bob Bushey

Special Guests: Fritz Graham (Sen. Ron Wyden's office)

Chair Johnson called the SIEC meeting to order. He reminded the Council about meeting protocols and then asked for introductions of the membership and staff. Chair Johnson asked for a motion to accept and approve the minutes from the SIEC February 13, 2007 meeting.

Motion: Rock Rakosi

Second: Kristi Wilde

Discussion: None

Passed.

Chairs Report – Chief Jeff Johnson, SIEC Chair

Chief Johnson gave a brief update of the 555 Committee and the roles of Steve Marks and Marla Rae.

Chief Johnson reported we are making progress with the legislature, but believes the continued clarification of the OWIN “ask” (\$665M) is imperative. The “ask” allows for the creation of the RFP’s, receipt of proposals from vendors, present the accepted proposal to the legislature and access funds to proceed. Marla Rae reported we have had informational meetings with the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety. Mike Zanon reported legislators understand the importance of the project, but more work needs to be done to continue to educate our legislators about the project.

Chief Johnson reported the Technical Committee has completed the “What if/Why not exercise. The Final product has been posted on the SIEC website and was distributed at today’s meeting of the SIEC.

OWIN Report – Mike Zanon, OWIN Project Director

Mike gave a brief overview of the OWIN Executive Team's meeting with the Governor and his staff. The Governor was fully engaged and asked many good questions. He requested additional information about alternatives. He wanted to know the next steps and complimented the good work of the many people involved in the project. The Governor said he was committed to the OWIN efforts.

Next week the National Governors Association will host a National Interoperability Planning Workshop. Five representatives from Oregon will attend: Mike Zanon, Sheriff Russ Burger, Paul Pederson, Don Pfohl, and Ken Murphy. NGA and Safecom will go over the draft guidelines for future Homeland Security grants and interoperability plans. Staff hope to use this forum to continue to highlight the need for a national interoperability strategy. Mike will report on the Workshop at the next Council meeting.

Mike and the OWIN staff continue their outreach to other agencies and communication services providers. He and Don gave an OWIN briefing to the BLM and USFS solicited ideas for potential partnerships. OWIN staff met with Tillamook Co. To explore partnership opportunities. Regular meetings have been set with Portland Metro-area communication professionals to explore partnership opportunities.

Mike reported that the Interoperability Subcommittee of the Association of Oregon Counties submitted a letter of support for the OWIN concept. Kathy George confirmed this.

Chief Johnson welcomed Fritz Graham from Senator Wyden's office asking if there was anything to share from the Senator's office. Mr. Graham reported there was nothing to share at this time.

Strategic Planning Committee – Kristi Wilde, Chair

Kristi requests the SIEC take on the following action items:

1. The Strategic Planning Committee wish to have a teleconference monthly until the end of the calendar year 2007 to track the statewide interoperability plan and deadline. The deadline for the interoperability plan is 12/31/07.
2. The Strategic Planning Committee would like the SIEC to look into the Commerce Dept grant - \$1B – to subsidize planning activities (5%), to include ICP as part of the states request. There is a need for contract assistance. Much of the new criteria for the State Interoperability Plan has been addressed. The timeline for the Interoperability Plan – draft by May; completion by the end of December. The new federal requirements will cause additional work and the need for dedicated assistance. Mike and Kristi have and will continue to meet. Mike will brief Kristi upon his return from the NGA Workshop.

Joint SIEC Strategic/Technical Committee Meeting – Kristi Wilde and Tom Clemo
(reporting on behalf of Sean McSpaden)

The passage of Policy Action 08-2006 identified a need for a voluntary moratorium on, the use of interoperability frequencies until a plan is in place. A memo of understanding (MOU) was developed to provide guidance to communications organizations and allow additional time to address the issues and avoid potential problems.

Kristi Wilde recommends face to face opportunities to educate others. Rock Rakosi wants to send message that SIEC endorses this but wants a 30-day comment period before final approval. Dave Hard would like a 30-day comment period with a proposal to adopt at the next SIEC.

Motion: Adopt MOU at the next meeting of the SIEC, April 10, 2007.

Second: Kristi Wilde

Discussion: There is no timeline. There are some projects already in progress. A strong signal needs to be sent. Comments to be obtained (30-days). Modifications to the MOU can take place after comments received if necessary. Don Pfohl says this is urgent and needs to be complete by fall 2007 to feed it into the procurement process (RFP's). Is there a compliance deadline? Discussion needs to take place concerning non-compliance. There needs to governance, dispute resolution, and scope management in place. It is suggested by SIEC Chair Johnson that a white paper be developed on the issues with a recommended course of action. Then adopt a tactic or strategy.

Passed: **Policy Action 09-2007 MOU – See Appendix A at end of SIEC minutes (2 pages)**

Technical Committee – Tom Clemo (reporting on behalf of Chair Sean McSpaden)

The Technical Committee met to consider amendments to the Guide to Short Term Interoperability Plan. Changes which need to be addressed are the naming of the I/O Channels and correction of timelines. To avoid confusion, Joe suggests following the naming protocol already in place. Don Pfohl concurred. Joe Kuran and Tom Clemo were assigned to talk to other states about their plans. Joe was instrumental in getting a survey placed on the APCO website. It was mentioned that there are limited plans out there from other states and that other states are looking to Oregon.

Partnership Committee – Sheriff Russ Burger, Chair

The Partnership Committee has launched a project to inventory and identify potential partnerships. A questionnaire will go out to help identify prime communication sites. Of interest are systems which are interoperable with other counties, with local interoperability and infrastructure. The draft interoperability plans of 15 counties, prepared by RCC, will be sent to OWIN.

Finance Committee – Eulus Newton (reporting for Chair Clark Seely)

No report.

FE Report – John Murray

John reported on the status of the RFP's. The Buildings and Towers RFP and the Radio Frequency and Microwave Frequency RFP's are complete.

John provided an overview of the Business Case. John started by going over the outline which incorporated earlier deliverables and consisted of many iterations. During the Quality Assurance process, FE brought in 5 additional members who have not worked on this project to review the Business Case. The President of FE, a competing companies CEO and a Director of State Communications (not employed by the state at the time) also reviewed the Business Case. The Business Case took into consideration alternative solutions but found they did not fit primary objective, but were good options for smaller niches. Emerging technologies were considered, but since they are not available now, were not included. The Implementation Plan outlined the three phases with FE suggesting a phase "0". Phase 0 being preparation for Phase I rollout. The 3 phases are: Phase I – Eastern Oregon; Phase II – Southern Oregon; Phase III – rest of the State. John touched on the approach used for best possible pricing. Pricing assumptions were based on price x quantity. Pricing included system integration and system engineering to reach the \$906M price tag. This figure was value-engineered without sacrificing fundamental capabilities to the present \$665M estimate. Finally, John addressed the risks – coordination, technical, acquisition, governance, and financial.

John was asked by Chair Johnson why Land Mobile Radio was proposed. John says it is the best approach given the operational needs expressed by the state. Wi-Fi, because of coverage and cost did not fit the state's needs. However, it would be good for regional applications but there is no large-scale project to compare. The technology is not there and has yet to be proven. Military may have something, but it is not yet available. John reported that even though there may be technologies available, they are not yet practical and have unknown standards and are high risk solutions.

So why is this project costing so much when other states are able to do it for less? The simple answer, Oregon is big and bumpy. There are three mountain ranges to be considered, Coast Range, Cascade Mountain Range and the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. Age and condition of infrastructure is another consideration. Mike states the only defensible estimate of cost is \$665M. It is thought the competitive bidding process and the unknown savings partnerships will generate will help to drive this figure down. Partnerships can not be quantified, but it is the practice of the State to find partners. The State will continue to work in partnership where partnership is available and in the best interest of all parties.

John Minnis says there is a compelling need for methodology of acquisition. Mike Zanon reported we are looking at other states and trying to learn from their success and avoid the difficulties others have experienced.

John Minnis reported great concern in the rural areas around the cost to local governments. Chair Johnson gave his perspective as a local representative. Local governments will need to be enticed and shown the system to be reliable and well-maintained. Subscriber fees will be less than having to pay for building of a new system. OWIN will have state and local blend of oversight to help keep the standards and provide locals with confidence.

Marla Rae reported requesting informational meetings with the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Ocean Policy and Emergency Preparedness; co-chaired by Senator Verger and Representative Boone. The meeting will cover a comprehensive overview of the Business Case. This committee meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm.

Other Business:

The SIEC membership revisited the FPIC Interoperability Demonstration Project at the request of Don Pfohl. The OWIN concept is to distribute interoperability channels across the state so all users will be able to access the OWIN interoperability network. The FCC regulates the VHF interoperability frequencies, and the VHF IO frequencies are for base to base and base to mobile. They do not allow use of repeaters. Given the geography of Oregon, Don suggested that this is a disadvantage in Oregon. Through the FPIC, Don asked the federal government to come up with dedicated frequencies that could pair with the FCC frequencies in order to allow use of repeaters. Don stated that his review of the FCC rules do not appear to preclude repeater use of the FCC's IO frequencies. On the federal side, it appears that the Feds will need to get a waiver from NTIA so that federal frequencies can be used in the way contemplated by OWIN and FPIC. Don suggested that the joint use can probably be with Memoranda of Understandings and may not require lengthy and difficult rule waivers.

Sheriff Burger opened the discussion among the SIEC members of endorsement of the general concept of open sharing of the Oregon Interoperability layer by all levels of government. At the last SIEC meeting, Don had introduced the current FPIC/OWIN work plan and a companion discussion document. The discussion document was reintroduced to the SIEC at this meeting. Sheriff Burger asked if the first decision point on that discussion document was of immediate nature. Don Pfohl replied that it was immediate since it addressed the notion of free unencumbered access by all levels of government in the Oregon IO system. There was a general discussion of this point, with on negative comments to the idea.

After significant discussion by the membership, the membership voted to endorse the FPIC Proof of Concept, decision point number 1 on Don Pfohl's FPIC Work Plan discussion list.

Motion: To endorse the FPIC Proof of Concept - Sheriff Russ Burger

Second: Rock Rakosi

Discussion: Rock Rakosi expressed his desire to give the Pilot Project an opportunity to succeed. He states, it is consistent with the vision of the SIEC. The discussion revolved around the idea of open access for all and for the IO system providing operability advantages in addition to interoperability.

Passed: Motion is carried by a unanimous vote of the membership.

OPEN Discussion – none

Chair Johnson asks for motion to adjourn.

Motion: Rock Rakosi

Second: John Minnis

Passed:

APPENDIX A

SIEC Policy Action 09-2007

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Regarding Nationwide Interoperability Channels

- I. **Purpose:** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides guidance for coordination and cooperation among all Licensees of the VHF, UHF, and 700/800Mhz nationwide interoperation channels.
- II. **Objective:** To ask all potential Licensees of the VHF, UHF and 700/800Mhz nationwide interoperation channels to Voluntarily refrain from installing or requesting Fixed Base Station Licensees until a coordinated effort to limit interference and monitor these channels is put in place by the SIEC.
- III. **Authority:** Only the FCC has the authority to invoke a moratorium on the issuance of Licenses. The SIEC is asking for a Voluntary moratorium for the State of Oregon, in accordance with SIEC Policy Action 08-2006(Attachment A), until a system is put in place that minimizes potential interference and assures that in all interoperability conditions that the channels are usable.
- IV. **Exceptions:** This moratorium does not include existing licenses such as the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) or other similar projects.

ATTACHMENT A

SIEC Policy Action 08-2006

Nationwide Interoperability Channel Administration

The State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) should be the designated authority to administer nationwide interoperability channels in the 150 MHz, 450 MHz, 700 MHz, and 800 MHz bands in Oregon.

The purpose of this designation is to assure in all interoperability conditions that these channels are available for emergency use.

"Interoperability conditions" includes day-to-day use in areas of concurrent jurisdiction, task force operations, and mutual aid involving multiple agencies.

Channels currently designated for nationwide interoperability are:

VHF Radios

155.7525 base/mobile VCALL National Calling
151.1375 base/mobile VTAC 1 National Tactical
154.4525 base/mobile VTAC 2 National Tactical
158.7375 base/mobile VTAC 3 National Tactical
159.4725 base/mobile VTAC 4 National Tactical

UHF Radios

453.2125 Base/mobile UCALLa National Calling
453.4625 base/mobile UTAC 1 a National Tactical
453.7125 base/mobile UTAC 2a National Tactical
453.8625 base/mobile UTAC 3a National Tactical

800 MHz Radios

821/866.0125 ICALL National Calling
821/866.5125 ITAC-1 National Tactical
822/867.0125 ITAC-2 National Tactical
822/867.5125 ITAC-3 National Tactical
823/868.0125 ITAC-4 National Tactical

As technology emerges and opens other interoperability avenues, the SIEC will assume this same authority in order to promote consistency in the prioritization of use.