



State Interoperability Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting:

October 13, 2009; 1:30 p.m.
Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training
Hall of Heroes Conference Room
4190 Aumsville Hwy, SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

[http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/
owin.info@state.or.us](http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/owin.info@state.or.us)

Attendees Include:

Jeffrey Johnson – Chair
Kristi Wilde – Vice Chair
Lindsay Ball
John Minnis
Rock Rakosi
Russ Burger
Elmer Ward

Dugan Petty
John Sneed
Kathy George
Bob Strosser
Joe Kuran
Paul Bell

Meeting

On Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 1:30pm, having established that a quorum was present, Chair Jeffrey Johnson called the monthly meeting of the State Interoperability Executive Council to order.

Council Minutes

Rock Rakosi moved that the August 2009 and September 2009 Council minutes be approved. Bob Strosser seconded both motions, which were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Chair Johnson began the meeting by announcing a series of upcoming meetings:

At the December 8th SIEC meeting there will be a comprehensive review of where the SIEC and OWIN have been in the past, where they are in the present and where they are going in the future. This review will be for the benefit of new SIEC members and those who have been members for a while but would appreciate an informational presentation such as this. It will cover subjects ranging from technology to governance. The review will be presented at the end of the Dec. 8th meeting so those who don't wish to attend can opt out.

On October 27th and 28th the Oregon Military Department will host the Northwest Workshop on Communication (NOW Conference) at Camp Rilea. (SIEC members received information about the workshop in their packets.)

Prior to the November 10th SIEC meeting there will be a special meeting to address frequency needs. All parties interested in the allocation of 700 and 800 frequencies (OWIN, metro radio users, Tri Met, etc.) will attend. The policy discussion will deal with who gets how much spectrum and why. Joe Kuran will address the meeting on what a path to cooperation in 700 MHz looks like. Kuran will also present a plan for frequency allocation. If there's agreement on that plan the concept will then be presented to local parties. The special meeting will last from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the DPSST Hall of Heroes.

On November 17th the SIEC,OWIN and the RPC will hold a summit to address potential areas of conflict resolution when it comes to 700 MHz frequency allocation by defining the roles and responsibilities of each of the agencies. The meeting will last from 9am to Noon.

Chair Johnson thanked Sheriff Burger for an opinion piece he authored in response to a recent article about OWIN in the Oregonian. (The Sheriff's piece was published on line at Oregonlive.com the day after the meeting – September 14th.)

OWIN Director's Report

Lindsay Ball picked up on Chair Johnson's mention of the Oregonian article by refuting its central premise and declaring that the OWIN Project is on schedule and under budget.

Responding to criticism of the Project from the Legislative Fiscal Office, Director Ball first addressed the assertion that there are inadequate Quality Assurance measures in place. He said that there is actually a double layer of QA in place and that an overarching QA RFP is currently being developed. He said such an overarching QA, as requested by the LFO, is typical for an IT project but not for a radio construction project but that OWIN would comply with the LFO recommendation. Ball also mentioned that the LFO has requested that the QA cover a 15,000-page document from Federal Engineering that was developed in 2006. He said that the OWIN Steering Committee had spotted serious discrepancies with the QA firm that was to be hired in April and that the contract with that firm was suspended. At that time the LFO requested, and OWIN developed, a mitigation plan to cover the delay in hiring a new QA firm. He says he was surprised at the LFO criticisms about the lack of a QA firm because it had accepted the mitigation report. Ball said he is truly concerned about QA and has been all along. He thanked Vice Chair Wilde for raising concerns about the original QA vendor as a member of the Steering Committee.

Responding to criticism from the LFO about staffing levels at OWIN, Ball asked who wouldn't want more staff, especially on a project as big as OWIN. He went on to explain that delays in hiring staff were due to efforts to save General Fund dollars and that one cost-cutting measure was to delay the hiring of an internal Human Resources position, thus meaning OWIN would have to depend on OSP HR staff for hiring. He made it clear that he was in no way blaming the OSP for delays in hiring OWIN staff. He explained that the OSP is under the same kind of budget restrictions as OWIN and that the HR staff is dealing with lay-offs, furlough days and contract negotiations. Therefore, they were unable to provide the people who would help OWIN hire staff as fast he would like.

Overall, Ball said, the OWIN Project as a whole is well-organized and on schedule. He said that while \$25,000,000 had been budgeted for Architecture and Engineering services, it's projected that the A&E contract will be completed for \$20,200,000.

John Minnis said that he agrees with Ball's response to criticism from the LFO because he knows – as a former member of the Legislature – that when you make cuts you lose value and you can't have your cake and eat it too.

Ball said that things are happening, the project is moving forward and, "I'm comfortable. When I'm not, I'll do something about it."

Committee Reports

Partnership Committee – Russ Burger

Burger asked Council members to read a proposed resolution supporting statewide interoperability that's been developed for consideration by local governments throughout Oregon. He said suggested language will be considered at the November SIEC meeting. He expects that it will be rolled out at the local level with the assistance of the Association of Counties and the League of Cities. He asked that members e mail him any suggestions for the language of the resolution. (A copy was included in the packet of information distributed at the meeting.)

Strategic Planning Committee – Kristi Wilde

Wilde updated members on Committee discussions regarding the SIEC website. She asked that Council members consider what they think would be important to include on the website and how it could be a resource to help the SIEC. She asked that members relay that information to her Committee. It is likely that the upgraded SIEC website will remain within the State of Oregon system of websites.

She announced that a survey would be sent Monday, October 19th to SIEC members in preparation for the comprehensive review of the SIEC scheduled after the December SIEC meeting. The idea, she said, is to make sure the forum is useful for SIEC members. She said organizers want to know what information should be emphasized for the newer members.

EXHIBIT A: Strategic Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Regarding an updated Strategic Communications Interoperability Plan she said it's important to assign various Council initiatives so that the SIEC will be in compliance with Federal requirements. At that point the Strategic Planning Committee will plug appropriate plans into the SCIP.

Rakosi made a motion that the updated SCIP Plan be adopted. Minnis seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Wilde thanked Minnis, Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, for accommodations made in the Hall of Heroes for this meeting.

EXHIBIT B: FCC Petition for 700MHz Public Safety Broadband Network Waiver

Chair Johnson provided background on the possibility of the SIEC seeking authorization to build a 700 MHz statewide broadband data network which would be part of the national public safety broadband network currently being planned. (Power point presentation slides were included in the packet distributed to SIEC members.) Basically, the State of Oregon needs to decide if it will be one of more than a dozen local entities seeking authorization from the FCC to create its own statewide broadband data network, utilizing the dedicated 700 MHz spectrum, prior to the creation of a similar nationwide network. Doing so, said Johnson, would speed the introduction of high-speed data within the OWIN coverage area, mean an enhancement of data speed and capacity, nail down access to a finite resource, bring Oregon into a national network, create opportunities for more partnerships with local agencies and governments, lead to the development of partnerships with private enterprise and create broadband opportunities for areas of Oregon unserved and underserved when it comes to broadband access.

Charles Dowd, Deputy Chief of the New York Police Department and Jim Hassett, Radio Repair Manager for the NYPD, joined the presentation via telephone. New York City is one of the jurisdictions already seeking a waiver from the FCC to build a local/regional broadband network within the 700 MHz broadband spectrum licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust. Deputy Chief Dowd spoke of efforts on Capitol Hill to get Congressional approval for making a section of the 700 MHz spectrum available for public safety use. He emphasized that while public/private sharing of spectrum is possible, it's essential that public safety use be the priority. As to Oregon seeking a waiver similar to that sought by New York City, Dowd said it would not hurt and could only help in securing 700 MHz spectrum. Hassett said having that spectrum would put public safety agencies in a position of strength when it comes to forming public/private partnerships.

Minnis asked who was opposed to granting waivers to local public safety.

Hassett said the cellular carrier T Mobile as well as some regional carriers and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).

Chair Johnson said that today's discussion of the waiver adds a layer of depth to the discussion of whether such a waiver should be sought and he announced that public testimony will be taken at the next two SIEC meetings – on November 10th and December 8th. A decision on whether to seek the waiver will have to be made before the end of 2009.

Minnis asked exactly what the public would be commenting on at those two meetings and whether it wouldn't help to codify the question.

Chair Johnson referred to the question posed in his presentation, "Should Oregon seek FCC authorization to build a 700 MHz statewide broadband data network ties into the planned national public safety broadband network?"

Thus codified, Minnis made the motion that the question be considered by the SIEC. Rakosi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

700 MHz Regional Planning Committee Report

Joe Kuran reported that the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is moving along. A meeting was held on September 21st. A meeting will be held on October 21st from 10am to Noon at Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency headquarters. There will be a draft plan available at that meeting. There will also be a joint meeting on November 17th of the RPC and the SIEC. Kuran said that the 700 MHz plan is 91.7% completed with the last elements – frequency allocation – to be determined at the meetings on November 10th and November 17th.

Open Discussion/Questions

Lindsay Ball introduced Ron Bosco of Federal Engineering.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.