



State Interoperability Executive Council Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2012 – 1:30pm

Department of Public Safety Standards & Training | Hall of Heroes Conference Room
4190 Aumsville Hwy SE | Salem, Oregon 97317

<http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/> | RadioProjectInfo@odot.state.or.us

On Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 1:35 p.m. Council Chair Jeff Johnson called the State Interoperability Executive Council to order.

ATTENDEES INCLUDE (Quorum – Confirmed)

Jeff Johnson, Chair

Tami Dohrman

Rock Rakosi

Mike Smith *for Kathy George*

Kristi Wilde, Vice-Chair

Brian Henson

Craig Durbin

Tom Lauer, *non-voting member*

Dugan Petty

Joe Kuran

John Lewis *for Mike Caldwell*

Steve Noel, *non-voting member*

COUNCIL MINUTES

Chair Johnson entertained a motion to approve minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting. Rock Rakosi motioned for approval; John Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Staff: Jeff Johnson, Chair

Chair Johnson began the meeting with a discussion of the Communication Unit Leader Exercise held in late November. The event took place over three days at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue training campus and was the culmination of a multi-month effort by state, regional, and local personnel. Eighteen of 27 trainees completed the exercise and will receive COML certification. For more information on the event, the December Monthly Progress Report for the State Radio Project includes an article on the event; the report can be found on the radio project web page at www.oregon.gov/HWY/ODOT/StateRadioProject.

Chair Johnson also extended gratitude to three individuals who were vital to the success of the event: Kathie Condon, City of Portland Emergency Management Coordinator; Garrett Lang, member of the UASI Region Response Communications Group; and Brandon Smith, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Communications Technician. Each received a certificate of appreciation from the council and the state SWIC, Steve Noel.

With the approval of the D-Block for public safety initiative, the discussion has transitioned to how the available spectrum will be distributed. Oregon currently holds 10 MHz of spectrum; in order to establish LTE, the state would need 20 MHz. Nationwide, there are approximately 5200 license holders (Verizon Wireless holds one license) creating disconnected layers, a lack of predictability and an increase in the overall value of spectrum.

The congressional budget office has estimated the value of the D-Block at \$2.75 billion. There is a difference in opinion between the congressional committee and the public safety community regarding how the system should be managed. Further, committee members are said to be interested in requiring states return the 700 narrowband frequencies already distributed to the states. The public safety community has discussed many options with congress, including the possibility of returning the 700 spectrum in question, if congress agrees to certain conditions. To date, those conditions have not been agreed to by both parties.

This discussion has become a political issue, with republicans against the democrats. Discussions will continue through February. If the parties can come to an agreement, the issue will be included in legislation during the month; if not, the discussion will be done for the year and spectrum will likely go to auction.

STATE RADIO PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT

Staff: Tom Lauer – Major Project Branch, State Radio Project

Oregon is one of 21 broadband waiver holders in the country. In November, the State Radio Project approached the Oregon Transportation Commission for approval of a public-private partnership that would authorize the co-mingling of assets between the state and private carriers. The radio project has published a solicitation for interest to the cellular community. Project staff is reviewing surveys discussing how cellular data and devices are being used in the field by state and local agencies including the pros, cons, and future plans and interests. Lauer reports the project could have active vendor demonstrations by the fall of 2012. Lauer added that Seattle, who is also one of the 21 waiver holders, is engaging in a similar effort; the project will look to the Seattle project for lessons learned.

The radio project has received a “green” rating from the Legislative Fiscal Office. The microwave and trunked radio designs are on schedule for completion in June. The project expects partnership efforts will be completed by the fall and consoles are slated for completion in early 2013.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Kristi Wilde

Vice-Chair Wilde reported that the annual Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan workshop has been scheduled for April 17. The workshop participants will give special focus to the section of the SCIP that deals with plain language. The participants will work to align protocols, as many regions have standards already in place. There will be a special focus during the afternoon session on broadband initiatives.

The 2011 SCIP Goals and Objectives document was provided to the group for a second review with a request for approval at the January meeting. Rock Rakosi made a motion to approve the goals and objectives documents; Dugan Petty seconded the motion. Chair Johnson entertained questions from the council. Maj. Durbin inquired about objective 1.3 – Provide Leadership; Maj. Durbin expressed concern about the lack of clarity regarding the level of direction and responsibility the council has over the State Radio Project. He inquired further, what is the vision of the Governor’s Office, legislature and the current state system. Vice-Chair Wilde agreed that there have been many changes and the group should talk further about the roles and responsibilities of the council. Chair Johnson noted that talks of governance and agency culture will be much larger than anyone expects. Tom Lauer added that the State Radio Project is not the same project, nor does it have the same goals and objectives as the OWIN project. Chair Johnson called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Mike Smith for Kathy George

Mike Smith noted the committee’s charter document had been revised and was being presented to the council for formal adoption. The committee expects that additional clarity will be incorporated in future months. Smith reported the committee has engaged in discussions on the role of the committee in development of future partnerships; how are partnerships to be formed, upheld and identified.

The committee had discussions about partnership governance; if the committee is charged with aiding in the development of partnerships, it should have one holistic service level agreement to manage. The SLA would include procedures on how components such as oversight, maintenance and funding would be handled. The committee members are in favor of a “Chinese restaurant menu” format that would allow users to pick and choose the components needed for a given partnership. This concept would require the

State's Dept. of Justice and county/city councils to agree on the language included in the SLA. Chair Johnson noted that the council needs to actively participate in equal sharing among its diverse members to ensure that no one agency carries the weight of the effort. Mike Smith requested that comments on the subject be forwarded to Eric Schmidt at eschmidt@ocweb.org.

Vice-Chair Wilde inquired whether the committee had discussed the possibility of establishing a repository for the agreements created by the committee/council.

Rock Rakosi motioned that the Partnership Committee charter be adopted as a first revision and carry the name only. Joe Kuran seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Joe Kuran

Joe Kuran requested members for the committee, including a new chair. To date, Kuran has not been able to dedicate the necessary time to make the committee active and successful. He would like to focus efforts initially on interoperability; what are the capabilities, dependencies, and capacity for the system. Kuran would like the committee have an understanding of the available resources in the state to allow the committee to act as a resource to potentially identify and provide solutions to technical problems. Vice-Chair Wilde added that the committee chair would not need to have a wealth of technical knowledge, but be able to facilitate the discussion.

STATE RADIO USERS GROUP REPORT

Staff: Tom Lauer

Tom Lauer reported that the State Radio Users Group continues to meet monthly and has been looking beyond the radio project to the operational phase that will directly affect the ODOT/OSP Wireless Section. The SRUG has budget items it is also working, including how will costs be allocated, how charges will be distributed as well as how the system will be governed.

700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Joe Kuran

Joe Kuran noted the next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday January 25; agenda items include approving application for new 700 systems.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Staff: Steve Noel

Steve Noel reported that the OEC Technical Assistance requests for the state have been submitted; four requests have been accepted. Those offerings include:

- GOV-GSM – Development of Governance Structure Models
- TRG-INT – Principles of Interoperability and the NIFOG
 - Scheduled for Wednesday April 18 at DPSST in Salem.
- TRG-COMT – All-Hazards Communications Unit Technician (COMT) Course
 - Slated for early June in Pendleton.
- SPCL-TRBL – Native American Public Safety Communications Needs
 - Slated for the last week in May in Warm Springs.

During 2011, the state did well with the assistance offerings, completing eight throughout the year.

Kathie Condon provided the council with an update on the progress of the Interoperability Field Operations Guides. The UASI region (five counties around the Portland-Metro area) has a complete IFOG that was used during the Communications Unit Leader Exercise event held in November. While the UASI has an IFOG, it does not have a regional plan, meaning when an event occurs, each of the five counties will be vying for the available interoperability channels and will experience communication failures. Condon will be working to coordinate the region during 2012.

As noted, the COMLEX event was held at the end of November. There were 27 participants, of which 18 received COML certification. Kathie Condon expressed gratitude for those members of the planning committee, without whom, the event would not have been successful.

The COMLEX events provide the COML with an opportunity to practice directing first responders through an incident as well as allow first responders with an opportunity to transfer operational responsibility to the COML and focus on providing aid to those in need.

Brandon Smith added that the focus of the COMLEX is on operations – coordinating and directing efforts – rather than communications. The event provides challenging scenarios, such as patching interoperability channels and supervisory elements inherent to the role. Garrett Lang noted that the networking component to this type of event is invaluable to the COML, as in many cases, the only opportunity to interact with other agency personnel and equipment is during a live incident. The exercise allows the COML to train on equipment that may be unfamiliar, increasing his or her overall skill and providing real-world problems the COML will likely face.

Vice-Chair Wilde noted that each part of the public safety community has specific roles in an incident and it is greatly appreciated that disparate agencies are coming together for interoperability.

Bruce Richter, FEMA Region 10 Coordinator, added that an “After Action Plan” was completed by the COMLEX training personnel. The planning committee will use the plan as a lessons learned component for the next event. Richter also noted the Western Regional APCO/NENA will take place in Alaska this year; the dates have yet to be determined.

OPEN DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

Aaron DeCelle (Oregon Military) and Shannon Pits (NORAD, Colorado) announced there will be a Vital Connections Exercise held April 3-5th and they are looking for additional participants. NORAD has requested ODM to sponsor the event. As noted earlier, this event will apply the “human element” that is not included in an intra-agency event.

Chris Tamarin, representative of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council reported the council will be completing a report to the legislature, due in November 2012, which will include policy recommendations. Tamarin also noted the council’s mapping project continues to be enhanced; to view progress of the effort, visit the council website at www.broadband-oregon.org.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

ADJOURN

Chair Johnson adjourned the January session of the SIEC at 3:13 p.