



State Interoperability Executive Council Minutes

Meeting:

July 8, 2008, 1:00 p.m.
Anderson Readiness Center
Room 114
3225 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97309

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

Minutes were approved at the Council's September 9, 2008 meeting

Kristi Wilde, Vice Chair
Lindsay Ball
David Brooks
Ken Murphy
Representative Chuck Riley
David Hard

Peter van den Berg
John Koreski
Don Pfohl
Chris Brown
Kathy George

Meeting

On Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at 1:05 p.m. Vice-Chair Kristi Wilde called the State Interoperability Executive Council (Council) to order. Vice-Chair Wilde announced that Chair Jeff Johnson is currently out of state.

Council Minutes

The Council moved to approve the April 2008 Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Kristi Wilde, Vice-Chair

Chair Johnson, in June, filed comments on behalf of Oregon SIEC to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the matter of Broadband for Public Safety. The Oregon SIEC comments recommended that the FCC convene a one-year advisory committee to build a nationwide interoperability strategy out of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) required all states to develop. The comments further stated that Oregon feels it is important to have a nationwide, broadband public safety wireless footprint. The comments also support reducing or eliminating the lowest bid requirement for the D block. Support to ensure the bidder has the resources to build, operate and maintain the broadband network. There is also support for the continuation of

The Public Safety Broadband Trust, but the FCC must ensure the Trust has the resources necessary to continue.

On another topic, the Oregon SIEC has scheduled an August 21, 2008, Multi-State SIEC meeting for council members from Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho. The meeting will be hosted at Anderson Readiness Center (ARC) in Salem, Oregon. More information to follow as it becomes available.

OWIN Report **Lindsay Ball, Director**

Lindsay Ball announced that Casaria Tuttle joined OWIN to support the Division of State Police. Steve Caldwell, Public Information Officer, also joined the Division. The Division is starting to fill in holes to provide better service to partners and the public as a whole.

Emergency Board

Director Ball gave an overview of the Emergency Board (E-Board) process since February 2008. The Division learned on Tuesday afternoon, a day and a half prior to the June E-Board meeting, that Alcatel/Lucent was going to challenge the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) competitive bid process. Director Ball stated that he spoke with legal counsel and the state procurement office and that the group meticulously reviewed both the WSCA contract and OWIN's use of that contract. The result of the analysis was the Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion that the contracts were completely valid and that the state had not erred in any way in the state's purchasing process. In an atypical process for an E-Board meeting, Alcatel/Lucent was invited to the testimony table during the committee meeting. The airing of a bid process complaint at the meeting created much discussion.

At the end of the committee meeting, the agency request was voted out of the Human Services Subcommittee with a do pass recommendation. At the regular meeting of the full E-Board on Friday, June 27, OWIN was again asked to answer questions regarding the request for an expenditure limitation. Against the recommendation of both Budget and Management (BAM) and the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), the E-Board failed to approve the OWIN expenditure limitation for Phase 1 of the OWIN infrastructure build-out. The E-Board was approved by a majority of the House members on the committee, but it failed to receive a majority vote from the Senate members. Some of the legislators expressed concerns that they did not know enough about either the OWIN project, the planning that had taken place or the partnerships that OWIN has been about to generate with units of local government. During the committee discussion, Lindsay Ball discussed the fact the Legislature had formed a Legislative Work Group to be their interface with OWIN. OWIN and the workgroup had met several times and LFO had received all of the information and answers to questions asked of OWIN.

Director Ball stated that Governor Kulongoski made it clear that the OWIN request would return to the September E-Board and further stated he was disappointed the legislature did not approve the OWIN project funding.

OWIN has been in contact with partnerships who are concerned about leveraging of dollars. Director Ball said the partnerships are solid. He further said the Division will return to the September E-Board to ask for an expenditure limitation. He added that local governments are very concerned and are contacting their local legislators.

Public Comment

Thera Bradshaw, TKC Consulting Group, stated that the Division has done a great job bringing partners together. She also said that Lindsay Ball should be commended for his work and that it was a travesty that the no vote may delay the Division's plans. Lindsay Ball stated the people of Oregon can benefit if the Divisions stays the course.

Major Chris Brown, Oregon State Police, asked about the construction schedule. Lindsay Ball responded that a specific bond sale must be enacted specifically for OWIN. In addition, all of the administrative and legal pieces need to be worked through, which is a minimum of six weeks. He further stated that if the E-Board is back by August 1st the Division could have money in hand by September 1st leaving a month left to work in high altitude areas. If the E-Board is back in September the Division would wait until mid-November to receive funds, which would involve the loss of construction time for this season. The Division is currently looking at a construction schedule that would begin a year from now. Lindsay Ball added that there is a 13 percent inflationary factor on communications and build-out costs.

Representative Chuck Riley stated that Lindsay Ball has done an outstanding job. He stated that he called the E-Board members the night before the meeting but unfortunately did not call the Senators. He further stated that Lindsay Ball is doing an outstanding job and will get this project back on track.

Lindsay Ball continued to say that the OWIN is still on schedule to get the microwave backbone built by October 2009. He said the OWIN will add more staff assigned to OWIN to get the project done in time and there will be additional integration costs associated with the project as well. All this is done to meet the 2013 federal deadline.

Kristi Wilde echoed what has been said about how impressive the partnership work and the advocacy of OWIN has been. She stated the project is important to local, regional and state agencies.

Public Comment

Nancy Jesuale asked if the Alcatel/Lucent issue had to do with Alcatel/Lucent not having the opportunity to bid or if there was a problem with the plan? Lindsay Ball responded that on the first day of the E-Board the issue was competitive bidding on the microwave system for the

State of Oregon. He stated the goal is to have one system and that to have two separate systems would require additional staff to be trained on each system. The Division decided to stay with the investment already made over the last 3 ½ years with Harris. The second day, the contract question was no longer an issue; the concern by the senators was the plan. Lindsay Ball stated there is a well thought out plan that has been reviewed by industry experts whom think the plan is ambitious and achievable. Kristi Wilde asked if anyone from Alcatel/ Lucent was in the audience to allow the opportunity to speak and add to the discussion. No members of the audience identified themselves as a representative of Alcatel/Lucent.

Propagation Study through Federal Engineering

Lindsay Ball began by saying the Division extended the contract with Federal Engineering to affirm that the sites will work for co-locating at the same site and the radio sites coming off the microwave background. Federal Engineering said the Division is ready to go with the NW counties. They also mapped out the SW counties. The locations have been distributed to most everyone. If an individual would like a copy of the build-out report they are to contact [Don Pfohl](#) for a copy.

David Hard asked about the result of the VHF vs. 700MHz study. Lindsay Ball stated that a drive test comparison has been completed between VHF and 700MHz by Federal Engineering contract. The Division was anecdotally told 700MHz does not perform well in mountainous wooded areas. Three mountainous wooded sites were chosen to perform the study. With a 700MHz system the number of the sites originally projected would not be necessary and the cost would be reduced. This results in the opportunity for the State to save money. At present the Division has not decided on a 700MHz or hybrid system. It is expected that vendors will review the test results and make their recommendation on what kind of system they consider best for Oregon during the competitive bid process. The information from the drive test has been compiled and will be shared once the final report has been received.

Lindsay Ball responded to a question on whether atmospheric conditions were taken into account during the study. Lindsay Ball responded that there were many conditions apparent during the study.

The system was also tested in open plateau country and rolling hill areas. The test did very well. VHF did better than 700MHz but 700MHz was more than adequate.

Lindsay Ball Stated when the final report is received the partners who loaned the Division equipment will receive a copy, then other interested individuals will receive a copy.

IWN Update

Lindsay Ball stated that neighboring states were asked if it is possible to share bandwidth and infrastructure to partner with US DOJ to connect the five states (WA, OR, ID, CA, Utah). The spirit between the five states is "can do".

Last month DOJ staff met with representatives from the five states to look at the cooperative possibilities. The Division is currently working with US DOJ to detail parameters of the partnership. Lindsay Ball stated that he is confident and feels positive about the venture.

Kristi Wilde commented that the people on the ground using the radios where IWN is already available in the backbone are very excited. The IWN piece was utilized during the Olympic trials recently held in Eugene, Oregon.

Lindsay Ball emphasized the IWN component on the I-5 corridor; it was the first part of the microwave backbone. A lot has happened since to leverage money for county governments. The Division hopes to do the same in eastern and central Oregon.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – David Brooks

No report for this period

Partnership Committee – Russ Burger

Sheriff Burger not available

Strategic Planning Committee – Kristi Wilde

Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant

Kristi Wilde publicly acknowledged Dave Brooks, Nancy Giselle, and Greg Almond who along with help from other member reviewed grants for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant (PSIC) process. The money has been released from the federal agency and by the end of next week everyone should be on their way to work on the projects in earnest. She added that a conversation is ongoing about the timeline not moving along with the drawn out grant process.

Interoperable Communications Grant Program

The Interoperable Communications Grant Program (ICGP) has been released. There is the potential of \$480k for Oregon. The grant process has a 30-day turnaround. Priorities will include the establishment and enhancement of operational protocols and emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises. Equipment will not be an allowable cost category this year. Also included is the 700MHz Plan. Dave Brooks added that with the funds, an outside agency would be able to come in to assist with the 700MHz Plan. For anyone interested in applying for funds, the project proposals need to be to Deborah Harrison no later than 5:00 pm next Monday, July 14, 2008. The proposal can be in email format.

Public Comment

Kit Eldredge stated that interested individuals can go to the grant website where there is an application template, which makes the application process easier.

Kristi Wilde added that council members are continuing to work on updating committee charters.

Open Discussion/Questions

Kristi Wilde shared information on the recent Olympic trials. She stated the security planning took approximately two years. Many agencies worked behind the scenes up to the point of the trials then through the trials. Department of Defense offered special communications equipment (radio cache and video screen) for the project. She acknowledged Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) for their participation and effort through the trials. The IWN connection was completed just in time for the trials. This was a good opportunity to work with the University of Oregon in security planning.

David Brooks asked about the August SIEC regular meeting. Kristi Wilde said an email would go out shortly to whether or not there will be a regular meeting.

Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications

Don Pfohl stated he has been working with Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC). He approached FPIC and asked about the possibility of getting paired frequencies in VHF band to make repeaters out of simplex frequencies. A possible partnership with the federal government would allow making repeater pairs available. A year ago SIEC endorsed unencumbered access for all levels of government. FPIC has been working on the process and has come up with five frequencies. The first version was not quite usable. Don Pfohl would like endorsement from SIEC to use federal frequencies for outgoing repeater output. He stated this process would tend to interfere less with adjoining states. FPIC came up with another set of channel spacing. Several members of the technical committee have reviewed the selection. Don Pfohl suggested the SIEC give OWIN the endorsement to continue working through the process with FPIC.

Endorsement was motioned and seconded.

Don Pfohl added that the frequencies would include anyone who can operate under NTIA; the governance still needs to be worked through.

Representative Riley asked about possible downsides. Don Pfohl responded that the downside is that it will take a lot of creative work to get the governance.

Peter van den Berg asked how this would fit into overall frequency coordination and need plan. Don Pfohl responded by saying the frequencies identified would be usable in all of Oregon interference free. There are already five matching frequencies in FCC rules and regulations.

Kristi Wilde asked Don Pfohl to clarify that VCALL and VTAC channels would be repeated throughout the state with less interference. Don Pfohl responded that the Division is looking to make repeaters out of the VHF frequencies, and then would need to work on a system design that will result in reducing interference. After the frequencies are established a regionalized coordination system would be developed. Peer control at the regional level could be the best coordination system. Don Pfohl recommended the seven counties of Congressional District 4 put their system on the table for SIEC to discuss.

Public Comment

Steve Noel asked Don Pfohl to share the value of the spectrum. Don Pfohl responded that when talking with the Department of Interior a request for reciprocal use would be available in return with frequencies. The frequencies have been valued at \$2 million each.

Motion to endorse OWIN continuing with the FPIC process and pursue partnership was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kristi Wilde adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.