



## Oregon State Interoperability Executive Council Minutes of Meeting – May 10, 2005

PRESENT: Chair Jeff Johnson, Jim Walz, Eulus Newton, Pete Spirup, Steve Wheeler, Jeanne Arana, Marla Rae, Steve Marks, Jane Leonhardt, Beverlee Stilwell, Maj. Lance Englet, Marc Adams, Kathy George, Joe Kuran, John Koreski, Kristin Chaffee, Darren Rice, Adam Haas, Bruce Branlund, David Brooks, Randy Kruger, Sean McSpaden, Steve Shelton, Tami Kuehl, Steve Hill, Rob Meyer, Howard Stutlman, Rick Hinthorne, Randy Kum, Duane Forman, Rick Williams, Matt Marheine, Lauren Paulsen

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Chair Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the Major General Donald E. Anderson Readiness Center/C-4 Communications Center, Room 114, 3225 State Street, Salem, Oregon.

**ACTION:** Chair Johnson requested approval of the minutes of the SIEC April 12, 2005 meeting. Don Jenson moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Marc Adams. Motion passed.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

#### A. Establishment of Finance Committee Process

Chief Johnson reported on the status of creation of a Finance Committee. First on the list is creation of a charter to deal with the scope of the committee. The committee's primary objective is to find financing for a system of systems. John Koreski will chair the Finance Committee. Anyone interested in being on the committee is asked to contact Marla Rae, Steve Marks or John Koreski. Marla reminded everyone that at the last meeting the Strategic Planning Committee recommended that the membership of the new Finance Committee be comprised of representatives from AOC, LOC, Special Districts, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, Sheriff's Association, ODOT, with technical assistance from DAS. Beverlee Stilwell suggested that representatives from Budget and Management and LFO coordinate with the committee.

#### B. FCC Issues

Don Pfohl reported that the FCC has a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which asks for comments on changing the name of the SIEC from "State Interoperability Executive Committee" to "Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee." The concern is that there are different connotations to the two terms. FCC is also asking for comment on all of the SIEC's becoming responsible for administration within their own state of all state interoperability channels. Currently the SIEC's responsibility is within the 700 MHz I/O band, but there are I/O frequencies in all of the other bands. No one is responsible currently for administering VHF and UHF I/O channels. If the SIEC chooses to do that, a logical extension would be to coordinate use of at least the open frequency, the state-wide law enforcement frequency, and possibly the three nationwide fire I/O channels. This is a decision the SIEC needs to make, and Don's suggestion is that the SIEC

prepare a response to the docket. Don indicated that the Technical Committee has been looking at the UHF and VHF bands to figure out a way to put I/O channels throughout the state in manner which creates the least amount of interference, and who should control them. The Technical Committee felt that the channels could be split out regionally. Joe Kuran is going to take a preliminary look and see, from an interference point of view, if there is a logical way to designate regions. The Strategic Planning Committee, with guidance from the Technical Committee, will give the SIEC some advice on what their policy position should be, making sure that position can be taken within the comment deadline and give some sense of what the short- and long-term implications will be. Don's recommendation is that the SIEC should take responsibility for all interoperability or there will be no coordinated way to handle interoperability.

C. TVF&R/SIEC Grant Contract Award

Chief Johnson reported that the grant contract award has been completed for the Rae/Marks contract to continue as support for the SIEC through December 31, 2005. The contract became effective May 1, 2005.

D. 25 Cities Project/Interoperability Summit

Joe Kuran reported on the 25 Cities Project, also known as IWiN, which is an I/O project that the feds are building. A VHF trunking system is being built in the Portland area. Currently the feds use the 800 system in the Portland area to talk locally. That will be switched to a VHF system, so they need to come up with a solution to tie the 800 and VHF systems together.

E. Nextel/800 MHz Re-Banding Process

Joe Kuran next reported that the rebanding process begins June 27, 2005. A vendor will be selected to do all inventory for the rebanding. Nextel has decided to include the southern side of the State of Washington in the first wave. The funding issue is being decided. Nextel will be able to pay its vendors directly without having the funding go through agencies. Legal counsel has been hired to take care of issues that may come up, and the legal counsel will bill Nextel directly for services. It will be a year before retuning and taking the system down begins. The lower band will be cleared first. In the Portland Metro area there are about 15,000 subscriber units to be reprogrammed and about 1,500 older mobile radios and 300-400 repeaters that will need to be replaced.

## REVIEW OF GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

Matt Marheine of OEM provided an overview of the grant fund program. OEM has been doing homeland security funding for specific categories of equipment through out the state since 1999. The current policy is that without a communications plan no grant funding will be given for communications equipment. Seventeen counties have received grant funds to write a communications plan to address operability as well as

interoperability. Those counties approved for a plan have to agree to allow OEM to maintain 80% of local funding to do the work for them. OEM hopes to find a consistent contractor or contractors to do the work to ensure consistency among all the plans. OEM hopes to provide guidance to the counties to make the right decisions, not only to manage the contracts and all the financial issues, but to make sure they make decisions that are going to make a difference, and are in line with state policy and direction. OEM will also help each county to develop an I/O plan if they don't have one. OEM's system is to address the county's needs, help them coordinate and collaborate with their regional partners, surrounding counties and other submitting resources, and make certain they match with the rest of the state. Matt clarified that it truly is a local grant even though OEM is keeping the money. The intent is to incorporate the SIEC's direction and policy, but they also have to address the local needs. Discussion followed regarding the grants and the direction of the state in moving toward its I/O plan and goals. Chief Johnson suggested that Steve and Marla take the next 30 days to create clear guidance from the SIEC to the contractors and OEM so they can create plans that integrate at the county level. Matt clarified that the timeline is much shorter and that the SIEC needs to provide guidance to OEM within the next two weeks.

Marla then introduced the newest member of the SIEC, Jeanne Arana, who is the Director of the Emergency Medical Services for the Department of Human Services. She replaces DHS representative Barry Kast as a voting member of the SIEC.

#### REVIEW OF LEVEL 4 WHITE PAPERS

Don Pfohl provided a presentation which followed up on a recommendation made at the April 12, 2005 SIEC meeting regarding Level 4 interoperability. A question remained at the end of the presentation regarding why the state should stop at level 4 for I/O solutions. SWIG put together a discussion paper, entitled "Why Level 4" which was distributed to meeting attendees. Don provided a summary of the handout materials beginning with a discussion of the different layers of interoperability and the number of systems currently in existence in Oregon. A final determination was made that I/O Levels 5 and 6 were prohibitively costly and complex and that Level 4 is the highest level that can realistically be achieved.

Don also discussed a second handout, entitled "What's in it for me?" which looks at how agencies other than state agencies can work with the concept of a system of systems.

#### CONSIDER PRELIMINARY ADOPTION OF POLICY ACTIONS AND COMMENT PERIOD

##### Discussion of issues and process of consultation prior to adoption

Chief Johnson indicated there are issues that need to move concurrently and need to be put out for public comment to meet timelines. A comment period was developed to give the SIEC time to make policy decisions that help provide direction throughout the state. The timeline may prove to be too short and may be amended at a future date.

Steve Marks indicated there are five policy actions currently awaiting consideration and development. SIEC will take action to submit the five policies discussed below for comment today. There will be an open comment period between May 10 and June 7 to respond to the policy actions. It is proposed that the SIEC Partnership Committee meet with all representative local partners of the SIEC between before June 7. The SIEC Technical Committee and SWIIG will deliberate and provide comment at the next SIEC meeting on June 7, and at that time the SIEC will consider any input and decide whether to adopt, in whole or in part, the policy recommendations.

The five policies up for consideration were then discussed. Policy Action 01-2005 deals with promotion and support of a "system of systems" approach to achieving interoperability. Policy Action 02-2005 deals with adoption of a Level 4 system state-wide. Policy Action 03-2005 deals with support of the state-wide public safety communications platform to serve state public safety agency communication needs. Policy Action 04-2005 deals with access of non-state agencies and the SIEC's responsibilities to make sure that access is available, and Policy Action 05-2005 deals with co-location of wireless communications.

Discussion was opened on all policy actions as a whole. It was determined that a 30-day comment period is sufficient. If there are any comments where there is dissension, there will be an opportunity to defer and take more time to review at the SIEC's discretion. In addition, the current approved version of policy actions will be posted on the SIEC's website for reference. All policy comments can be submitted by email to Marla Rae at [marla.rae@state.or.us](mailto:marla.rae@state.or.us) or to Steve Marks, 528 Cottage Street NE, Suite 300B, Salem, Oregon 97301.

**ACTION:** Chief Johnson called for a motion adopting Policies 01-2005 through 05-2005 for comment. A motion was made by Don Jenson, seconded by Major Lance Englet. Motion passed.

## CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

### A. Update on State Wireless Infrastructure Investment Group (SWIIG)

Steve Marks reported that the group continues to meet weekly. They have been focused mainly on development of the white paper on the legislative process and trying to put together criteria for an RFP to hire an engineer and planner. That is contingent still upon finding available funding.

### B. Update on Executive Order and Interoperability Funding Issues

Steve Marks reported that it is unlikely the Executive Order will be signed. Passage of SB 817 will provide enough structure to replace the Executive Order and authorities granted, should it pass and be included in HB 2101, also provide complimentary orders. Passage of SB 817 and HB 2101 would make the EO not important. There are still

parts of the EO that may be important enough for SWIIG to adopt as a Memorandum of Understanding as part of its ongoing governance process as part of OEM.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Partnership Committee

Sheriff Swinyard reported that the committee met to discuss what the focus of the committee should be. They determined that their current priorities should be reinforcement of the regional planning effort and also to look at reinforcing interoperability across the borders. The committee has also recently picked up the task of coordinating a meeting with local organization representatives regarding the current policy actions.

### B. Technical Committee

Don Pfohl reported that another technical presentation will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> with JPS/Raytheon. In addition, Don indicated that because the VHF I/O channels are simplex, not repeater pairs, he had questioned the FCC if it would be possible to get federal frequencies to make repeater pairs. The initial answer was no, but it now appears they may be willing to do it if in return the federal government is able to use those frequencies and systems. Don had discussions with law enforcement communications people in the State of Washington and the State of California regarding the idea of making a joint request to the FCC for doing that on channels that would be added to the I/O channels. The three states are in the process of pursuing that to see how that can be done.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### A. House Bill 2101

Beverlee Stilwell reported that HB 2101 is tentatively scheduled for its next hearing on May 17<sup>th</sup>. It is in the House Judiciary Criminal Law subcommittee. Steve Marks indicated that within the amendments there is a section dealing with the State Interoperability Executive Council creating the council in statute and assigning it certain duties for planning and for certain authorities. There still may be some language changes that need to be made. Any comments on the bill can be provided to Marla Rae.

### B. Senate Bill 817

Steve Marks noted that there is a set of amendments which eliminate sections 3, 4 and 5 of the bill. The funding will be included in the limitations given within OEM's budget.

## EASTERN OREGON INTEROPERABILITY

Rob Meyers, from Condon, Oregon, gave a report on the creation of the Eastern Oregon Interoperability System, which is a system capable of linking together with other systems. Their initial strategy was not to overbuild existing systems, and not to duplicate effort and resources, it was to figure out how to make the existing systems work together to preserve the money that had already been invested in those systems. Mr. Meyers also reported on the creation of the Guardian Project which is an overlay of the hospital and rural medical facilities in 12 counties.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Pete Spirup and seconded by Major Lance Englet. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 7, 2005, at 1 p.m. at the Major General Donald E. Anderson Readiness Center/C-4 Communications Center, Room 114, 3225 State Street, Salem, Oregon.