



## Oregon State Interoperability Executive Council

Minutes of Meeting – July 12, 2005

PRESENT: Jeff Johnson, Chair; Don Jenson; Don Pfohl; Jeanne Arana; Kristi Wilde; Lance Englet; Sean McSpaden; Steve Wheeler; Jim Walz; Jim Swinyard; Beverlee Stillwell; Steve Marks; Marla Rae; Amy Annala; Kristin Chaffee; Adam Haas; Bruce Branlund; Jim Switzer; Duane Forman; Harold Volz; Howard Stutlman; Joe Farias; Kit Eldredge; Nancy Jesuale; Randy Kruger; Mille Tirapelle; Randy Simpson; Mark Paukert; Bernard Rate; David Brooks; Larsen Grabenkort.

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Chair Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 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.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Johnson asked members and interested parties to introduce themselves. SIEC Co-coordinator Marla Rae introduced Amy Annala who is temporarily serving as SIEC support.

Call for approval of the minutes from the June 2005 council meeting. No corrections were noted.

**ACTION:** A motion to approve the minutes from meeting of June 2005 was made by Don Jenson. Seconded by Kristi Wilde. Approved.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Chief Johnson introduced and welcomed Sean McSpaden, now the DAS representative to the SIEC. Sean is now head of the IT Investment Management Program at IRMD.

Chief Johnson reported that, as a result of his letter to SAFECOM, he has been invited to meet with the SAFECOM Board in Washington, D.C. to further discuss his request that all SIECs be directly eligible for grant funds, and that SAFECOM make good on its intent to hold a national meeting of all state SIECs.

Chief Johnson said the SIEC has been asked to have a representative attend the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) meeting in Portland regarding a Communication Working Group. Chief Johnson said he would appoint himself for the time being until he has an opportunity to confer with Columbia County EM Director Vicki Harguth to better understand and explore what they need from SIEC.

### SIEC DISCUSSION WITH STATE SENATOR RICK METSGER

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Chief Johnson welcome State Senator Rick Metsger to the meeting and thanked Sen. Metsger for taking a direct interest in public safety interoperable communications. As chief sponsor of Senate Bill 817, Sen. Metsger solicited highlights from SIEC members. He reported that the fiscal impact statement was due out in a few days and that Budget Committee Chair, Sen. Kurt Schrader, hoped to hold a public hearing shortly thereafter. Sen. Metsger said he was aware of the national security need for interoperable communications but also knew that the state need was of critical importance.

Chief Johnson pointed out the FCC deadlines approaching and the need to back up from the 2013 date. He noted the four separate state-owned communications systems are in various states of health. Largely out of public view, Chief Johnson said, the SIEC has brought the state and local agencies together to plan a system of systems approach for interoperability.

Don Pfohl said beyond the FCC mandate, there has been an increased need for spectrum planning and capacity for the past ten to 20 years. He spoke of the history of the Integrated Wireless Network (IWN) and said the condition of Oregon's infrastructure is poor. Pfohl said we now are finding ways to connect the systems together and, rather than overbuild, planners are looking to connect them in secure, co-located facilities.

Steve Wheeler told Sen. Metsger that interoperability is important to city officials. He said it is very normal to have first responders from a variety of disciplines and there is great need to be able to share voice and data communications. Wheeler said whether there is an FCC mandate or not, we need to be able to share communications.

Jim Walz related that each year after disaster drills, there is a flurry of requests to ODOT for interoperability agreements. Walz said they now have over 300 I/O agreements in place. An overall statewide plan would alleviate the need for individual agreements.

Sheriff Jim Swinyard said every After Action Report he's seen includes an improved communications recommendation. Economies of scale, he said, could impact the cost as well as enhance operational capabilities. Local governments have problems getting sites because the federal government wants to limit access.

Don Jenson thanked Sen. Metsger for sponsoring SB 817. He said it gives guidance and structure that does not exist today. Jenson said he serves in coordinating ten state conflagration efforts and communications is the weakest link in each. He said regionalized system planning will stall with the SIEC.

Kristi Wilde spoke of aging radio systems across the state. She said it would be good if the state can bring four agencies together and provide access to locals. She noted that these kinds of partnerships were unheard of three years ago.

Beverlee Stillwell said SB 817, together with HB 2101, allows officials to better focus federal grant funds. Sen. Metsger asked how the bills would help secure more funds. Stillwell said one positive impact is S. 1274, introduced in Congress that would strengthen support to state and local officials to achieve interoperable communications and foster regional coordination. She said work is underway with Oregon's congressional delegation to earmark Oregon as a pilot. Whenever a statewide plan is in place, she said, it helps leverage added federal funds.

Sean McSpaden said coordination among state agencies could occur without SB 817 but when disasters occur, other agencies from federal, tribal and local governments are involved. He said the SIEC survey revealed over 400 radio systems are in use and their investments and frequency use need to be coordinated.

Sheriff Swinyard said for smaller jurisdictions to have interoperability, the SIEC provides leadership and expertise that is very beneficial to local governments. The SIEC is a resource to them, he said.

Chief Johnson told Sen. Metsger, unlike cell phones, police and fire service radios do not roam. At the end of the day, the SIEC provides a mechanism to plan how to jump onto the statewide system when needed without individual written agreements.

Sen. Metsger concluded by saying he will do all he can to get the bill through the legislature. He asked for help from SIEC members with representatives in the House to get the issue on their radar screen.

Chief Johnson again thanked Sen. Metsger for taking the time to meet with the Council and for advancing interoperability in the legislature.

### CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

Finance Committee: On behalf of Committee Chair John Koreski, Marla Rae said the committee membership is progressing. She said John Krawczyk, Yamhill County, will represent the Association of Oregon Counties. Steve Wheeler is the designated representative for the League of Oregon Cities. Marion County Undersheriff Greg Olson will represent the Oregon State Sheriffs Association. Millie Tirapelle from SORC will represent APCO/NENA. Other committee members will include Jeanne Arana for the Emergency Medical Services, Greg Jeffries and Linda Gilbert for DAS Budget and Management, Doug Wilson for the Legislative Fiscal Office. Still to be confirmed, Rae said, are representatives for the Fire Chiefs, Chiefs of Police and Special Districts.

Report on Status of IWN Project: Don Pfohl said the Integrated Wireless Network Project with U.S.D.O.J. is moving forward. It looks like there will be \$2.3 million in federal resources and use of a \$600,000 federal grant awarded to the Oregon State Police for the project. Construction is slated to start in mid 2006. Between now and October, he said, work is underway to get a written agreement in place.

Report on Forest Service Use Permit Moratorium: Marla Rae said she has been in contact with representatives of the state Attorney General's office and state Risk Management concerning the federal Forest Service move to declare a moratorium on any new projects until further notice because of issues concerning liability costs and indemnification. There are approximately 200 special use permits, many of which affect public safety communications. Risk Management and Oregon DOJ are working to identify those projects with a low risk and those where special insurance policies may need to be secured.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Strategic Planning Committee

Chair Kristi Wilde reported on the work to update the SIEC Strategic Plan. She said the committee is working on a total rewrite of the plan because so much work has been accomplished from the initial strategic plan. She said the committee will meet in August, with a goal of getting the SIEC a draft in time for adoption at the September SIEC meeting.

### B. Technical Committee

Chair Don Pfohl said he attended a Region 35 meeting and reported that they have not yet approved Idaho's dispute resolution process.

Pfohl said the Technical Committee hosted a technology presentation on June 22 by Link Communications. He also reminded of the July 13 presentation by TelexVega and noted that that brings to six the number of technology briefings held to date.

Pfohl said the committee will be drafting the schedule for presentations on Project 25 trunking systems.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Marks asked for Council direction on working with the Department of Land Conservation and Development concerning siting for communications towers and facilities. Chief Johnson asked that the issue be explored and a report back to the SIEC.

Sean McSpaden provided a brief summary of the State Enterprise Resource Strategy. He said the effort will determine how we buy, deploy and maintain various initiatives. McSpaden said the public safety wireless initiative is one of only seven of the key initiatives in the strategy due to the importance of the project. He said it dwarfs, by a factor of four, any of the other initiatives in the strategy.

## ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION:** There being no other business, Don Jenson moved for adjournment with a second by Jim Swinyard. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.