



Oregon State Interoperability Executive Council

Minutes of Meeting – December 13, 2005

PRESENT: Jeff Johnson, Chair; Joe Kuran, Don Pfohl, Kristi Wilde, Pete Spirup, Ken Murphy, Jim Swinyard, Lance Englet, Beverlee Stilwell, Peter van denBerg, Jim Walz, Kathy George, Eulus Newtwon, Jeanne Arana, Steve Marks, Marla Rae, Kristin Chaffee, Brian Sherrard, Tom Clemo, Harold Volz, Alan McMahon, Laurent Brigdan, Mildred Tirapelle, Larsen Krabenkort, Rick Hintorne, Joe Farias, Ronald Ropp, Eric Steward, Vic Hill, Ben Garvey, Tom Wynkoop, Russ Burger, David Kemp, Rob Myers, Scott Young, Steve Noel, Rick Williams, Paul Snider.

Chair Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 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. A quorum was present.

Chief Johnson deferred consideration of the November 2005 minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chief Johnson reported the chair's appointment of Vic Hill from the Department of Forestry as chair of the SIEC Technical Committee to replace Don Pfohl. With Don's increasing work on OWIN project management, he needs to step down from some of his "extracurricular" work assignments. Chief Johnson thanked Don for all of his efforts to promote interoperability and the work of the SIEC, at both the state and federal levels.

Chief Johnson also reported that the Speaker of the House and Senate President have made their appointments of legislative members to the SIEC, as required by HB 2101. The House member is Representative Brian Boquist and the Senate member is Senator Rick Metsger.

With the retirement of Jim Walz from the Oregon Department of Transportation, the director of Transportation has named Peter van den Berg as his proxy on the SIEC. Chief Johnson welcomed van den Berg to the council.

Director Beverlee Stilwell reported on the appearances before the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology and the legislative Emergency Board. She said both hearings provided an opportunity to increase the awareness of the interoperability challenges. The Emergency Board scaled back the OEM request for temporary staff assistance but acknowledged the agency will return at future meetings.

COORDINATORS' REPORT

Marla Rae reported that the Governor will be sending a letter to the Oregon congressional delegation, inviting their staff to a Governor-sponsored briefing on the status of interoperability in Oregon. Marla said the letter will seek the delegation's assistance in getting additional federal funds into the state.

Steve Marks reported on the "workshop" coordinated by the SIEC Finance Committee. The workshop involved staff from all of the affected state agencies in an effort to pull together the necessary financial information for the Finance Committee to develop various financing options. Marks said this is the first of what will be a series of meetings of this group.

Marla Rae distributed a proposed schedule of future SIEC meetings. It is proposed that SIEC meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, at the Anderson Readiness Center at 1 p.m. The list will be posted on the SIEC web site.

INTEROPERABILITY PRESENTATION BY LANE COUNTY SHERIFF RUSS BURGER

Sheriff Jim Swinyard, chair of the SIEC Partnership Committee, invited Sheriff Russ Burger to provide an overview of the efforts in the seven counties of Oregon's Fourth Congressional District and the radio project that is developing. Sheriff Burger outlined the background of the project. He said funding came from an earmark in a U.S. Department of Transportation grant.

The project is planned in two phases. The first is installation of microwave connectivity links, construction of a Project 25 master site, and establishment of a system for interoperable communications for mobile units roaming in the district. The second phase is expansion of the VHF interoperable tactical channel.

Sheriff Burger said the system in the seven county area will not duplicate OWIN or IWN; rather, he said the system is planned to interface with those systems.

Sheriff Burger also offered whatever assistance he might be able to provide with the congressional delegation.

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK PRESENTATION

SIEC member Jeanne Arana introduced Eric Stewart, Technical Coordinator of Oregon's Health Alert Network (HAN). HAN is a project funded through a cooperative agreement involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its purpose is to improve state and local responses to public health emergencies on a 24/7 capacity.

Eric said the network works with other state preparedness staff to integrate public health emergency communications procedures with relevant state, federal, and local agencies, as well as local health departments and relevant federal and non-governmental organizations, such as the Red Cross.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Partnership Committee

Jim Swinyard said the Partnership Committee met that morning prior to the SIEC meeting. He said the committee will meet regularly at that time each month. The committee will be working on prioritizing its assignments, and developing a partnership resolution for local government associations. He said the committee reviewed the regional maps prepared by OEM. The Partnership Committee of the SIEC endorses the Homeland Security regions for planning purposes. He also noted the committee received information from OEM regarding the workshops planned for January regarding grant funding.

Technical Committee

Don Pfohl reported that Ben Garvey and Tom Wynkoop are now assigned to the OWIN project. The Department of Forestry has loaned vehicles for their use during this time. Ben will be developing a relational database for inventory control. Don noted that OWIN will be consuming his time so he needs to step down as chair of the SIEC Technical Committee. Don also asked for suggestions of what he should take back to the SAFECOM meeting in January. Chief Johnson suggested that Don urge SAFECOM and the federal government to "fund the Christmas tree, not just the tinsel and ornaments."

STATUS OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

Tim Walker from DAS briefed the council on the status of the engineering consulting contract. He said the second round of interviews involved extensive questions. Evaluations of the responses are due to him in the next day. Tim also spoke to the development of a procurement strategy to help with the OWN build out and noted the possibilities of contracts for use by political subdivisions.

UPDATE ON FEDERAL GRANTS FOR 2006

Ken Murphy, Director of OEM, outlined the FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program timeline. He said due to the quasi-competitive nature of grant funding as directed by the federal government, the March 2, 2006 grant application deadline must be strictly enforced. Ken noted that the federal focus is on all hazards, not just "the big one." He also noted that the federal government has insisted on expanded regional collaboration for successful future grants. He provided handouts of the proposed Homeland Security regions for planning purposes.

The next meeting will be held January 10, 2006 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.