



State Interoperability Executive Council Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2013 – 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, May 14, 2013, at 1:42 p.m. Council Chair Rock Rakosi called the State Interoperability Executive Council to order.

ATTENDEES INCLUDE (Quorum)

Rock Rakosi, Chair
Craig Durbin
Tami Dorhman
Kathy George
Steve Noel, *non-voting member*

Bob Cozzie
Mike Duyck
Brian Henson
Sean McSpaden *for Julie Pearson*

Paul Bell
Luci Moore
Lonny Macy
Tom Lauer, *non-voting member*

COUNCIL MINUTES

Staff: Chief Rock Rakosi, Chair

Chair Rakosi inquired whether there were any changes to the draft minutes for the Feb. 12, 2013 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Rakosi requested a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Mike Duyck motioned to approve minutes from the February session. Paul Bell seconded the motion; all were in favor. The minutes will stand.

CHAIRS REPORT

Staff: Chief Rock Rakosi, Chair

Senate bill 665 continues to work its way through the legislative process; however, it has been unscheduled with the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. This is due in part because Senator Johnson was recently in a vehicle accident and has not been onsite to shepherd the bill. However, the council has not heard opposition to the bill and remains positive it will be approved.

The council held its annual State Communication Interoperability Plan update workshop in April. Representatives from the U.S. Dept of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications were onsite to facilitate the workshop. Previously, the document was quite large, reaching upward of 200 pages. During this round of updates, participating staff were able to remove significant amounts of non-critical data, decreasing the document to something more useable and printer-friendly. Currently, this document is working through the review cycle; staff has targeted June for publishing the final version.

During this year's workshop, participants discussed at length the extent to which broadband should be represented in the SCIP document. Ultimately, the attendees felt it appropriate to incorporate a section on broadband. The group expects Land Mobile Radio to remain paramount for some time; however, broadband is expected to increase in importance and widespread use. With that, the Executive Committee has discussed the idea of creating a Broadband Committee, separate from the Technical Committee, to address the rollout of the technology and its role in the state, while allowing the Technical Committee to remain focused on LMR use. Vice-Chair Mike Duyck will be the chair of the newly created committee; Chair Rakosi added that having the SIEC Vice-Chair as head of the Broadband Committee sends a strong message to the federal level that Oregon cares about broadband. Those interested in participating should contact Chief Duyck directly.

Lastly, Chair Rakosi reported that council members met with representatives from FirstNet and the Office of Emergency Communications to discuss coverage for the state. The group came away with more questions than answers, but felt the discussion was healthy. It also allowed for participants to provide feedback about the meeting format, which may result in adjustments to the template FirstNet and OEC are using to collect state-specific information.

STATE RADIO PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

Tom Lauer reported the electronic version of the Field Operations guide, or eFOG, has been released on the Android market as well as at the iTunes store. Directions can be found on the SIEC website.

Regarding the radio project budget proposal, Lauer has met with the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, but has received no official direction as to whether any of the proposed budget options will be approved. One controversial item was the eFOG application; committee members inquired whether it was an appropriate expense. However, Lauer was able to show this as a cost savings over hard copy printing and distribution.

House Bill 3415 is moving forward. This bill, sponsored by Lauer and Paul Bell, would allow public safety entities to charge commercial rates when charging to commercial vendors.

The radio project is on track to begin narrowband cutover in early June. Deployment of over 5,500 radios is nearly complete; the project has less than 20 units yet to be installed.

Assistant Radio Project Manager Joe Messman and Public Information Officer Lissa Willis provided the council with an overview of the narrowband cutover plan and communication protocol.

Lissa Willis began with an overview of how the project distributes information to interested parties. To date, the radio project has distributed updates on project progress in the greatest detail by way of its monthly progress reports. This report includes a project update, a success feature, progress by work breakdown structure, a list of project sites by county and finally, project financial information. The MPR is distributed primarily via soft copy and is available through the project's website, found at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/StateRadioProject.

In addition to reporting information out, the radio project has worked to develop relationships with project stakeholders and establish forums to provide those stakeholders with necessary information and opportunity for active participation. The radio project has two readiness groups – one with Oregon State Police representatives and the other with Oregon Department of Transportation Maintenance representatives. The radio project has also communications through:

- Oversight and/or policy groups, such as the State Radio Users Group and the SIEC;
- Advisory groups, such as the Technical Advisory Committee; and
- Workgroup teams, consisting of project discipline and/or component representatives.

As the project progressed, management felt the need to identify stakeholders and ensure outreach efforts were successfully reaching those who needed the information. The radio project sought the help of JLA Public Involvement to identify who needed to be included in the various messaging the project develops and distributes. As a result, for any given event, the project has charted what type of message is required, for whom and by when. The project uses its website and GovDelivery announcements to broadcast bulletins and quarterly updates to its stakeholders and staff.

The project will continue to make communicating with its stakeholder groups a priority as it helps to ensure those on the front line are prepared and knowledgeable about operational changes that affect them. Any

additional questions about the radio project's communications plan should be directed to the project's communication office; information can be found on the project website.

Joe Messman began by noting that when ODOT was given a revised project directive in July of 2011, preparation for the transition to narrowband was the first order of business. Radio project staff worked through 2011 and 2012 to determine the scope of the radio deployment and the associated transition to narrowband. As of the beginning of May, the project has completed nearly all radio installations and is prepared to begin the transition to narrowband on June 3 in advance of the Nov. 1 deadline.

The radio project will transition the state in 10 zones, beginning the southwest corner of state moving north through the valley, then on to central and eastern Oregon. The project will establish triage centers in each zone to assist those customers who need help making the switch to narrowband operation.

One of the primary goals for the project has been to establish as good as or better coverage than what ODOT and OSP had with the existing wideband operation. In order to achieve this goal, the project has installed mountaintop repeaters and antennas to increase coverage, along with replacing outdated base stations and remotes at many ODOT and OSP offices. Radio firmware and programming updates have been ongoing as well to ensure the mobile and portable radios include the most appropriate and up to date channel program prior to cutover.

However, project staff has had to clarify that "as good as or better" does not mean "the same" coverage. With updates to mountaintop repeater equipment and new radios, the project anticipates there will be changes to the coverage range in some areas. However, project staff is analyzing anticipated coverage areas to ensure stakeholder needs are met.

As a point of clarification, Lauer added that this transition is from wideband analog to narrowband analog. The transition from narrowband analog to narrowband digital will likely occur in 2014.

Vice-Chair Duyck inquired whether the project has added any new towers to the existing system. Messman responded that by installing additional antenna at mountaintop site for enhanced system strength, the project has in essence added a tower.

Vice-Chair Duyck also asked about the changes in coverage Messman mentioned. Lauer responded that the project has been actively working to replace old equipment and install additional equipment to help mitigate potential impacts to system coverage.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Bob Cozzie, Committee Chair

Director Cozzie reported the Strategic Planning Committee met May 14, prior to the council meeting. The committee reviewed the existing committee charter document, last revised in 2003. Initial edits have been identified and the committee hopes to have a final version complete prior to the next meeting.

The Strategic Planning Committee will also be reviewing the council website on Oregon.gov for updates to increase the visibility and usability of the site. The committee also has plans to work with the Partnership Committee regarding the interactions with broadband.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Kathy George, Committee Chair

Commissioner George reported that the Partnership Committee did not meet since the last council meeting in February, as the committee is awaiting the outcome of SB 665.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Rick Iverson, Committee Chair

Rick Iverson reported the Technical Committee met on May 5. Development of the committee's membership is ongoing. The group intends to review the committee charter in the coming months to identify necessary updates. The committee also intends to review the existing trunked systems throughout the state for development of interoperability.

STATE RADIO USERS GROUP REPORT

Staff: Tom Lauer for Luci Moore, Committee Representative

Lauer reported the State Radio Users Group continues to meet monthly. The next meeting will be Friday May 17. The interagency agreement has been signed and the cost model established. Legislative tracking and development of charter materials are ongoing efforts.

700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Staff: Joe Kuran, Committee Representative

As Joe Kuran was not in attendance, no report was given.

FEMA OVERVIEW

Staff: Scott Hansen and Ken Miller on behalf of Terry Knight, FEMA Region X Coordinator

Scott Hansen and Ken Miller provided the group with a presentation on how FEMA provides assistance to the states when an emergency is called. Each state has an information annex to provide FEMA with critical information describing the communication capabilities of the state. FEMA conducts a full update every three years, with an annual review against each states' SCIP update.

Representatives last visited Oregon in 2011. At that time, staff identified changes in technology, governance, system capabilities and existing networks. The current update focuses on reviewing Oregon's goals, identifying requirements, and determining what the current challenges include and how FEMA can best support the state.

FEMA addresses events in the following order: 1) identification of a threat or trigger, such as a flood; 2) identification of a command layer of support; 3) identification of a response layer of support; the majority of first responders are included in this category; and 4) identification of the community layer. Information collected for the annex provides FEMA staff with the necessary background information to step in and evaluate the event as detailed above. Having this information on hand allows the agency to better and more quickly react.

Moving forward, FEMA is looking to document technology upgrades, the prevalence of social media among first responders, broadband planning efforts, and so on, so that it can identify trends as they emerge and allow the agency to identify how best to maximize its support.

FEMA staff will continue to visit remaining Region X states this summer. Release of Oregon's annex document is anticipated this fall.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Staff: Steve Noel

Steve Noel reported FirstNet has scheduled a regional meeting at the end of May. Representatives from the west have been invited to San Francisco, including up to 10 representatives from Oregon. In cooperation with OEM, ODOT has established a funding source to support travel for the Oregon representatives. Per FirstNet, representatives may include a tribal representative, up to five state and five local representatives. ODOT staff will work in the coming weeks to identify those travelers and establish travel plans.

Concerns regarding the accessibility of the Field Operations Guide in the electronic format, eFOG, have been voiced. The U.S. Office of Emergency Communications is in the process of establishing a repository to store such documentation. User authentication and credentials will be required to access the site. As additional information is released, Noel will notify the council.

OPEN DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

Lauer reported that during one of his meetings with the legislature he was asked how well the system would fare in a natural disaster. Lauer responded the radio project has enhanced power supply to better operate when power is disturbed or lost. Lauer has also requested his bridge crew, which is familiar with earthquake models, to review the tower codes for earthquake stability. At this time, Lauer feels the towers can sustain a subduction zone earthquake; however, it should be expected that dishes on those towers are unlikely to be facing the appropriate direction and would require some triage work.

Lauer was also asked by the legislature whether the system has the correct amount and appropriate scope for its emergency aid agreements established with other state agencies as well as other jurisdictions. In response, ODOT has initiated efforts to review the system's emergency plans.

Lauer added that the State Radio System began carrying calls from Lincoln County 911 on its network and the first segment of the trunked network is expected to be installed in Salem during August.

Major Durbin queried the group about the upcoming opt-in / opt-out decision required by the FirstNet board, asking what value broadband brings to a response effort of a large scale event. Major Durbin suggested a value proposition would be beneficial to evaluate both event response and day-to-day activities. Further inquiring how all of the disparate agencies of the state be tied together.

Chair Rakosi stated that while the goal and intent of FirstNet is admirable, broadband is not mission critical, today. LMR is [and is expected to remain for some time] critical.

Lauer added that access to reliable priority service is needed for public safety to begin to think about broadband as an option.

Chief Duyck added that he felt some were underestimating the importance of broadband. Some agencies are not staffed for a voice-only environment and are being challenged to seek technology-based options for cost savings. Opportunities are needed to explore what is available and accessible at all levels.

Sean McSpaden noted that FirstNet may need the eastern states to subsidize the western states given the difference in population density.

Lauer noted the need for common denominators between the platforms at the state and national levels.

Commissioner George added that the Association of Oregon Counties may hold a webinar to discuss some of these concerns. As information is released, it will be forwarded to the group.

ADJOURN

Chair Rakosi queried the group for additional discussion topics. Hearing none, Chair Rakosi adjourned the December session of the SIEC at 3:18 pm.