



# State Interoperability Executive Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015 – 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](mailto:RadioProjectInfo@odot.state.or.us)

On Wednesday February 18, 2015, at 1:38 p.m. Council Chair Rock Rakosi called the State Interoperability Executive Council to order.

## ATTENDEES INCLUDE (Quorum)

Rock Rakosi, Chair  
Mike Smith  
Jeff Dickerson  
Mary Ann Jenson for Brian Henson  
Rick Iverson, *non-voting member*

Bob Cozzie  
Tom Johnston  
Tim Moor  
John Hartsock for Joe Kuran  
Steve Noel, *non-voting member*

Joel Lujan  
Mike Duyck  
Rob Reish for Luci Moore  
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 Aug. 12, 2014 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Rakosi requested a motion. Councilmember Tom Johnston motioned to approve minutes from the August session. Commissioner Mike Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor. The minutes will stand.

## CHAIRS REPORT

### Staff: Chief Rock Rakosi, Chair

Chair Rakosi noted it has been some time since the council held a regular meeting, as the fourth quarter 2014 meeting was used for the state's FirstNet consultation. He noted and expressed appreciation for all those who attended, including the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators from Oregon's neighboring states. Rakosi believes needed information was received by FirstNet which is working on the next phase of its work.

On January 8, the Executive Committee met to review the trunked radio system network proposal prepared by the Technical Committee. At the last regular council meeting in August, committee chair Rick Iverson presented the committee's proposal to develop interoperability among systems, limited to the established trunked radio systems in the state. At that time, Steve Noel indicated that he was engaged in possibly parallel activities and requested that additional discussion take place before the council delivered a decision on the matter. Since that time, Iverson and Noel have reviewed their respective plans and determined that each can proceed.

Out of these discussions and reiterated during the January meeting, two primary tasks have been identified: 1) technical connectivity between systems is needed; and 2) interoperability among the trunked radio system users and for those non-trunked systems neighboring TRS areas.

The group has also agreed that the \$2.3 million dedicated to interoperability in the State Radio Project budget will not cover all of the expenses associated with full interoperability implementation. With that, the intent of this effort is to generate a menu of services from which the council can prioritize and select based upon what it determines as its collective need. This effort will initially include two primary efforts: 1) the first will include engaging State Radio Project contractor AECOM to develop a formal procurement to acquire a consultant to develop an implementation plan; and 2) once the RFP has been developed and bids have been received, additional research, development and presentation of an integrated system plan shall be generated.

Nancy Hall, representative from AECOM, will take the lead in coordinating the RFP development effort. Initially Hall will look to better define the perceived details so the council gets the most it can from the RFP process. For those that will join the RFP development committee, please exchange information with Hall prior to departing from this meeting.

The details of the Jan. 8 discussion have been captured in the minutes and attached to the agenda packet for reference. The motion approved during the Jan. 8 meeting allowing for this effort to proceed, and has been confirmed during this council meeting.

Chair Rakosi reported that Joe Kuran, the council's public representative and member of the Region 35 Committee has decided to retire and will step down from both posts. Chair Rakosi wished to thank Kuran for his time, effort and service to public safety communications and to this council.

## **STATE RADIO PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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

Tom Lauer began by noting that Dick Upton has been successfully managing the radio project since 2011, working diligently to design, develop and implement the system in conjunction with the staff of the Wireless Communication Section. The radio project is meeting its goals and remains on budget. Lauer acknowledged the efforts of Upton and his staff, and turned the floor to Upton for the project update.

Upton reported the radio project is in motion and delivering product on the ground. At the end of December 2014, the project was complete with 62 percent of all activities needed. Narrowband is 100 complete and operational. Staff is still working on some sites to provide enhanced coverage, but the existing system is fully operational in narrowband mode. Microwave installations and the supporting structure have reached 50 percent completion. Civil site development has progressed to 64 percent complete. Of the 41 trunked radio sites, 15 have equipment installed and materials for the remaining sites have been purchased. Dispatch console equipment manufacturing is underway, with installations slated for this summer. Manufacture of Wireless integration management system, or WIMS, equipment is also underway. Staff from the Wireless Communications Section will handle installations of WIMS equipment, slated to begin in summer 2015 as well.

Upton reported the 2015 construction season will be the largest construction season for the radio project to date. Completion of remaining civil updates and installation of system technology are planned. The mild 2014-15 winter weather allowed for additional site work to be completed during a time the project had planned to be snowed-out.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Staff: Bob Cozzie, Committee Chair**

Director Bob Cozzie reported the Strategic Planning Committee completed its review and update of the council website. Committee member John Hartsock sat in on the Broadband Committee's meeting, in support of their charter development. Hartsock reported the discussion went well and only final edits and formatting of the document are needed. Cozzie added that Strategic Planning members will continue to sit in on other committee meetings to ensure the group remains informed and engaged in council discussions.

## **PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Staff: Commissioner Mike Smith, Committee Chair**

Commissioner Mike Smith reported the Partnership Committee discussed the technical RFP mentioned by Chair Rakosi at the start of the meeting. The committee members have expressed support of the effort and are very interested in holding a conference with stakeholders and owners to discuss system options. The Association of Oregon Counties has offered to hold the conference, with funding from the SIEC.

Commissioner Smith estimates the expenses would be approximately \$8,000 and would like funding to come from the \$2.3 million interoperability budget. Discussion at the conference would be less about the technology and more about the behavior and expectations among participants. Reviewing what attendees anticipate the future system to include, as well as the conceptual basis for intergovernmental agreements between the user groups and the state.

Commissioner Smith motioned to hold a conference to review the operational agreement needs associated with the interoperability effort currently underway, using funds from the radio project's interoperability budget.

Chair Rakosi queried the group for discussion on the motion. Lauer noted that approval of this motion should be contingent upon confirmation that these funds may be used for this purpose.

Hearing no more, Rob Reish seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion will stand, contingent on funding availability.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Staff: Rick Iverson, Committee Chair**

Rick Iverson reported the Technical Committee last met on Nov. 25 to continue preparations on the interoperability proposal. In addition to the proposal, the committee has also been working on an update to its charter, of which additional work is still needed. Iverson also reported that the committee would also welcome additional members to ensure a variety of viewpoints are represented and heard.

### **BROADBAND COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Staff: Chief Mike Duyck, Committee Chair**

Chief Mike Duyck reported that his first in-person meeting was held prior to the full council meeting and that he was pleased with the turnout and the diversity of the members. Charter development is going well; Chief Duyck expressed his appreciation for the support of the Strategic Planning Committee. Chief Duyck would like to have the remaining charter work completed in the coming months so that it may be reviewed for formal approval at the May council meeting.

The committee is also looking at the FirstNet meeting and related information to identify how the committee can best support FirstNet efforts and help the state to get the most from FirstNet.

Chair Rakosi added that the council still has two vacant positions held for local chief information officers, and requested that the committee initiate outreach to help find interested parties.

### **STATE RADIO USERS GROUP REPORT**

**Staff: Rob Reish for Luci Moore, Committee Representative**

Rob Reish reported the State Radio Users Group continues to meet monthly to discuss the State Radio System. Since the last council meeting in August, the Wireless Communications Section, operators of the State Radio System, have absorbed six radio project employees to help to support the updated system long term.

The operations center is now staffed and proactively monitoring system components for issues that need to be addressed. The addition of the WIMS system will allow the Wireless Section enhanced monitoring capabilities, and improving reliability of the system. Staff will be able to identify problems before they become ones.

### **700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Staff: John Hartsock for Joe Kuran, Committee Representative**

John Hartsock noted the next Region 35 700 MHz meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27, which will be followed by the 800 MHz meeting; each of which will include an election for new officers. There is an effort underway to rewrite the frequency allocation plan; however a timeline has not yet been defined.

## **STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

### **Staff: Steve Noel**

Steve Noel reported the federal frequency auction was held earning \$45 million, and allowing for the current efforts of FirstNet to be fully funded. FirstNet staff reported positive feedback after its consult with Oregon, noting the great communication between attendees. There has been little reported otherwise from FirstNet, other than the RFP draft is expected late spring. Noel also noted that Chief Jeff Johnson has been elected Vice Chair of the FirstNet board.

An update to the state communications interoperability plan is needed. Coordination with the Strategic Planning Committee is underway to identify the focus of the workshop.

Noel added that the Field Operation Guide has been updated and is out for distribution.

Bruce Richter added that Oregon's Field Operations Guide continues to be a model for other states. Washington State held its SCIP update last week. Washington has added a section detailing its work plan for FirstNet- and SLIGP-related data collection.

The Cascadia Rising Exercise planning meeting was held mid-January – Bob Cozzie was in attendance. Although the exercise will not take place until 2016, initiating planning efforts now is needed, given the large scale of the exercise.

Paul Nikfarjam, Regional General Manager for American Tower Corp. attended the meeting to introduce himself to the local public safety community, given ATC's recent purchases in the state. Recently, major acquisitions took place – Crown Castle purchased most of AT&T's towers, while ATC purchased most of Verizon's. Nikfarjam noted that his goal is to work with the public safety community and Verizon to achieve our collective goals. Nikfarjam noted that he will stay after the meeting to talk with any attendees and to exchange contact information.

Noel continued with his report, noting that he had discussed interoperability planning concepts with the Executive Committee. The CASM program, run by the Office of Emergency Communications, will be fleshed out with state-specific data. If funds are available, Noel would like to extend the reach of CASM statewide.

Noel reported ongoing discussions of a pilot program in the Bend area regarding the radio project and Deschutes County that would allow the county access to the state switch. Interoperability funds would be used to help support the effort in conjunction with county funds which must be expended by June 2017. Currently the county has some time to implement the project and some funding to allot, but not enough to complete everything itself.

Reish noted that the state does not own the switch until final acceptance is complete, which is not planned until 2016. Additional conversations should be held on the subject prior to entering into any agreements.

## **YAMHILL COUNTY APPEAL DISCUSSION**

### **Staff: Murray Paolo, Yamhill County**

Chair Rakosi held a few phone conversations with representatives of Yamhill County, which is still reserving its right to appeal, but has come to an agreement with Reish and ODOT on the matter of general use frequency allocations first discussed last summer. Murray Paolo, Information Systems Director for Yamhill County and the City of McMinnville was in attendance to discuss the matter with the council.

Paolo began by noting the county's concern was related to frequency channels designated to the county being allocated to the state for its use. Once informed, the county objected immediately. Since that time, representatives from the county, including Paolo, have met with Reish and Lauer to discuss the matter further. The county is interested in the advancement of the State Radio Project, as they have vested interest in its continued success and partnership. Paolo confirmed Rakosi's note that the county wishes to reserve its right to appeal. The county also wants to be forward-looking and as such has developed what it thinks is a viable option. Included in the agenda packet are two documents – the first a letter to the council from the Board of County Commissioners, and the second a review of the proposed actions. The county has asked that action be taken on the following items included in the letter:

- Item 1) "That the SIEC supports and encourages continues efforts by both entities on the items in the attached document in an effort to resolve the issues and meet the stated interests of both entities.
- Item 4) "Regarding [proposed action] number five, assign the task to the SIEC Partnership Committee of developing an expanded modification to the notification requirements when a frequency request is submitted to the RPC [Regional Planning Committee]. Once the Partnership Committee has developed a notification proposal, that proposal would then be forwarded to the RPC for modification to the 700 MHz Regional Plan."

Items two and three of the letter need additional work before action should be taken.

Regarding item one, Chair Rakosi believes the SIEC already does this, and is unsure a formal action is required, unless members feel this is needed.

Councilmember Johnston noted that one doesn't normally get to pick and choose what it appeals. Chair Rakosi responded that is why he phrased his opening comments in the manner he did. If the group is taking this truly as an appeal, according the charter, it must have a system that is further developed. Under those terms, Chair Rakosi believes the county's appeal has no standing. Regardless of the RPC charter, SIEC doesn't really have the authority to force any one group to an action. The FCC will take any action it chooses. Further, no entity has full authority over the frequencies until the FCC allocates them.

Director Cozzie commented that in reviewing the letter from the commissioners, there is mention of the appeal process escalation to the SIEC. Cozzie inquired how that allocation came to be. Hartsock responded the RPC needed to refer issues to another review body within the state prior to an issue forwarding to the national level. At the time the plan was developed, the SIEC was the most logical choice.

Commissioner Smith added that it was assumed that an appeal would halt the progress of the state's application to the FCC, instead of those activities running in concurrence. Smith added that what the county is asking for can be accommodated by the SIEC.

Karl Larson, City of Portland, inquired what the appeal denial documentation included. Hartsock responded the denial was not as thorough as it should have been. Chair Rakosi noted that it was clear to him the county has no standing to ask for these frequency or to issue an appeal. Other alleged appeals have not been seen by anyone else in the room. Paolo reiterated the county believes it is eligible to issue an appeal, and that it doesn't want to rehash past events, but to look forward to a solution.

Reish agreed with Commissioner Smith that there are some actionable items that can be taken. The SIEC can acknowledge that those things need to be taken and provide direction moving forward.

Chair Rakosi requested that someone make a motion.

Councilmember Johnston commented that there is additional need to understand the appeal process, recommending the council refer the county back to offline discussions without formal direction from the SIEC, which could be problematic should the issue be brought forth again. [SIEC making recommendation at this time may influence future actions or litigations.]

Chair Rakosi motioned the SIEC, without opining any potential true litigation, allows for, and encourages, the continued cooperative discussion among the two parties. If it does not, then the SIEC will reinvestigate the issue.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion will stand.

Lauer added that the role and responsibility of the SIEC in this matter is unclear. It seems prudent to determine those items first and allow them to lead the council to its next appropriate course of action. Major Lujan concurred with Lauer, noting that additional direction is needed. Lauer continued by adding that there are some responsibilities of the SIEC related to interoperability that could be at odds with its perceived or actual role in the appeal process.

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

As a follow up to the earlier discussion about the Cascadia Rising exercise, Lauer noted that ODOT staff is conducting presentations statewide discussing the anticipated impacts on the state's transportation system. Some areas will be turned into what could be described as the third-world infrastructure. The question will not be whether the communications system will remain operational, but how it will be rebuilt. Some parts of the transportation system will not be repaired for up to four years. There is a need to think broadly about this issue – what advanced planning is needed, and can be done now, to better prepare ourselves for this future disaster. Karl Larson commented that part of the problem is that most don't really believe the projections associated with earthquake of this magnitude, making it difficult to develop viable plans and exercises. Chair Rakosi added that he would be interested in having a member of Lauer's staff deliver this presentation at the May council meeting.

Chris Tamarin reported the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council has published its 2014 report on Broadband in Oregon. The report is available through the [council website](#).

### **ADJOURN**

Chair Rakosi queried the group and the audience for additional discussion topics. Hearing none, Chair Rakosi adjourned the February session of the SIEC at 3:12 pm.