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OREGON STATE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SIEC)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

Chair **Tony DeBone** opened the meeting and announced the retirement of **Rick Iverson**, recognizing his long-term leadership in the Technology Committee, State Radio Project, and statewide communications interoperability. Multiple members expressed appreciation for Rick's mentorship and service.

2. Roll Call & Quorum Confirmation

- Roll call conducted by **Jon Lee (OEM)**.
- Quorum confirmed.

3. Appointments & Membership Updates

Presented by Jon Lee (OEM):

- One Letter of Interest received for the Public Member seat.
- League of Oregon Cities representative pending.
- Two Letters of Interest received for other positions.
- Nomination from Oregon APCO/NENA for **Mark Buchholz (Washington County)**.
- Senate member appointment in progress.
- Interest confirmed from **Senator Brockman**.

4. NextGen 9-1-1 Steering Committee Appointment

- **Nominee: Nick Vora**, Union County Emergency Manager.
- Motion to appoint: **Aaron Fox**; seconded by **Brandon Fowler**.
- No opposition; motion carried. Nick introduced himself and described his background in law enforcement, SAR, fire/EMS, and radio systems.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from **November 18, 2025** presented.
- Motion to accept: **Aaron Fox**; seconded by **Michael Harman**.
- No objections; minutes approved.

6. Roundtable Updates

A. FirstNet Authority & Public Safety Broadband

- Federal reauthorization hearings ongoing.
- Positive reviews in congressional testimony.
- Oregon described as performing well but challenged by Western terrain.
- Expansions planned using FirstNet Authority reinvestment dollars.
- Issue raised: inadequate tower backup power (only ~3 hours during a 24-hour outage). AT&T to investigate specific site once location provided.

B. NextGen 9-1-1 (NG911) Program Update

Presented by Frank Kuchta & Robbie Sigler (OEM):

- Stage Gate 3 endorsement anticipated in April 2026.
- State onboarding of Independent Quality Management vendor underway.
- Broad statewide GIS readiness significantly advanced.
- After endorsement, regional NG911 “road shows” will be held.
- Locations potentially hosted by: Umatilla, BOEC, Tillamook, Deschutes, Central Lane, Josephine.
- Target timeframe for outreach: April–May 2026.
- Local agencies encouraged to identify future operational needs that NG911 may support (e.g., responder data, device integration).

C. Alert & Warning Systems

- Discussion from Multnomah County’s regional coordination.
- Need for improved transparency in grant pathways (SHSP, UASI).
- Need for alignment among technical requirements, public messaging, and alert authority criteria.

D. Fiber Infrastructure Mapping & Outage Impacts

- Concern raised about regional fiber outages and lack of mapping visibility.
- OEM is working with carriers but does not yet have full fiber mapping.
- NG911 will improve PSAP resilience (SD-WAN with LTE + LEO + fiber) but community isolation challenges remain.

7. Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Formation

Presented by Seiji Shiratori (OEM):

- State law (SB 826) requires OEM to create a rule defining the SWIC assessment formula.
- Request: SIEC form a temporary RAC to review the draft rule.
- Volunteers: Teresa Livingston, Aaron Fox, others.
- Motion: Aaron Fox; second by Teresa Livingston.
- Motion passed; committee of ~6 to be convened.

8. Chair Position Transition

- Chair **Tony DeBone** concluding term (8-year limit).
- Vice Chair **Michael Harman** will remain Vice Chair but not seek Chair role.
- Recruitment and outreach for new Chair to occur prior to next meeting.

9. Public Safety Communications Ecosystem Definition

- Previously part of the Oregon SCIP; originally requested by APCO/NENA.
- Discussion suggests need has diminished; no current action required.
- Item will be archived and removed from future agendas.

10. Legislative Working Group

- Strategic Planning Committee (lead: **John Hartsock**) will convene to prepare legislative concepts for the 2027 long session.
- Topics may include: PS infrastructure funding, NG911 support, alert & warning system modernization.

11. SWIC / OEM Updates

Presented by Jon Lee & Jeff Perkins:

- John attended federal Interoperability Summit in DC.
- Major OEM projects:
 - ESF-2 Spring Training (May 2026)
 - Watch Center (ORS) transition effective July 1, 2026
 - SIEC website rebuild underway
 - Statewide equipment cache modernization
 - Upcoming COMT, COML, AUXCOMM training proposals
- Jeff presented on rural fiber outage case study (Lake County Elk Fire) and will present at IWCE and Oregon Prepared Conference.
- OEM onboarding five new staff for Watch Center operations.

12. Regional Interoperability Updates

- Lane County fire agencies experiencing challenges integrating UHF + 800 MHz and cross-county interoperability.
- Concerns over affordability of radios and communications infrastructure for small districts.
- Oregon Wildfire Camera Interoperability Group reported major progress and new interagency MOU.

13. Carrier Updates

AT&T / FirstNet

- New **AT&T–Verizon roaming agreement** for Band 14 coverage gaps.
- Additional Oregon tower builds (Q4 2025).
- New spectrum (70–100 MHz) from EchoStar increasing capacity statewide.
- Direct-to-device satellite service pilot expected Summer 2026.
- High-power user equipment (HPUE) and agency-owned deployables available.

Verizon Wireless

- Crisis Response Team procedures briefed; best practices for contacting V-CERT.
- More than two dozen new Oregon sites added in 2025, with continued rural focus in 2026.
- Significant investments in coastal 5G UW and rural fiber backhaul.

14. Next Meeting

June 10, 2026 (virtual/hybrid).

Note: Agenda listed May 13, but group confirmed June 10 as correct.

15. Adjournment

Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at approximately **3:28 PM**.

If you'd like, I can also:

- Format these minutes into a polished **DOCX**
- Create an **Executive Summary**
- Build an **action-item list**
- Produce a **slide deck** summarizing the meeting

Just tell me what you prefer!

References [1] [Oregon SIEC Quarterly Meeting-20260311](#)

