



State Interoperability Executive Council

<http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/>

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2008

SIEC Members Present (13): Kristi Wilde, Rock Rakosi, Jeff Johnson, Dave Hard, Bob Strosser, Clark Seely, Peter van den Berg, John Koreski, Chuck Riley, Kathy George, Russ Burger, Ken Keim for Ken Murphy, and Pierre Jones for Kevin Peterman

OWIN Staff Present: Lindsay Ball, Mike Zanon, Steve Noel, and Elizabeth Skinner

Interested Parties: Rick Hinthorne, Rod Ashmore, Randy Kruger, Paul Pedersen, Rob Reish, Steve Hill, Rick Williams, John Murray, Thera Bradshaw, Mike Dykzeul, Wayne Siver, Marty McKillip, Tom Clemo, Luis Alba, Jim Swinyard, Tom Miller, Kay Erickson, Joe Raible, Larsen Grabenkort, Tom Kyle, Kit Eldredge, Jim Walz, Eric Schmidt, Rick Iverson and Fritz Graham

Chief Johnson called the meeting to order, asking for approval of the December 11, 2007 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Rakosi

Second: Mr. Stosser

Discussion: None

Passed.

Chair's Report ~Jeff Johnson

Chair Johnson discussed the vacancy for the Chair of the SIEC Technical Subcommittee following Sean McSpaden's resignation of that position last month. The SIEC had received nominations and they are in the process of reviewing potential candidates and hope to make a decision by the next SIEC meeting.

OWIN Director's Report ~Lindsay Ball

Mr. Ball described that the legislature recognized that OWIN is an important component and had formed a Legislative Work Group to focus some time on OWIN opportunities and issues. This group consists of: Kurt Schrader-Chair, Joanne Verger, David Nelson, Chuck Riley, Patti Smith, and Nancy Nathanson. OWIN participants met with the Legislative Work Group for three hours on Thursday, January 3, 2008. The topics were: the Federal Communication Commission narrowband mandate, the auctioning of the 700 MHz bandwidth; the status of Oregon's communication systems today; technology trends, and the evaluation of the costs of building OWIN in the seven northwest counties.

Mr. Ball reported on the All Hands Meeting held on January 4, 2008, with all of the radio/technical staff from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon State Police (OSP), and the Department of Corrections (DOC). The

purpose of this meeting was to inform the staff what was happening with the process of consolidating four radio systems into one system. They were briefed on the same presentation that was given to the Legislative Work Group, the NW Seven Counties and another presentation which discussed analog, digital and trunked technology. This meeting also resulted in the development of work groups to assess and recommend future integration and what the OWIN agency would look like. The OWIN Executive Committee started assigning staff to work groups as of today's meeting.

Mr. Ball and Chair Johnson attended a social dinner in December, 2007, that honored the Federal Communications Chair which discussed the January 16th auction. Mr. Ball discovered that the auction for the 700 D-Block was held in high regard in the Washington, D.C. area. It was abundantly clear that there was great competition for the bandwidth throughout the United States and around the world. Oregon must go to narrowband by 2013, but Mr. Ball felt that in the near future, there would be the need to go to "very narrowband" because technology is moving faster than expected.

Representative Riley inquired about a time frame when the Work Group Committees would have work finished to report back to Mr. Ball. Mr. Ball wanted to have the work finished before the February legislative session, but such a short time frame, he is looking at May before having anything concrete.

Mr. Ball continued with an update on the northwest seven county study. This is an assessment of what it would take to build OWIN maximizing partnerships with city, counties, and private enterprises. These partnerships could be with an existing site owned by the city, county, etc. that we would put equipment on an existing tower and vice versa. Using partnerships will decrease the cost of funding the construction of the OWIN system for this region. The Federal Engineering (FE) estimate was \$139 million (without taking into account partnerships). OWIN's estimate (maximizing partnerships) was \$97 million, a difference of \$42 million. But not all of the counties studies are completed at this time.

Chair Johnson commented that he has often been asked about the position of Oregon and the state system. The position is that the State of Oregon will own and operate the system. Chair Johnson continued to explain partnerships because it sounds contradictory. The position the state does not want to be in is to be beholding to third parties for access, reliability and maintenance of a critical public safety communications network. We want our technicians accessing the site, our people ensuring the redundancy and reliability of the system, but that does not mean that we won't partner with the county. We certainly will and our desire is that and the model will reflect that, and we will do the same with the city and as Mr. Ball previously stated to also discuss partnerships with the private sector. When we say this will be a system owned and operated by the State of Oregon, that's a generalization intended to reflect our commitment toward reliability that we have total control over. That is not explicit in its definition of ownership of tower sites, etc.

Mr. Ball explained why the state of Oregon wanted to own and operate the system is because one of government's principal responsibilities and constitutional mandates is to provide security for its people. The state cannot provide security to the people if the public safety cannot

communicate to the citizens of Oregon on a day to day basis. Mr. Ball brought up the topic of the December 3rd storm that hit Clatsop County and took out fiber communication lines and other systems. Legislators and other public officials began to see that a different system may need to be used for a more reliable public safety communication system, especially if a bigger disaster were to hit Oregon.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee ~ No Report

Partnership Committee ~ Sheriff Russ Burger

Sheriff Burger commented that the Partnership Committee discussed the state owning and operating the state system. The purpose of their meeting was to discuss the direction and the work of the Partnership Committee for the next year. The committee decided that it needed direction from the full SIEC and what they see the role would be an appropriate role for the Partnership Committee. The committee also discussed resurrecting the 555 Committee to be active in the legislative session in February. Chair Johnson commented that Mr. Ball continues to meet with the Legislative Working Group for the purpose of refining the “ask.”. The 555 Committee is comprised of five members from each of three associations, Sheriffs, Chiefs and Fire Chiefs. They have committed their five personnel for the purpose of advocating for a statewide system. Chair Johnson agreed that the 555 Committee would be well-positioned to cover the broad scope of the failing infrastructure that Oregon is facing and the critical need for reliable communications.

Ms. Wilde suggested that the SIEC facilitate regional forums/conversations on a regular basis in order to keep people informed on the OWIN project and integrating OWIN and other regional projects in order to take advantage of operability and efficiency from a financial standpoint. Ms. Wilde also suggested that the Partnership Committee could identify how to do a regional forum on a regular basis to educate people. Also, the Partnership Committee could be working on developing a communication plan so everyone will be kept up to date on the status of the OWIN initiative.

Mr. Koreski also suggested the role of the Partnership Committee could be to move the conceptual analysis that the OWIN technical staff has developed on the northwest seven counties to a reality. Creating a forum in local communities would show that this project is moving from a possibility to reality.

Chair Johnson addressed the vendors in the audience to have a clear and consistent message to the Legislature, which is that Oregon’s current system is outdated and in disrepair. Legislators have received conflicting messages in regards to the current system and the status of the statewide project. When the decision has been made to improve the system, there will be an open and competitive process that will allow vendors to bid on various system components.

Mr. Riley mentioned that the unions who represent line officers and line firefighters who will be very important in communicating with the legislature and others. The labor organizations tend to have an influence on the legislature.

Strategic Planning Committee ~ Kristi Wilde

Ms. Wilde gave an update from the committee's meeting regarding the SIEC's support and the 700 MHz planning process. Every state is required to have an adopted 700 MHz plan and Oregon still does not have one. The committee has set a timeline and planned to have one in the near future.

Ms. Wilde reviewed the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant process. It's the states intent to have a sixty day turnaround from when the grant guidelines are put out to when the projects are reviewed. The Investment Justifications (IJ's) for this process were much more specific than what are normally in a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant process. The IJ's that were submitted on the state's behalf came from information gathered from the regional workshops that focused on the statewide plan and areas where there was interest in applying for grants. Also, the cash match or in kind match for PSIC grants has not been resolved. The timeframe to spend the grant money is still September 2010.

Ms. Wilde followed up with the strategic plan which is being developed using the tactical interoperable communications plan. The committee would like to see if a test of the plan could be incorporated with the national exercise in May, 2008. The committee's goal would be to test the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) annually. The first part being worked on is identifying how to coordinate use of the shared nationally identified interoperable principles. The goal would be to prepare an exercise objective for May.

Finance Committee ~ Clark Seely

Mr. Seely gave an update about the state agencies' communications budget. The operating budget was based on the current biennial budget for state agencies. This document is intended to be a baseline to refer back to and examine in the future.

Chair Johnson stated that the Finance Committee's current role is under consideration because the original purpose of the Finance Committee was to scope the project, evaluate funding, funding streams, etc., which was before the State of Oregon and OWIN provided executive support. Looking at the functional component of the Finance Committee in the future, it could possibly be combined with another committee. Any comments or opinions regarding the Finance Committee should be sent to Ms. Wilde, Mr. Seely or Chair Johnson prior to the next meeting.

Open Discussion/Questions

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.