MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

November 8, 2011

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 2011, in Room 153, 1st floor, Claiborne Office Building, Baton

Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Charlie McMahon, Chair of the LONI Management Council, called the

meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:
Mike Asoodeh
Brian Nichols
Beth Courtney
Donnie Vandal
Jim Purcell/Todd Barre'/Uma Subramanian
Gene Fields
Joel Tohline
Eric Setz
Bob Fudickar
Lee Bairnsfather

Council Members Absent:
Les Guice
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Laura Levy
Thomas Lovince
Michael Stubblefield
Ed Driesse

Guests:
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Pat Cavell, CISCO
Sam White, LSU
Randy Ward, LPB/LETA
Brett Brock, CISCO
Nicole Noble, HP
Leo Tran, Tulane
Carl Brandt, LSU/LONI

On a motion from Mr. Joel Tohline, seconded by Mr. Gene Fields, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Donnie Vandal, Executive Director for LONI, said there was no more information regarding NLR since the last meeting. Mr. Lonnie Leger commented on Internet 2's fall member meeting being well organized. Mr. Charlie McMahon asked if Mr. Vandal or Mr. Leger could comment on the Net Plus Services with Internet 2, first by defining for the group what Net Plus Services is about. Mr. Leger commented that Net Plus Services are network services above the transport of network service within Internet 2. There are two sides to Net Plus, one is partnered with HP and SHI to offer basically infrastructure as a service both as a compute and storage capability. The second is what is being referred to as BOX.NET, which is primarily a storage collaborative side. More information on pricing and operational structure will become available as they work with other partner providers and relationships that are going to provide Net Plus opportunities for the membership to take advantage. Mr. Vandal indicated that he had participated in a conference call on November 7, 2011 with LONI's counterpart from New Jersey and other regional connectors like LONI. They are working on a "video on demand" component as a service. Generally at this point, Internet 2 is exploring what the community needs are and trying to develop a host of services that respond to those needs.

LONI will be hosting Internet 2 and its Joint Tech Conference at Pennington Biomedical Center January 22-26, 2012. Membership from all over the nation will be attending. This only occurs twice a year and this is the first time it has ever been hosted in Louisiana.

Mr. McMahon asked if Dr. Lee Bairnsfather would assist in exploring opportunities with the National Coalition for Health Integration (NCHI), a non-profit organization dedicated to the

transformation of healthcare that has partnered with the National Lambda Rail. Mr. Vandal said that he could put Dr. Bairnsfather in contact with Kurt Snodgrass, Chief Operating Officer with NLR, to begin those discussions.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Gene Fields, Chief Technology Advisor to the Council, reported that the NSF Data Management workgroup that he chairs met this morning and continued its work on the project. A consensus appeared to develop which focuses initially on a solution that would not take much, if any, new immediate capital investment. The committee decided that existing resources should be assessed and employed in a beginning effort to develop a short-term solution. The workgroup suggests carving out currently available disc space for storage of data that is likely to be already in place with Queen Bee as a starting point. This will provide an initial barometer on what can be expected to be the storage requirements and demand as this project evolves. As has been noted previously in the deliberations of the workgroup, the NSF Data Management requirements are fairly vague and nebulous and there remains much uncertainty as to how those requirements will evolve, how solutions should develop, what the final approach for addressing those requirements will be.

Mr. Fields indicated that the proposal from the group this morning is to form a steering committee or group that would be led by institution research offices, and also consist of representatives of the library community and information technology staffs, to proceed to work with resources such as the LOUIS community and the Board of Regents. This group should examine whether a partnership with LOUIS on this project has benefit, whether there are any possibilities of long term resources that can be accessed in order to sustain the program, and to identify what types of contributions the campuses may be able to contribute to assist in the operation of the program. Mr. Fields stated that it was determined that there was value in making

some investment in our own people, in our own resources, and leveraging what was already available rather than going outside for resources for the time-being. He continued that there was agreement that the biggest challenge will be the implementation of an overall program/system structure and that the hardware will actually be the easy part. Implementation of some type of "front-end" capability will be required such that the data stored can be managed appropriately. Partnerships with LOUIS and the library community will be critical in order to utilize the experience and skills they have for establishing and managing taxonomies, standards for metadata collection and tagging, and procedures for preservation and sharing of various forms of information.

Mr. McMahon stated that as a first step of action that Sam White, current interim director of high performance computing for LSU/LONI, will be requested to identify a meaningful amount of available storage associated with Queen Bee that can be used to bridge what the campuses currently need for data storage capacity to comply with the NSF Data Management plan requirements. Hopefully, that will be adequate storage space to satisfy the data storage needs of the community until the beginning of next fiscal year when new budgets are put in place. Mr. McMahon suggested that Mr. White target between 50-100 terabytes of space initially and report his findings on that and any other related issues to Gene Fields and Mr. Vandal as quickly as possible. It was also suggested that Mr. Vandal and Mr. Todd Barre begin work on developing or identifying a cost model for assessing the long-term sustainability requirements of a data storage and management initiative. This could serve to establish a basis upon which to request funding and could perhaps also be available for researchers to use when formulating grant proposals.

Dr. Tohline reported that there are no large conferences going on since our last LONI meeting but there have been celebrations in which LONI has been featured. CCT on the LSU

campus had an all day celebration of their 10 year existence of the center. At LA Tech, Cyber Innovation Center hosted a conference on cyber security and cyber engineering in which LONI was featured. Next week there is an international supercomputing conference in Seattle Washington and there will a large both co-hosted by CCT and LONI.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Vandal asked Mr. Leger to comment on his report of Network Updates (attached). Mr. Leger explained that most of the commodity internet upgrade projects are taking much more time than had been expected. The new connections in Shreveport, Jackson and Baton Rouge will hopefully be complete before the end of the year. The New Orleans completion date remains uncertain at this time.

Advertisements for one of the open LONI engineering positions will start running this weekend and it is hoped that the position can be filled soon.

Efforts to implement the new GIS system, in cooperation with LSU in Baton Rouge, will help document needs on campuses. It has a great amount of power and data storage for us to take advantage of it. The system was acquired through BTOP project and it will remain a valuable tool for the network community. It can be accessed at the following website address: http://gis.loni.org/telecom.

Mr. Vandal commented on the state commodity contracts that are becoming available and indicated that the pricing is now basically known but that, as Mr. Leger indicated earlier, the precise timeline on actual delivery of services remains somewhat uncertain. The new contract pricing is much improved compared to what it has been and there will be a need to set up a work group of members of the council, along with Todd Barre and Mr. Vandal, to review and make recommendations on a revised pricing structure.

Concerning the BTOP grant, the State did receive a termination notice from NTIA. Dr. Purcell commented that the Board of Regents and Division of Administration have asked that NTIA look at allowing the State to continue with the grant, but no answer has come forth as yet. Mr. Bairsfather asked that if we had used some of the BTOP money, would we have to pay it back. Mr. Barre said that he did not feel we would have to. Approximately $600,000 was spent from the grant funds, but those were for documented and delivered services. Much of the match that had been reported as being expended was "in-kind" value that did not represent actual cash outlays.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vandal proposed a 2012 meeting schedule, meeting quarterly instead of every other month as has been the past practice.

On a motion by Mr. Mike Asoodeh, seconded by Mr. Nichols, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to go to a quarterly meeting schedule for the year 2012.

The Council was also reminded that in accordance with the Bylaws, Special or Emergency Meetings are available as follows:

a. Special Meetings may be called at any time by the Chair in consultation with Council Officers. A Special Meeting shall be called (by the Chair or by the Secretary) upon the written request of at least five (5) members of the Council, or on request of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

b. An Emergency Meeting may be called at any time by the Chair in consultation with Council officers.

Ms. Courtney then asked if there should be some official statement regarding support by the Council for addressing the need for broadband in the state. Mr. McMahon reminded everyone that LONI is a project of the Board of Regents and the Council should look to it for guidance on this point. Dr. Purcell said that everyone can certainly say how disappointed we all are in the loss of the grant. He also indicated that the Louisiana Public Service Commission will be meeting

Wednesday November 9th, 2011 to discuss the broadband grant. Mr. McMahon concluded by suggesting that the Council and its members should leverage our strengths with the community to move forward.

PUBLIC EVENTS

LONI will host the Internet 2 Joint Tech Conference January 22-26 at Pennington Biomedical Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.