

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

September 14, 2010

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2010, in the Claiborne Building room 190 on the first floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Les Guice, 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
Beth Courtney
Les Guice
Steve Landry
Laura Levy
Charlie McMahon
Ed Driesse
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Greg Speyrer
Joel Tohline
Donnie Vandal
Brian Voss
Connie Koury

Council Members Absent:

Bradley Ebersole
Lee Bairnsfather
Bob Fudickar
Michael Stubblefield

Guests:

Sam White, LSU
Don May, AT&T
Randy Ward, LETA
Keith Cullen, Dell
Kristen Sunde, LSU
David Lemoine, DOA/OCS
Mike Kling, CISCO
Karen Odom, TW Telecom
Mike Thibodeaux, TW Telecom
Brett Brock, CISCO
Randy Walker, DOA
Niki Papazoglakis
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Angela Mastainich, BoR
Tim Carroll, Dell
David Lynn, Dell
Carl Brandt, LSU/LONI

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2010 MINUTES

On a motion from Mr. Charlie McMahon, seconded by Mr. Greg Spreyer, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 LONI Management Council meeting.

Dr. Guice opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and welcomed Dr. Joel Tohline back after his work in Utah. He also introduced the newest member to the LONI management council, Dr. Rachel Vincent-Finley from Southern University System. She is an Assistant Professor in Science and Math Computation Research.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. McMahon gave updates on Internet 2 (I-2) and said the biggest news was the start of the new president Mr. Dave Lambert. The biggest challenge he faces is the BTOP Award, the US Ucan project, which is designed to expand both I-2 and NLR.

Mr. Vandal provided an update on NLR, which included the recent resignation of Glen Ricart as CEO. He also indicated that NLR continued to deal with a variety of organizational and financial issues. On a positive note, the US UCAN proposal was submitted in part by NLR so it should be very involved in the implementation of the proposal. We are still using some of the benefits from NLR even though we are not full members, such as the StarLight connection in Chicago. Darkstrand appears to be of declining importance for NLR and there is talk of possible litigation.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Landry turned the technology report over to Mr. Lonnie Leger, LONI Director of Networking. The Wampold agreement has been finally signed. It is actually a State project, so

LONI staff is working with the State to get the project started. The savings will be good benefit for the State.

I-2 has moved to a dynamic switch connection which will allow LONI to have dynamic circuit connectivity with the institutions.

The BTOP project finally received authorization from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to proceed. An engineering firm, the Baton Rouge firm GEC, has been selected by the State Engineering Selection Board. The firm is scheduled for a September 15th start date, and its first task will be to conduct the environmental assessment. A tentative timeline on the project was provided for review. Dr. Guice asked Mr. Leger to explain what the BTOP grant will mean for LONI. Mr. Leger indicated that it will expand the fiber backbone of the existing LONI network, and provide connectivity for the few remaining higher education institutions not already on the network. The project will also provide for connection to several research related facilities such as the Bio-Innovation Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium and the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier. It will also allow us to replace some currently leased fiber in select urban areas with fiber from the project. In conjunction with an EPSCOR C-2 grant awarded to Board of Regents and Xavier, the BTOP project will assist in connecting Xavier to the network in New Orleans.

CHIEF SCIENTIST REPORT

Dr. Joel Tohline reviewed several grant opportunities. He said that the \$20 million EPSCOR Grant by Mark Jarell and others was under review by the National Science Board (NSB) and it will involve faculty across the state and be a five year project with possible renewal after that. Kathy Traxler is doing training across the state to ramp up the number of scientists involved in network so that many more researchers use the LONI capabilities.

Dr. Guice announced that a Cyber Infrastructure Grant submitted by Honggao Liu and others to enhance the computing infrastructure was not funded, but that the other recent EPSCOR Grant submission that involve the three state consortium (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana) in the amount of \$6 million is likely to be awarded. This project should help with the study and advancement of addressing coastal hazards and protection of our coast line.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Mr. Vandal indicated that the LONI budget was not greatly impacted by the budget cuts imposed upon the Board of Regents. The Regents budget includes about \$5 million in funding for LONI overall. He reminded the Council that there is an annual agreement between Regents and LSU to provide for the operations and staffing support for the network. The Regents and LSU/LONI agreement received a 10% reduction, which resulted in about a \$130,000 reduction. The Board of Regents has been very helpful in supporting the budgetary needs of the network and its operations.

The research initiative directed at analyzing the oil spill impacts with the use of high performance computing resources of LONI resulted in four proposals requesting modest amounts of funding. It is hoped that these research projects will be on display at the Super Computing '10 Conference in November. It will demonstrate how researchers were able to utilize the high performance computing to do various projects relating to the oil spill.

Another issue of interest is the usage of the High Performance Computing, (HPC) resources. Caution in reviewing the data included in the handout (see attached) since these numbers are still to be refined, and it is very difficult to get these metrics completely accurate. Across the board usage is pretty high even though some of the machines are getting very old and the usage of those machines specifically is falling off. There are three basic sets of machines: the Queen Bee unit that is housed at ISB, the LONI Dell machines that were distributed to the

campuses, and the original LONI IBM P-5's which is part of the LONI package started back in 2004-2005. Queen Bee allows outside users from the teragrid network and its usage is very high. The LONI Dell computers are have very high usage. The IBM P-5 show the lowest usage and they are becoming quite old. The question to be addressed are how and when should the older machines be decommissioned. Cost of operating those machines fall to the schools, so that may be a question they would be interested in addressing. Mr. McMahon indicated he has been concerned with the P-5 for some time. Mr. McMahon and Dr. Guice indicated they would like to have Joel Tohline talk with scientists to see what they need to do to consider moving their work on the older machines to the other units, the Queen Bee or Dell computers. It was agreed that there needed to be a targeted effort at assessing the HPC resources, usage and how to move ahead in this critical area.

Mr. Ed Driesse addressed the BTOP award and indicated that as such a large and significant project, it has drawn a lot of concern and interest from the private sector. There have been discussions early on that involved Beth Courtney with LPB, Ed Driesse with DOA, and most recently with Paul Rainwater, commissioner of Administration, that have been very helpful. The handout concerning the "Guiding Principles for the Louisiana Broadband Alliance BTOP Project" has been circulated around the user community and it is ready to be presented. The plan for this project is to provide a public/private mechanism whereby the grant will fund the installation of a middle-mile fiber infrastructure to which private providers of "last-mile" services for anchor institutions, businesses and households can connect for services. Paul Pastorek and the K-12 community are very interested in being involved in this to help with the services and backbone to each of the schools across the state. There are eighty community anchor institutions (K-12 School Districts, Parish Libraries, and FCC Rural Health Care Pilot entities). The project also holds the potential to facilitate the delivery of quality broadband services by private providers to over 100,000 households and 15,000 businesses. This should be

a win/win situation for the state. Mr. Driesse indicated that “we are walking a tight rope right now” and we must not conflict with the private sector. Connie Koury emphasized that we must not fall into any regulated activity as we become involved with K-12. Mr. McMahon stated that there have been at least 35 other BTOP grants awarded and they have addressed some of these issues successfully.

NEW BUSINESS

Joel Tohline and Donnie Vandal will attend Cyber Infrastructure Conference sponsored by EPSCOR in early October.

Mr. Vandal will be at the Broadband Advisory Council on September 27th making a BTOP presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

The nominating committee will start again to choose new officers. The committee consists of Steve Landry, Chair, Laura Levy, Joel Tohline and Michael Stubblefield.

Everyone was urged to participate in the SC '10 conference if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.