

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

March 9, 2010

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in the Claiborne Building Room 142 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 Assoodeh
Les Guice
Steve Landry
Charlie McMahan
Michael Stubblefield
Sally Clausen
Ed Driesse
Lee Bairnsfather
Connie Koury

Council Members Absent:

Bradley Ebersole
Robert Fudickar
Laura Levy
Greg Speyrer
Joel Tohline
Brian Voss

Guests:

Donnie Vandal, BoR
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Beth Courtney, LPB
Randy Ward, LPB
David Lemoine, DOA/OCS
Brett Brock, CISCO
Paul Buteaux, CISCO
Jan Waguesback, AT&T
Stephanie Doiron, AT&T
John Borne, LSU ITS
James Lupo, LSU CCT
Carol Mosley, LDOE
Dave Elder, LDOE
Angela Mastainich, BoR
Carl Brandt, LSU/LONI

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2009 MINUTES

On a motion from Dr. Steve Landry, seconded by Mr. Charlie McMahon, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 LONI Management Council meeting.

Dr. Guice opened the meeting with a welcome to Mr. Donnie Vandal, newly-designated Executive Director for LONI.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Charlie McMahon, Vice President Information Technology and CTO for Tulane University, welcomed Mr. Vandal aboard and indicated he was glad to hand over his position with NLR to him so that he can concentrate on his new appointment and capacity with the Internet 2 organization. Mr. Brian Voss, Vice Chancellor and CIO at LSU-BR, is concluding his participation in the governance of Internet 2 and Mr. McMahon will be taking over his position with Internet 2.

Since Mr. Voss could not be in attendance for the meeting, he sent an Internet 2 update sheet which was distributed to the meeting participants (see attached).

Mr. McMahon expressed a potential concern regarding issues on the national networking level:

- The national broadband funding efforts being offered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and proposals directed at further developing national network backbones, which could be driven in part by potentially changing e-rate funding rules, could influence and dictate how things are done by regional networks like LONI in the future.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Landry turned the technology report over to Mr. Lonnie Leger, Director of Networking for LONI. Mr. Leger handed out a packet of information with the diagram of the routing of the LONI network and said that there were problems in Ruston again. The materials are onsite, but due to a change order, the proposal had to be re-written. It should be back on track by the end of March.

Mr. John C. Borne, Information Technology Services, Security & Policy Officer at LSU, spoke of dealing with security issues in the network system. LONI has been fairly secure and has not had many problems due to the fact that commodity Internet (Internet 1) has predominantly been blocked from it. However, there are some members who have begun receiving requests to open LONI more fully to commodity Internet to support research that spans both Internet 1 and Internet 2 resources. The concern is that as LONI was not constructed with an open connection between Internet 1 and Internet 2 and that member institutions have designed their security measures based on that assumption, that such a change increases the security risk to an unacceptable level. As evidence of this increased risk, Queen Bee has a connection to commodity Internet and was recently broken into by someone capturing username and password. There are approaches and technology available that can protect the systems if there is a need to allow individuals outside the network to have access, but those would need to be explored and pursued if this more “open” network approach is allowed.

Mr. McMahon expressed concerns regarding this issue of security and raised the possible use of “proxy servers” for projects like “PetaShare” if there are going to be connections allowed by researchers from “outside” the LONI network. Mr. Ed Driesse, State CIO, also expressed concerns about opening the system up to various external threats. The other concern expressed was the cost that would be involved in updating/enhancing the security system in this time of

budget cuts. It was decided that more discussion of this issue would be appropriate at the next Management Council meeting.

OTHER UPDATES

Dr. Guice reported that several major multi-institutional LONI-related research proposals were submitted this fall. They are all currently pending but results are expected to be announced soon and the researchers are optimistic about their chances.

Mr. Lonnie Leger reported that the Board of Regents (BOR), on behalf of the Louisiana Broadband Alliance (“LBA” which consists of BOR, Dept. of Education, Louisiana Educational Television Authority, Dept. of Health and Hospitals, LSU Agricultural Center’s Delta Rural Development Center, and the Louisiana Geographic Information Center) was awarded on March, 5th, 2010 a grant of \$80.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This project is designed to advance and support the key purposes of the Commerce Department’s Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) solicitation for the BTOP program to:

- Extend broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of the state
- Provide high-speed broadband access to community “anchor” institutions (e.g. schools, libraries, health facilities)
- Spur demand for broadband services, economic growth and job creation.

The plan (see attachment) for this project is to provide a public/private enterprise 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. This should allow for a substantial reduction of the costs of providing quality high-speed bandwidth services to rural, underserved areas of the state.

In keeping with the purposes of the NOFA, the project targets the following:

- 21 parishes, 12 of which constitute the Louisiana Delta Initiative region in predominantly rural northeast Louisiana and 4 are the parishes of three of Louisiana's Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
- 80 community anchor institutions (K-12 School Districts, Parish Libraries and FCC Rural Health Care Pilot entities)
- Two 4-year universities

The project also holds the potential to facilitate the delivery of quality broadband services to over 100,000 households and 15,000 businesses. These services would be possible and dependent upon private service provider connections to the new fiber infrastructure.

Beth Courtney with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) complemented LONI on getting the grant to help delivery of broadband services to the economically depressed Delta region. Ms. Carol Mosley with the Louisiana Department of Education was also in attendance and expressed her thanks for the grant which will help the public schools in the Delta region.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vandal , Executive Director-designee for LONI, introduced himself again to everyone and expressed his gratitude to the LONI Management Council for giving him this opportunity and their trust in him to handle the new position. He said he would take office officially on March 15th, 2010 and gave everyone his email address, dvandal@lsu.edu, so that they could contact him with any information needed.

PUBLIC EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF LONI

Mr. Vandal said that one of his desires is to generate more public awareness for the LONI network and that he would be working with Meg Casper, Associate Commissioner of Public Affairs at the Board of Regents, to help plan coverage for upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.