

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

May 11, 2021

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 11, 2021, via zoom. Rachel Vincent-Finley, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:

Mike Asoodeh
Kenneth Boe
Gene Fields
Richard Howze
Lonnie Leger
Brad Masters
Giovanni Piedimonte
J. Ram Ramanujam
Eric Setz
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Craig Woolley

Noel Wong
Matthew LaBruyere

Council Members Absent:

Beth Courtney
Gabriel Fagbeyiro
Paul Helton
Ramu Ramachandran
Tanuja Singh

Guest:

Lance Neal
Gary Mumphrey

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:

On the motion of Kenneth Boe, seconded by Mr. Lonnie Leger, the LONI Management Council moved that motion be passed to accept the February 23, 2021 LONI Management Council meeting minutes.

BUSINESS CHAIR

Dr. Rachel Finely recognized the following new appointments to the council and stated that she looks forward to their contributions to the management council.

Dr. Tanuja Singh from Loyola University

Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte from Tulane University introduced himself. He is the Vice President of Research and Institutional Official at Tulane University; originally a physician doing research for three years in biomedical area, particularly respiratory; he joined Tulane about a 1.5 years ago.

Call for Public Comments

There were no public comments

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Executive Director mentioned that he was hopeful that by August LMC will have the opportunity to be live and in person with each other, and that he looked forward to that potential on August 24th.

2021 Work Plan

- Increasing participation – we do this every chance we get, we cover in the LONI Summit, we are trying to create a sense of community and a benefit of the community.
- Host a LONI Summit – we were able to host virtually
- Increase the number of subscribers – we look forward to adding the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans starting July 1st. We are continuing our ongoing conversations with WYES-TV in New Orleans and we're trying to establish some direct network hearing because of our presence in Dallas.
- Establish direct network peerings – CIO that are management council members participating in the ad hoc group are Gene Fields, Mike Asoodeh, Craig Woolley, and Kenneth Boe.
- Participating in the FCC Rural Health Care Program – a call was hosted during the monthly trending topics on April 15th, there will be another call hosted later in the month to talk about the letter of intent to be signed for participation so that we can get the consortium leads.
- Move toward the students with procurement services through collaborations with the eLearning Task Force and subscribers – they have been a focus on a virtual presence of communication and outreach

News and Events

- LONI will host a community technical call Friday, May 14th.
- LONI will host a monthly community-wide call on Trending Topics typically of unstructured time to ask questions, raise concerns

- LONI will host a virtual call on May 26 at 4pm to present the RHC letter of intent and address questions from the attendees so we can develop a FAQ.

Strategic/Business Plan Update

The Board of Regents continues to review the next steps for engagement with this process, they are very close to making those wishes known so that management council can start building a operations plan.

PaaS update

100% participation in service orders for FY22

Due to semiconductor supply shortage, we anticipate the delivery of the Infinera backbone optical equipment by the end of June.

We have a project kick-off meeting with Infinera in a week to plan the first segment to be upgraded, planning for Lafayette to Shreveport to be upgraded on the backbone first. There are seven planned out along the backbone.

We have been given the “go ahead” to execute on the Cisco equipment, we are hoping to complete very soon, we will keep you all abreast.

HPC Quarterly Update

Sam couldn't be present today he was doing a technical review of some upcoming purchases that he needed to be away for. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to him or anyone on the team. Please see technical report handout.

Network Quarterly Update

Gary was present for the network quarterly update that handout was shared as well.

LONI 5-Year Membership Agreement Update

Based on the feedback since the last LMC, we have decided to start over with a simpler membership agreement with the service orders holding the specific description, targets, costs and terms and conditions.

Mid-June we will release a draft to the LMC officers and Executive Committee

At the 8/24 LMC meeting, the Executive Committee to present a motion to recommend final draft to Regents.

Dr. Rachel Finley advised that there would be a re-established and reinstated executive committee that will consist of LMC members and volunteers. She also provided the following names as the re-established executive committee:

Chair – Dr. Rachel Finley
Vice Chair – Ramu Ramachandran
Lonnie Leger
Eric Setz
Brad Masters
Noel Wong
Gene Fields
Dr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro
Regents Representative

On Motion of Dr. Rachel Finley, seconded by Mr. Gene Fields, the LONI Management Council unanimously passed to re-instate the executive committee to participate in the review of the membership agreement once it has been prepared.

Call for Public Comment

There were no public comments

CHIEF ADVISORS REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

Chief Technology Advisor Gene Fields spoke about the network security working group and the end tag, both elected new officers. He also spoke with excitement about having new folks that will be operating and running the two groups. There have also been discussions about compliance, audit support and the collaboration that has happened.

Lance Neal took an opportunity to highlight the individuals that have volunteered themselves and their time to participate in their respective institutions. He added that those individuals are not just volunteers but they have also been elected by their peers across all campuses. Mr. Josh Young, returning Co-Chair from Sowela, he is joined by Heath Fitts from Northwestern; Co-Chairs Jonathan Cockrell from LSU Shreveport, he is joined this year by Mr. Charles Broome from UL Lafayette. Since our summit these two working groups are just getting kicked off.

Chief Economic Development Advisor Paul Helton was not able to be in attendance due to a pressing engagement. He had no topics to bring to the council at this time.

Call for Public Comments

There were no public comments

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director shared the 2021 and 2022 LMC meeting schedule

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, Dr. Finley asked for a motion to adjourn. On the motion of J. Ram Ramanujam, seconded by Lonnie Leger, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.