

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

November 30, 2021

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 30, 2021. 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:

Kenneth Boe
Clarence Copeland
Gabriel Fagbeyiro
Gene Fields
Paul Helton
Richard Howz
Matthew LaBruyere
Lonnie Leger
Ramu Ramachandran
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Craig Woolley
Noel Wong

Council Members Absent:

Mike Asoodeh
Bard Masters
Giovanni Piedimonte
Eric Setz
Tanuja Singh
Ram Ramanujam

Guest:

Lance Neal
Ric Simmons
Le Yan

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

In her opening remarks, Chair Dr. Rachel Vincent-Finley stated that “with today’s meeting we have the opportunity to meet some new and old faces, but it is good to see everyone in person.”

Approval of the August 2021 Minutes

On the motion of Ramu, seconded by Mr. Lonnie Leger, the LONI Management Council approved the August 2021 meeting minutes. There was no discussion or comments, LMC voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Approval of the September 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Gene Field, seconded by Mr. Richard Howze, the LONI Management Council approved the special September 2021 meeting minutes. There was no discussion or comments, LONI Management Council voted unanimously to pass the motion.

CHAIR BUSINESS

LONI Management Council Nominations and Voting

Chair Dr. Rachel Vincent-Finley stated that we are at a point where we are nominating new LONI Management Council officers as mentioned at the past meeting. She also stated that LMC have made a note to move the structure of having a chair left in chair and that she had been serving in the capacity of chair moving from chair elect and it was now time for someone new to have the seat.

Chair Dr. Rachel Vincent-Finley went on to share the nominees with the voting process taking place immediately following.

Chair Elect nomination was Dr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro, for the position of Chair Elect who is a member serving on behalf of the Southern University System. It was moved, second and unanimously voted that Dr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro will serve as Chair Elect with a one-year term followed by a one-year term as Chair.

Secretary/Treasurer nomination was Mr. Brad Masters, for the position of Secretary/Treasurer who is a member serving on behalf of LCTCS. It was also moved, second and unanimously voted that Mr. Brad Masters in his absence agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer with a two-year term.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Mr. Lonnie Leger asked Chair Finley to motion the floor to accept the 2023 schedule.

On motion of Mr. Lonnie Leger, second by Mr. Kenneth Boe, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to accept the 2023 schedule.

Council meetings in 2023 according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 1:30-2:30
- Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 1:30-2:30
- Tuesday, August 22, 2023, 1:30-2:30

- Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 1:30-2:30

Mr. Lonnie Leger expressed his appreciation for the participation and confirmation on the work plan. He stated that there had been work done behind the scenes with some of the schools and could identify the schools that had so far filed and returned their paperwork for application into the FCC Rural Health Care program (RHC) but was hopeful for more applications to come.

Mr. Gene Fields added that he thought it was a good idea that during the development and maturity of the program, or perhaps at one of the future meetings Mr. Lonnie Leger might be able to give a brief on the program to assist with the challenges that some are experiencing in obtaining advocacy within the institution. He thought that testimonial information would be helpful.

Events and News

LONI staff attended the Iternet2 TechExtra that was held virtually December 1-3

LONI hosted a community wide call on Friday, December 3 which is the regular standing call following the LONI Management Council meeting

LONI hosted a monthly community-wide call on Trending Topics where unstructured time for people to collaborate and talk about things that are timely or what's on their minds.

LONI hosted a regular working group conversation on network services and network security.

LONI continues usage of slack as an out-of-band communications used for activities, general information, and topics of interest.

LONI staff continues to be hopeful to start some type of normalcy despite the seemingly foregoing conclusion of mutations faced with COVID. He added that he is hopeful to be able to attend some of those events that have been planned that are on the calendar.

LONI 5-Year Membership Agreement Update

Mr. Lonnie Leger stated that there was 64% of the subscribers that had returned their agreements, and he would be preparing those agreements to send to Mr. Matthew LaBruyere for counter signature and then returned to those respective institutions. December 15th was the deadline with a good trajectory to complete and hit the target. He thanked everyone that responded positively to emails and reminders. He added that there are some things that LMC will be doing that are within the portfolio that he has been kind of investigating on doing or

tiptoeing into doing but feels confident that something will take place near the spring and then next year submitted to Regents for acceptance.

Mr. Leger also stated that there were still a few institutions that are still trailing in their payment for FY22 and that he would be soliciting council members for assistance with that task.

PaaS Update

Mr. Leger stated that a parallel network to start the migration had been executed and underway for about six weeks, but a turnover commitment date had not been received yet, but we are calling a three-month window to convert Lafayette to Shreveport it is taking more time than anticipated.

Meanwhile in other parts of the state we have had some other things show up our planning. Our global supply chain problems are evident but the bulk of our order from Cisco is still delayed and potentially may not be arriving until February it's probably on one of the boats in California.

There is a bid opening coming up for our Phase-3 fiber construction that will be due December 7th, it's a large engagement covering a large area of the state in anticipation, both of what we can do working with different institutions like Southern helping them on some campus needs locally, as well as within our footprint for additional coverage and replacement of lease service.

There was an opening bid on our Fiber IRU to replace some long-haul routes but because of the holiday schedule that is forthcoming.

HPC Quarterly Update

The handouts was submitted as one of the attachments, Same White was unable to attend the meeting because he was under the weather, but Lee was in attendance available for any questions.

Network Quarterly Update

Gary was on vacation, but Mr. Leger was available to answer any questions that were precise and to the point but would refer individual to the handout.

CHIEF ADVISORS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Ram Ramanujam was not present or on the call.

Mr. Gene Fields presented a slide show and spoke about the interactions of the work group. He stated that several conversations were had and some of the benefits of those discussions that happened not just benefit but sharing of pain points were of great value. He added that hearing things from the state are also things that can be share in conversations as well.

Mr. Lance Neal gave a quick update on the working groups participation and stated that anyone that does not like where their site is should put in a call so that everyone can try to get the right people connect to get some better participation. It was also strongly encouraged to have organizations get involved, have people plugged in as much as possible.

Mr. Paul Helton stated that he really didn't have anything to report for this cycle, however, he did express the secretary's desire that we continue to look at non-traditional subscriber opportunities that are out there.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lonnie Leger shared that there is a job vacancy posted for a Network Engineer but wasn't sure of the closing date. The candidate would assist in trying to target in North Louisiana, because it's a big territory a second person would help in that regard.

Mr. Leger reminded everyone of the 2022 schedule and to mark their calendars for the February 22nd meeting.

Salutations and thanks, were sent to the outgoing Chair Rachel Vincent-Finley for serving as chair.

Chair Rachel Vincent-Finley thanked everyone that has served in any capacity as members of the LONI Management Council and those that have moved into officer positions, and the officers that have served. She also stated that she has enjoyed serving in the capacity as Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Executive Management Council, Dr. Finley motion to adjourn, seconded by Ramu Ramachandran, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.