

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 22, 2022

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Ramu Ramachandran, 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
Richard Howze
Matthew LaBruyere
Lonnie Leger
Ramu Ramachandran
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Craig Woolley
Noel Wong

Council Members Absent:

Mike Asoodeh
Brad Masters
Ram Ramanujam

Guest:

Lance Neal
Ric Simmons
Le Yan
Gary Mumphrey
Angela Mastainich
Elizabeth Bentley-Smith

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

In his opening remarks, Chair Ramu Ramachandran stated that he was following in Rachel's footsteps and hoped that everyone would be patient with him as he stumbles through the process of being chair. He also wanted to encourage members both present and absent to consider putting themselves forward as future officers. He added that the nomination committee always has trouble getting people to agree but stated that this is a great service for the whole state.

Approval of the November 2021 Minutes

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

CHAIR BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

a. Organizational Changes

Align the network staff around the ITIL Framework processes on Service Design led by Mr. Gary Mumphrey and Service Transition and Operations led by Mr. Lance Neal.

The network engineer vacancy has been filled by Heath Fitts, formerly with Northwestern State University, we are excited for that position being filled.

b. 2022 Work Plan Progress

- 1) The plan this year is to move forward with the participation in the FCC Rural Health Care Program (RHC); we have seven subscribers that are moving forward with that program; we've estimated that could constitute one half million dollars in savings pending eligibility.
- 2) Invest in mutual-beneficial endeavors which bring member value and strengthens LONI's portfolio
 - We are working to renew the Cisco Umbrella software and potentially their entire software suite.
- 3) Collaborate with the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity
 - We have submitted comments to this office and directly with our national partners (i.e., The Quilt, Internet2, and SHLB) to the U.S. Treasury, FCC, and NTIA regarding the federal monies for broadband.

c. Events and News

- Community-wide network update call on Friday, February 25th at 9am
- CIO Roundtable call on Friday, March 11 at 9:30am
- LONI Summit on April 20-22 at the Cecil Picard Center at ULL
- Monthly community-wide call on Trending Topics typically of unstructured time to ask questions, raise concerns
- Regular working group conversations on network services and network security

e. Strategic Plan Progress

- LONI staff continues to hold internal meetings discussing network and research direction and service portfolio.
- Regents and LONI will be collaborating on mapping the Master Plan to LONI's strategic plan.

f. PaaS Update

- All of the network equipment for our Next-Generation Infrastructure (NGI) has arrived and is ready for deployment. We've begun with the Infinera optical

deployment between Shreveport and Dallas. The Cisco routers dedicated for out-of-band network management are scheduled to be deployed in March, followed by a focused engagement with Infinera and Cisco to deploy and activate our new capacity between Lafayette and Shreveport in April.

- We received no bid responses to our Phase-3 Fiber Construction Bid. We conducted numerous conferences with potential bidders and are working to incorporate their feedback into a revised bid to be issued as quickly as possible. One bid response was received to the Dark Fiber IRU RFP. We are collaborating with Regents on our next steps.

Lonnie expressed his appreciation to Noel Wong for his leadership on inviting LONI into Tulane's strategic conversation to discover and act upon mutually beneficial opportunities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Mr. Lonnie Leger asked Chair Ramachandran 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 23, 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.

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.