

MINUTES

LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL May 31, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2005, in the 6th floor Board of Regents Conference Room in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Les Guice called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was not established.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
David Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer
Connie Koury
Steve Landry (by videoconference)
Laura Levy
Ed Seidel
Jeffery Smith
Greg Speyrer

Council Members Absent:

John Lawson, Vice Chair
Duane Blumberg
Harold Silverman
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline
Victor Ukpolo

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Alan Aparicio, Global Data
Della Barnett, ULL
Gerry Catalano, IBM
David Crockett, IBM
Kyle Galusha, Cisco
Robert Groeneveld, BLS
John Hoolahan, BLS
Glenn Lambert, Global Data
Patrick Landry, ULL
Charlie McMahon, LSU
Steve Mahler, ULL
Darrell Monette, Cisco
Michael Ralph, SUS
Terrie Razel, IBM
Jeremy Songné, LSU
Brian Voss, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2005, MINUTES

No formal motion to approve minutes was made because a quorum was not present. The approval motion will have to be made at the June 14, 2005 meeting.

Dr. Guice introduced the newest member of the LONI Management Council Mr. Greg Speyrer. Mr. Speyrer is representing the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. Next, Dr. Guice welcomed Brain Voss from Louisiana State University and it was noted that he could bring many expertise to LONI and helping with the deployment. Next, Jeremy Songné, from LSU, was recognized for his work in providing support for the campuses in order to get LONI deployed.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Mr. Mike Abbiatti told the committee that NLR is getting closer to Baton Rouge and the parallels between NLR and LONI are very similar. Both NLR and LONI are concerned with procurement, staffing, and the business plan. NLR will be looking to the node owners to drive the business plan process. There will be continuing dialogue between NLR staff and staff of all the different node owners as they begin to develop the process. Next, Mr. Abbiatti reminded the Council that the NLR Board meeting will be the 9th of September at the Board of Regents sixth floor conference room. Also, Mr. Abbiatti reminded the Council that there will be a reception the night of the 8th.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Technical Advisor Dr. Steve Landry told the Council that the relationships with other agencies within the state, particularly with OTM, DOTD, and LPB, continue to be discussed in an effort to form alliances for the future so that those groups might use the services of LONI as the base network develops. LONI has in place the mechanisms to get all of the major East-West and North-South fiber procurement either through the acquisition of the first bids or from gaining access to DOTD acquired fiber. Charlie McMahon told the

Council that the bids to close the loop on the fiber backbone have been let and are scheduled to open on June 16. We should see what the options are for closing the loops in the next couple of weeks. Next, Dr. Landry told the Council that the Committee has worked with state purchasing to get the network gear for the primary backbone of the network. Global Data and Bell South have provided best and final offers to LONI on the existing state contract. Dr. Landry asked for concurrence to move ahead with the finalization of the purchases to acquire the equipment off of the lowest bidder. The purchases could be finalized within the next couple of days.

Dr. Landry told the Council that an offer had been made to hire the second network engineer. Dr. Landry indicated that the work with the campuses continues and that there should be some better cost estimates in the next couple of weeks. Mr. McMahon told the Council that he and others are focusing on the facilities at the various campuses. It is being determined if the campuses have adequate facilities to install the computer equipment necessary for LONI. Mr. McMahon told the Council that IBM is in the queue for delivering the parallel computers on August 5.

Next, Dr. Ed Seidel, Chief Research Advisor, told the Management Council that the word is out about LONI and that it can be very useful when recruiting employees. He told the Council that the LONI Network has sent a signal to others about the commitment of the State. Next, he told the Council that he has found it helpful in recruiting people to LSU. Also, he told the Council that they should be thinking about how to use LONI when recruiting people. Dr. Seidel noted that several people from LSU went to NASA Stennis and they are interested in collaborating with LSU in coastal restoration, ocean modeling, and hydrogen development. They want Louisiana as a state to be involved with developing hydrogen engines. The representatives from Stennis talked a little about how they would

connect into LONI. Next, Dr. Siedel talked about grants that have come in and how these will utilize LONI. Also, he noted the need for staff and a staffing plan.

-Next, Charlie McMahon told the Council that IBM has agreed to provide a group of experts on the architecture to help the researchers figure out how to run their code on the machine and optimize it. They have also agreed to repeat the seminar a second and third time so that researchers from all the campuses can come together to get a jump start on how to run their code on the machines.

Next, Dr. Guice stated that it was very significant to see the grants coming in and at least \$1,000,000 of the grants received to date would not be possible without LONI. Also, he stated that there are at least \$15,000,000 grant dollars coming into the state as a result of the LONI initiative.

Next, Dr. Guice, told the Council that the Chief Economic Development Advisor was absent and he would provide an update later in the meeting.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice told the Council that they are now getting to the point they will have the infrastructure in place in September, and the need to have appropriate LONI staff in place to operate and direct LONI operations will become critical. Dr. Guice told the Council that it is time to get a director in place. He reminded the Council that to get a director in place, the Board of Regents has told the Council it needs to create a staffing plan, including projected costs and revenues. Even though there is a \$40,000,000 commitment from the State, much of that is going to be tied up in financing the bonds and paying for the infrastructure. It is important to clarify sources of recurring revenues for on-going LONI operations. Some of the revenue will come through grants and some through revenues from other groups that would want to participate with LONI. The need to understand what the relationships are with

external participants is something they need to address. What kind of costs will be involved to be a participant in LONI?

Next, he told the Council that a business plan is needed and volunteers to help develop the plan are being sought. While the Council members agreed that there was a need to engage a consultant to prepare the business and staffing plans no formal motion was made.

Next, Dr. Guice told the Council they need to put some focused attention on a staffing plan and asked for some input from the members and volunteers to help. He suggested that they start from a list of tasks that will need to be done on a day to day basis once the LONI facility is completed. Next, Dr. Guice told the Council that he would like to put together a task group to get a better definition of the costs and revenues. Next, Mr. Abbiatti told the Council that the Louisiana Department of Economic and Development (LED) has confirmed that LED will hire an economic development specialist to work specifically with LONI and will pay for that person.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice asked for help writing the content for the LONI website. He stated that they need a lot more input for the website. He made suggestions about placing the map on the website with the nodes. In addition, he asked for volunteers to help get the website up and complete. Mr. McMahon told the Council that the framework is there but they need help with the content. In addition, he stated that they would probably hire a graduate student to maintain the website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, on motion of Chair Guice, seconded by David Nicklas, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.