

**MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

June 13, 2006

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:05 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2006, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Chair, Les Guice called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
Bob Fudickar
Steve Landry (Video)
Ed Seidel
Jeffery Smith
Greg Speyrer
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline
Donald Vandal

Council Members Absent:

Paul Barron
Brad O'Hara
Laura Levy
Michael Ralph
Harold Silverman

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, BOR
Don Ballard, LETA
Carl Brandt, LSU
Lori Brannon, Cisco
John Hoolahan, Bell South
Catherine Lewis, Xavier
Sherri Thompson, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Greg Speyrer, seconded by Mr. Bob Fukickar, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2006, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Dr. Guice asked Mike Abbiatti to give an update on NLR. Mr. Abbitatti told the Council that there will not be an NLR and I2 merger because of barriers relative to operating practices and long term goals. He then told the Council that the intent and mission of LONI is still safe without the merger. Next, he told the Council that because the merger will not happen it will allow Louisiana to be creative and do things that could not be done with the merger. Next, Dr. Landry asked what the non-merger means to LONI and the short-term operation. Mr. Charlie McMahon, Executive Director of LONI, answered the question by telling Dr. Landry that a meeting had been held with Rizwan Ahmed and Darrell Kirkland and they have agreed to allow a migration of the Abilene connection from OTM to LONI and that sets the stage for some of the strategies that are being developed by both NLR and I2. Both NLR and I2 are trying to get out in the public what services they will offer.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Next, Dr. Guice asked Mr. Bob Fudickar to give the economic development update. Mr. Fudickar began by telling the Council that he, Mike Abbiatti and Charlie McMahon had been talking to various people about economic development for LONI. He then told the Council that he had reviewed an analysis that David Crockett with IBM did in considering potential economic development strategies. Mr. Fudickar stated that the Governor's Cabinet wants their hand in the idea that there needs to be a broad economic development and workforce study throughout the state, post Katrina and Rita. He then told the Council that LONI had been talking about having a specific study done by IBM and suggested to the Council that it should be done. The Council agreed that the decision to do the study should be deferred until the plan for the broader economic development study has been defined.

Next, Dr. Guice asked Dr. Steve Landry to give the technical update. Dr. Landry began by telling the Council that block by block the pieces are coming together. Dr. Landry then asked Charlie McMahon, Executive Director of LONI, to give a more detailed update. Mr. McMahon began by telling the Council that there are still some negotiations about permitting access to the fiber. He then told the Council that the issues are 98% resolved and LONI should gain access to the fiber soon. He is working to get the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with DOTD completed by next week or the next.

It was decided that with the cooperation of University of Louisiana at Lafayette the meeting would be held there August 8. The meeting would be in coordination of a press event for LITE and LONI.

Next, Mr. McMahon told the Council that they had met with Sun America to try and resolve the issues with the I-49 fiber. There has been agreement in pricing with Sun America and they are now working on language with them about acceptable use policies. Mr. McMahon asked Lonnie Leger to give an update on the status of the fiber routes. Mr. Leger told the Council that there has been a lot of activity but not necessarily a lot of completion. Much of the hold up on completion is depending on fiber access being turned over to LONI.

Next, Dr. Guice asked Dr. Ed Seidel to give the research update. Dr. Seidel began by telling the Council that after a year of hard work really exciting things are all happening at the same time. Dr. Seidel told the Council that because of the hurricanes last year there has been much interest in doing coastal modeling. There has been a specific request made to do studies of Lake Ponchartrain when storms are coming. The idea is to find out if they should open certain diversion systems to let the water flow in one direction or another by using

computer simulations. There has been a specific request from the University of North Carolina and LSU to use facilities in Louisiana to do simulations when hurricanes approach the mainland. Dr. Seidel stated that this could represent a significant request of computer time and asked the Council if it would be possible to use LONI as one of the compute facilities. The Council was supportive of the recommendation but would defer to the Allocations Team for their recommendations.

Next, Dr. Seidel told the Council about joining the NSF Teragrid . He now feels like LSU and LONI might be chosen to join next. Dr. Seidel then spoke of the NSF EPSCoR proposal for things that are supporting information technology infrastructure enhancement (RII Proposal). The Board of Regents is coordinating the proposal and there have been letters of intent submitted. Dr. Seidel then told the Council that he is going to lead a proposal that would provide basic services on LONI for people to use the facility for more grid and high performance computing. LONI would be a coordinating institution. LSU, La Tech and ULL are already interested. He then asked if there were other institutions that might be interested in participating. Next, Dr. Guice stated that all the Letters of Intent are on the Board of Regents website.

Dr. Seidel then spoke of the Board of Regents Post Katrina Support Fund Initiative and that LSU had started to put together a white paper for computational coastal modeling initiative. He asked for input from the Council members. He suggested that it would be an umbrella project that would help take advantage of LONI and draw national collaborators. If done properly it could also tie into economic development for Louisiana by attracting researchers to the state.

Executive Director Report

Mr. McMahon told the Council that he and Donald Vandal and Lonnie Leger had met and tried to nail down all the cost items that are associated with LONI. The balance sheet as projected through the end of next fiscal year was provided to the Council. The bottom line is that all the money is obligated before the LONI Fellows can be funded. He then stated that it is a significant issue for all since the Council had previously noted the critical importance of the Fellows in achieving the overall success for LONI. The Leadership is working on ways to make funding available to implement the LONI Fellows Program.

Mr. McMahon then told the Council that LONI is going to become the Internet 2 provider for higher education. It will move away from OTM to LONI. Mr. Vandal will move the funding out of the Board of Regents into LONI.

NEW BUSINESS

There was not new business discussed.

PUBLIC EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF LONI

Kevin Hardy was present and it was suggested that the meeting at ULL on August 8, 2006 get press coverage.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

