



## Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group January 26 – 27, 2010 - Quarterly Meeting Summary Notes



**Attendance:** Jim Douglas (BLM), Vaughn Stokes (FS CIO), Rich Kvale (FS FAM), Mike Field (FS CTO), Pat Stingley (BLM CIO), Kirk Rowdabaugh (DOI OWFC), Shannon Tippet (BLM Radio), Keith McAuliffe (FS LEI), Chris Lowe (USDA OCIO), Don Cannatti (FS CIO), John Donovan (USDA CIO), Charles McClam (USDA OCIO), Robert Kuhn (FS). **Phone:** Carroll Alexander (NPS), Tim Quinn (DOI), Simon Strickland (FS), Jimmie Porter (IRA-FS), Russell Sveda (IRA-FS), Matt Cnudde (FS), Dan Glover (FS AA), Eileen Richey (FS)

### Meeting Expectations

Jim Douglas emphasized the importance of accomplishment two fundamental issues – the Access Authentication Project (the most important of all) and working toward an integrated radio program (versus just shared). The Central Oregon Project is paramount to this goal.

Vaughn Stokes stated that he feels that moving ahead with the Central Oregon Project (finalize and sign charter) is a key item for this meeting. He also stated that it is important that we work toward a uniform system, one in which we share resources and figure out how to fund. In the case of radio this is a tall order and it is not going to be easy. But since the two biggest beneficiaries are members of IIOG it is possible. The FS is committed because it is about the health and safety of our officers, fire fighters and the public. While we won't solve all of the problems today, these are the goals. There seems to be a large portion of our IT business that should run as fire runs theirs ... on an interagency basis. This is good business, good government. Although it is unclear how much of this can run like fire, he thinks a large portion of it can and should.

Mike Field added that once we go through common engineering, etc., then we will be faced with the operations and maintenance portions. We will need to trust each other and develop agreements around governance, change management, logistics support, etc. We should start planning on how we act once we accomplish the integration.

Vaughn stated that once we get design on Oregon, we should look at it and see how it fits. The information learned will help the IIOG make decisions about the way forward in these other efforts.

Jim has a pending request that BLM in AZ would like to jump on board and do something similar in OR. We have to be realistic about how much we can handle while still harnessing the enthusiasm and for good use but ensuring we not spread ourselves so thin and get nothing done.

**2010 IIOG Meeting Calendar** – Confusion and interoperability problems between Lotus Notes (FS) and those who have migrated to Outlook. Often meeting invitations are not delivered or contents are corrupted or other issues. Please make note of the 2010 meeting schedule as follows:

Date	Time	Location
February 16	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
March 16	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
April 20 & 21	8:30 am – 5:00 pm Eastern	Washington, DC Area
May 18	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
June 15	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
July 20	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
August 1-6*	Summer Field Meeting	Minnesota
September 21	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
October 19 & 20	8:30 am – 5:00 pm Eastern	Washington, DC Area
November 16	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference
December 21	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern	Teleconference

## Portfolio Update & Project Presentations

(See Dashboard update – Copy of handout is in QuickR Teamroom)

**Dispatch** – Jim has nearly completed a draft project plan and charter. The document will say that we are going to have a steering committee to provide direction on project. The committee will include the R3 Regional Forester (Corbin Newman), Arizona State BLM Director (Jim Kenna), Kim Thorsen - DOI LEI, Vaughn Stokes – FS CIO, Kim Christensen (NIFC Coordinator) and possibly someone to represent the State Forester perspective to ensure that we don't "run over" our non-federal partners. There have been suggestions that lead the steering group. The majority of group has been designated but there is a need to verify a couple more names.

Jim asked the FS if Kim Thorsen could represent all of LEI on this effort or if the FS wants to send a representative from LEI as well.

- **ACTION:** Keith McAuliffe will find out and get back to Jim on whether Kim can represent all or FS needs to send too. **DUE:** 2/16/2010 IIOG Call

Jim plans to send his draft out this week to all potential on the group. Jim asked Tim Quinn if DOI felt they needed to be involved in this effort. Tim stated that although technology is important it is not paramount in the front end of this dispatch effort. Vaughn asked if he should be the only CIO on the steering committee. Tim thought initially just one is fine unless we get into significant technology decisions in which case the DOI OCIO should be engaged.

The plan is to advertise a term position NTE 2 years (likely), for the project lead on this effort. BLM and FS are jointly funding the position. The person will come to work every day to deal with this as primary duties and responsibilities as Dispatch Project Coordinator. The only job is to work on solving these problems. This person will be supplemented by SMEs (such as Bob Kuhn from Management Efficiency Assessments) and will need help from Human Resources/Specialists, dispatchers, etc. Samples of things that will likely be addressed include dispatch applications, training rules (qualifications), hours of coverage, staffing, cooperative arrangements with counties, etc., nature of those agreements, standardization of technology, network (some overlap with IIOG projects), dispatch boundaries and potential consolidations over time, leverage technology to reduce physical locations, business rules relating to boundaries. Project coordinator/lead will round these up, with the goal to produce a set of standards, policies, business practices, etc., that will be then adopted by our agencies as policies. Similar as NWCG standards then adopted via manuals/handbooks, etc.

It is essential that we leverage things already being done and identify investments for the future; ensure that proposals are in sync with the funding needed, budget cycles, etc. Some of these issues will be easier than others, hours of ops, boundaries, etc. But the needs of Law Enforcement in some ways makes the fire issues seem less complicated. There are federal dispatch centers that support LEI but also local dispatch office who support LEI. We need to understand the LEI business requirements and ensure that their needs are met as well.

- **ACTION:** Jim will finish the draft document and send to steering committee and IIOG to ensure all are comfortable and in agreement with the approach.

**CENTRAL OREGON INTERAGENCY INTEGRATED RADIO PILOT PROJECT** – The IIOG identified the funding for the project. The BLM contribution will be according to the original proposed split. The other DOI agencies are unable to fund their proposed portion of the costs. The Forest Service has agreed to cover the remainder of the cost so not to delay the start of the project. The DOI remaining Bureaus will look for funding either in this FY or pay back in next FY. Vaughn reminded the group that this is a significant opportunity; a path to improve our radio infrastructure and encouraged each partner to find their portion of the funding. Kirk reminded the group that it will likely not be any easier to find the money in out years than it is now.

Mike Field suggested we all be thinking about how we deploy communications in the future; for example in five years do we want to be doing the same thing and if not how do we move ourselves past the way we are doing things today. Kendall Jones stated that in any engineering design process we need to look at infrastructure that is already deployed. He talked of the South Dakota system that is a state-wide-system already in place.

The Black Hills National Forest system is integrated and is dispatched out of Rapid City. The State of South Dakota allowed Federal agency access without charge to encourage full integration. Mike asked if using this example, there might be opportunity for leveraging DHS grants to states.

There were a few questions remaining regarding the Statement of Work (SOW) for the contractor supporting the project. Specifically, ensure that the project is open to all technology and not just our existing technology and that we ensure the continued compatibility with radio systems throughout the wildland fire agencies. The reciprocal compatibility is necessary for importing and exporting wildland fire resources in and out of COIDC.

- **ACTION:** Shannon Tippett and Kolleen Shelley will verify that the SOW addresses these specific concerns and if not, modify it accordingly. **DUE:** 2/18/2010
- **ACTION:** BLM will transfer their \$113k to FS for the project. Shannon Tippett and Kolleen will figure out how to accomplish this.
- **NOTE:** Vaughn agreed to fund the remaining \$359k in FY 10 for this effort. He will take an IOU from the rest of the DOI Bureaus.
- **ACTION:** DOI (Kirk and Jim) will look internally for approximately \$125k in FY 10 or FY 11 to cover the IOU.

There is a **BLM Executive Leadership Meeting** in March. There is a four hour block of time which includes the Chief and others. The theme is Service First. It may be appropriate for Vaughn and Jim to go to this meeting to talk about the IIOG, the Oregon project, the mutual commitment to integrated systems and interoperability.

- **ACTION:** Send Coverage Analysis Presentation seen by the IIOG in Portland to Jim and Vaughn.
- **ACTION:** Work with Thuy Ta from BLM and Dennis Bergunty from FS. It is important to truth this coverage map. We need to learn from Thuy, Dennis and Jimmie how this might be used elsewhere.

**Reciprocal Trust MOU** – Kolleen presented a very rough draft of an MOU which is intended in summary to say that if the DOI believes that one of their employees has met all requirements for access to their network, that the USDA FS will recognize that certification and vice versa. We trust each other to ensure that individuals with access to our IT resources meet necessary HSPD-12, etc., prerequisites to do so. This MOU is necessary to resolve the duplication in annual security training accomplishment and documentation; facilitating the solution for the Access Authentication project; and potentially for the Central Oregon Integrated Radio Pilot Project. **DECISION:** The MOU will be created to address only the training/certification portion of the problem for now. The MOU should be specifically only for access to the network; and explicitly state that the provisioning of permissions to specific applications will be handled per agency specific requirements.

- **ACTION:** A team will be brought together to create this MOU. **RESPONSIBLE:** Kolleen will initiate contact and begin project planning. **DUE:** Report back to IIOG on status during March call.

**Task 11b – Cross Agency Network Access and Operations / Maintenance at Interagency Facilities** – The group discussed the contents of the briefing paper (included in meeting attachments in QuickR). **DECISION:** Implement option 3c, create cross-referencing Knowledge Documents (KM) between separate existing helpdesks (FS and BLM).

- **ACTION:** Kolleen will gather team and SME as described during discussion.

**Access Authentication** – Dan Glover gave a presentation on the current state of the AA project. Tim Quinn and Steve Argo from DOI joined during the presentation. Dan recommends that we slow down slightly and move toward incorporating the federation efforts at USDA and beyond. The problem is that it slows the project down slightly. Pros include the tie to very important politically sensitive and potentially better solution. (Dan's presentation is included in the handout attachments filed in the QuickR Teamroom under this meeting date.) Dan reminded the group that this project is chartered as he "inherited" it to specifically identify a solution and pilot to access five applications. Then the pilot could be used as a model for implementation. If we stay with the timeline per the original charter of early spring 2010, it drives us to a very narrow solution which may need to be revised later. If we wait and converge with EEMS and USDA Federation work our solution will likely be more long-term.

There was disagreement amongst the team members on the solution to move forward. If policy creates barriers then we should determine whether to stay in policy or work to adjust policy if possible. It was pointed

out that other departments do this (Intelligence, etc.), so it is possible while still adhering to existing policy. The group was reminded that although USDA and DOI are large, they are not the only participants. We must look at a wholistic solution. Tim Quinn agreed that we should look at all alternatives and not eliminate any of them just based on policy.

Vaughn stated that the current path was developed because we've been talking about this for three years. If we go with the delayed implementation as Dan suggests we should keep the current track record in mind. He does not want to see us in the same place a year from now. We have not demonstrated that we can think differently about our own security policy.

- **ACTION:** The IIOG tasked the group to gather, re-evaluate various options and put them in a matrix which includes risks, pros/cons and business functionality. This needs to be a simple, high-level, side-by-side comparison of the options for decision by the IIOG. **DUE:** 2/9/10 for review by IIOG and presentation at 2/16/10 IIOG call. **RESPONSIBLE:** Dan Glover and AA Team
- **ACTION:** DOI will share the requested information with the contractor so that he can analyze potential solutions. USFS will share requested information with DOI accordingly. **DUE:** By COB 1/29/2010.

**NFF Toning** – There has been a delay in implementing the aviation portion of the project. Frank Smith at NIFC is concerned because of the conflicting dates in the various memos of direction. He requested a letter with validated dates be sent to clarify and direct implementation. Frank, Simon Strickland, Jimmie Porter, Russell Sveda and Kolleen Shelley have drafted a memo requesting it be signed by Jim Douglas and sent from the IIOG to appropriate members.

- **ACTION:** Kolleen will finalize the memo for Jim's signature and send out.

**Interoperability Radio System Study** – Nothing has been done with this project due to lack of resources. John King from the FS CIO's office is available to assist. Regardless this effort really can't move forward without additional resources to support the IRA.

- **ACTION:** Kolleen set up a meeting between Mike Field, Vaughn Stokes, John King and Doug Nash to brief John on the project and what needs to be done. Matt Cnudde, Russ Sveda and Jimmie Porter are the tie to John King for the project.

**IRA Program of Work** – Russell Sveda presented the various potential projects on the horizon. The problem of resources still remains. Russ gave rough order of magnitude cost estimates for each project and the sequential order that he feels they should occur. In addition to the project development, planning and execution, it is likely that most IRA projects will need the E300 completed. The IIOG recognizes the need for a full time Project Manager and other requested resources to ensure that IRA efforts will move forward. Without these resources, the IRA leadership is unable to accomplish more than the duties of their agency positions and a bit of coordination. DOI will visit the ERAC and any overlap in those efforts and come back to IIOG with potential resources to contribute. The full IRA presentation is posted in the QuickR Teamroom.

**AGREEMENT:** There is agreement in principal for a layer over Russ/Jimmie level as requested for portfolio coordination of IRA efforts.

- **ACTION:** Jim and Kirk will brief Sonny and Tim on this discussion.
- **ACTION:** Kolleen will work to ensure that Sonny and Tim join the February call.
- **AGREEMENT:** The IRA/Radio vision as described at this table needs agreement at agency executive leadership levels (Chief, Secretaries). The document "Overarching Statement of Purpose and Goals" may be useful in creating talking points to use in gaining that support. The BLM Executive Leadership meeting is an opportunity to begin sharing this vision to gain that support.
- **ACTION:** Jim, Kirk, Kendall, Tim will discuss these things internally – specifically ERAC and report to the group on during the February 16 call.

**DHS Presentation Clarification** – As requested in the September meeting, Russ provided additional information on the DHS radio program. The group discussed about how the IIOG might use this information. It was noted that DHS set aside the 800 mg frequency range as public safety frequency. Part of the solution includes someone on the ground to work through problems. DOI does not have engineering staff nor the money to pay for contract analysis.

- **ACTION:** Put on task list, look to a future call to discuss how we might engage DHS re the impact to our systems / grants to states, etc.

**Planning Ahead for Future Projects - IIOG Workplan and Funding** – Kolleen handed out a draft work plan which includes existing projects / funding and the timeline for IRA projects (and funding) per the presentation given by Russ. It has become apparent that IIOG members need to have various “off the top” funding mechanisms in place in order to make these projects happen.

- **ACTION:** All members will discuss internally, look for opportunity.
- **ACTION:** Kolleen will refine the workplan to include possible agency splits as was done for the Oregon project.

**Task 28 – Facilities / Towers – Convey Expectations of Sharing** – The IIOG needs to convey the expectation to avoid huge investments into towers where they may no longer be needed in the future. This determination will in part come from the integrated program. There is a two part communication need:

- **Short-Term:** Share the vision of integration. Convey the expectation that when it comes to maintenance or replacement of towers/facilities that you talk to your neighbors and explore opportunities for partnering and cost sharing.
- **Long-Term:** Work toward a wholistic approach as we re-engineer and integrate possibly using the mapping/coverage analysis methodology seen in Portland during the July 2009 meeting.
- **DHS Cooperation** - There is a need to cooperate and coordinate with DHS as they grant monies to state agencies. Tim will invite DHS participation in our April meeting.
- **ACTION:** Kirk believes that the Fire Policy Council (a group of the Interior fire bureau directors along with the FS Chief) might be a good place to raise this issue and get agency level support and direction. He and Jim will discuss how to put this on a future FPC agenda.

**Task 8 – Secure FTP** – Dale Guenther provided a presentation on what looks to be the solution to ensuring that the fire community still has access to FTP but behind a secure firewall (eAuth). His presentation is filed in the QuickR Teamroom. At the conclusion of his presentation, Dale was specifically asked to ensure that there would not be too much impact on the eAuth Help Desk to support. Dale and Kolleen both addressed the current use of the eAuth for many things including the VIPR application for fire procurement and did not anticipate a problem.

- **ACTION:** Dale will contact Don Cannatti or Doug Hodge for approval of this solution. In order to get approval there must be a drawing of the architecture and then a letter in the file. Ensure that there is documentation to satisfy the auditors before this is approved.
- **ACTION:** Kolleen and Dale will work with CIO Communications to ensure that communication is created to let the field know of the solution once approved.

**FS Information Resources Strategic Framework** – Dave George gave an overview presentation of this effort which has been approved by the FS Leadership and is now being published. The IIOG asked if it talks about interoperability and shared governance for integrations. Dave stated that now would be a good time to get IIOG reviews of the framework to the core team.

- **ACTION:** Kolleen will send the IR Strategic Framework to the IIOG Membership for review.

**Summer Field Trip** – The group decided to visit Minnesota at the invitation of Keith McAuliffe. Previous field trips have been primarily focused around aviation and fire management issues and so this trip will focus around Law Enforcement and Border issues. We hope to include the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) and perhaps the Region 9 GACC, interface with DHS and talk to state partners. There are several National Parks in the area as well as FS lands. Keith will work with Kolleen to initiate the logistics for reporting back to IIOG.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010** - 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern