

# Aurora Program

minutes

## **Aurora Board Meeting January 31, 2008 – Conference Call**

### **Individuals Participating**

Tina Greenfield, Iowa DOT  
Paul Kernan, Illinois DOT  
Max Perchanok, Ontario MOT  
Jack Stickel, Alaska DOT  
Ralph Patterson, Utah DOT  
Dawn Gustafson, Michigan DOT  
Mike Adams, Wisconsin DOT  
Kirk Carpenter, Indiana DOT  
Lee Smithson, AASHTO  
Dave Lahn, Meteorological Service of Canada  
Jeff Tilley, UND/RWIC  
Chris Albrecht, Iowa State University  
Sabrina Shields-Cook, Iowa State University

### **Meeting Agenda:**

- 1) Call to Order (Max Perchanok)
- 2) Review of Past Actions (Chris Albrecht)
- 3) March 6 Board Conference Call (Chris Albrecht)
- 4) May Board Meeting Planning (Chris Albrecht)
- 5) Work Plan Process (Chris Albrecht)
- 6) Communications Activities (Chris Albrecht)
- 7) Project Status Reports (Project Champions)
- 8) Other Business (All)

#### **1. Call to Order**

Max Perchanok began the meeting, and the proposed agenda was briefly reviewed. After a few comments, the agenda was approved as the order of business.

#### **2. Review of Past Minutes and Actions**

Chris Albrecht then briefly reviewed meeting minutes from the October 2007 board conference call. The board approved the minutes with minor changes.

### **3. March 6th Board Call**

Chris Albrecht then reviewed the tentative agenda for the March 6, 2008 board conference call. After a few comments, the agenda was approved by the group.

### **4. May Board Meeting Plans**

Concerning the May 2008 on-site meeting, Chris Albrecht noted that he had been researching possibilities in Reno, Nevada with Bill Hoffman and would be letting the board know of more details as soon as they are known.

### **5. Work Plan Process**

Chris Albrecht reviewed the upcoming actions on the yearly work plan update and asked the group to provide any comments on the process. Only a few comments were made. Chris noted that he would start the update process in mid-February, following much the same steps as in previous years.

### **6. Communications Activities**

Chris Albrecht gave the update, noting that the first Aurora E-News was now available. He asked the board to provide him feedback on the e-news and overall website. He also noted that Dennis Burkheimer from Iowa had made some very positive comments about the e-news.

### **7. Project Updates**

The project champions then reviewed the status of ongoing Aurora research projects. Summaries of the status reports are as follows:

**Project 2000-01 – Benchmarking the Performance of RWIS Forecasts:** Max Perchanok reviewed the status of this project. Things were steadily progressing, he noted. He added that AMEC had recently contacted CTRE about gathering sample data to assist in completing the project.

**Project 2000-05 – RWIS Leverage Opportunities:** Lee Smithson noted that there was nothing new to discuss concerning this project. The project fund stands at \$31,000, he added.

**Project 2003-02 – Off-The-Shelf Component RWIS:** Chris Albrecht noted that a revised final report for this effort was now available for board review on the members' only area of the website.

**Project 2003-03 – Technology Transfer of Swedish RWIS to North America:** Curt Pape reviewed this project. He noted that the project team was in the process of reviewing the revised scope of work for the project.

**Project 2003-04 – Intelligent Image-Based Winter Road Condition Sensor - Phase III:** No report was provided for this project.

**Project 2004-04 – Winter Weather Severity Index Enhancements:** Tina Greenfield gave the update for this effort, noting that Accuweather had released a functional prototype to be reviewed by the project team.

**Project 2005-01 – Development of a RWIS Quality Assurance Monitoring System:** No update was provided for this effort.

**Project 2005-02 – RWIS Telecommunications Issues and Options:** Chris Albrecht noted that results should be available soon concerning the member survey.

**Project 2005-03 – Mobile Weather and Road Condition Reporting:** No update was provided for this effort.

**Project 2005-5 – Using RWIS to Trigger Spring Load Restrictions:** Max Perchanok noted that this project was complete.

**Project 2005-06 – New Road Surface Condition Sensor:** No update was provided for this effort.

**Project 2006-01 – Support of the Clarus Initiative:** Tina Greenfield reviewed the project status. After a short review, the group discussed participation in the ConOps process by other Aurora states not involved in the Aurora-specific group, such as Alaska and Minnesota. As a result of this discussion, the board agreed to fund other Aurora states participation in ConOps projects. In addition, Jack Stickel would be using project funds to make a stop in Minneapolis in order to finalize the Alaska/Canada ConOps plan with that group's contractor. Chris noted that he would help Jack with any necessary travel arrangements.

**Project 2006-02 – Pilot Test of ESS Sensor Testing Guidelines:** Dan Roosevelt noted no further progress had been made since late 2007 on this project.

**Project 2006-03 – Update of SHRP H-350 and H-351:** Tina Greenfield noted that efforts under this project were moving along very well. She also noted that a no-cost time extension had been made for another 6 months, and research would most likely continue into the summer.

**Project 2006-04 – Evaluation of Vaisala Spectro Pavement Sensor:** Mike Adams reviewed this project, noting that draft reports had been sent out approximately a month prior. Mike also noted that he would send a copy of the report to Chris Albrecht so that a draft could be posted in the members only area of the Aurora website.

**Project 2006-05 – Technology Transfer of Alternative Inexpensive RWIS:** Jack Stickel noted that the project sat at approximately five percent completion.

**Project 2006-07: Road Weather Information Outreach/ National Conference:** No update was provided for this effort, which was essentially complete.

**Project 2006-8 - Low Cost Mobile RWIS:** No update was provided for this effort.

**Project 2007-1 - RWIS Equipment Monitoring System – Phase II:** No update was provided for this effort.

**Project 2007-2 – Cold Weather Testing of the Halliday Road Grip Unit:** Jeff Tilley, Max Perchanok, and Lee Smithson all reviewed parts of this project. They noted that the final report was being prepared for presentation at the TRB winter maintenance conference in June. It would be forwarded on to Aurora when completed for group review, Jeff added.

**Project 2007-3 – Incorporation of MDSS into Winter Weather Forecasting – Phase I:** Tina Greenfield noted that the project would continue to progress, with a few modifications. A revised methodology was attached to the project status packet, she added. The group then discussed these changes, but approved of the project direction.

**Project 2007-4 – Development and Demonstration of a Freezing Drizzle Algorithm for ESS:** Max Perchanok lead the discussion, noting that things were progressing along steadily. The Minnesota DOT and UND were currently working out the details of transportation and installation, he added.

**Project 2007-5 – Multiple-Use ITS Data Collection Sites:** Jack Stickel had little to report on this project, noting that the primary issue at the moment was completion of the final scope for the project RFP.

**Project 2008-01 Development of a national Weather Testing Facility:** Tina Greenfield reported that little had changed on this effort since December 2007.

**Project 2008-02 Evaluation of Utah DOT’s Weather Operations/RWIS Program:** Ralph Patterson discussed the initial project steps and solicited information from team members on the project scope.

**Project 2008-03 Next Generation RWIS for Canada:** Max Perchanok reviewed this project, noting that the project team had recently had discussions with the AMEC. As a result of the discussions, they made plans to put together a list of ideas, he added. The project was still in the beginning stages, he concluded.

## **8. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.