

# Aurora Program

minutes

## **Aurora Board Meeting April 16, 2009 – Conference Call**

### **Individuals Participating:**

Ralph Patterson, Utah DOT  
Tina Greenfield, Iowa DOT  
Dean Kernan, Illinois DOT  
Jack Stickel, Alaska DOT  
Scott Roeder, Ohio DOT  
Bill Hoffman, Nevada DOT  
Dawn Gustafson, Michigan DOT  
Dave Cornett, Kentucky DOT  
Paul Pisano, FHWA  
Lee Smithson, AASHTO  
Jeff Tilley, University of North Dakota  
Chris Albrecht, Iowa State University  
Jennifer Serra, Iowa State University

### **Meeting Agenda:**

- 1) Call to Order (Ralph Patterson)
- 2) February Meeting and FOA Post-Mortem (Chris Albrecht)
- 3) Schedule and Details of Future Meetings (Chris Albrecht)
- 4) 2009-2010 Work Plan (Chris Albrecht)
- 5) Project Team Participation (Ralph Patterson)
- 6) Project Status Reports (Project Champions)
- 7) Other Business (All)

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

Ralph Patterson began the meeting, and the agenda was reviewed. After a few comments, the agenda was approved and the meeting commenced.

#### **2. February Meeting and FOA Post-Mortem**

Chris Albrecht opened the discussion, noting that the Albuquerque event went quite well. The board agreed. Lee Smithson then expressed that he would like a list of the vendors that attended the Friends of Aurora in Albuquerque to invite them to the upcoming 2009 Snow Expo and Peer Exchange. After a short discussion, Lee noted that he would forward the save the date information to Chris, who would then email it out using a vendors list he had been compiling.

### **3. Schedule and Details of Future Meetings**

Chris Albrecht shared what had been decided concerning the upcoming board meeting in Des Moines. He also noted that he was checking into details with the Embassy Suites.

### **4. 2009-2010 Work Plan**

Chris Albrecht went over the activities set for April, noting that he planned to send out a request for project proposals soon.

### **5. Project Team Participation**

Chris Albrecht discussed a spreadsheet he had distributed listing the project teams that each member was assigned to. Each member was to consider their contribution to the group, Ralph added. With the loss of Dan Roosevelt due to retirement, and some other adjustments in membership, it was mentioned that some of the teams were in need of additional members. Perhaps those with the fewest groups would be willing to step up to fill these spots, Ralph noted. After a short discussion, a few of the project team openings were assigned.

### **6. Project Updates/Status Reports**

The project champions then reviewed the status of ongoing research projects. Chris Albrecht provided the board with a summary of status reports for each project. Details of the status reports are as follows:

**Project 2000-01 – Benchmarking the Performance of RWIS Forecasts:** Chris Albrecht gave a quick update on this project's status. He mentioned an NCHRP project that Tom Maze had led, noting that it might be valuable information to share with Max Perchanok. Members were needed for the project team, Chris noted, then Scott Roeder and Bill Hoffman offered to join the project team.

**Project 2000-05 – RWIS Leverage Opportunities:** Lee Smithson reported on this effort. He mentioned that the group would be searching for new opportunities in August. In addition, Scott Roeder was added to the project team.

**Project 2003-04 – Intelligent Image-Based Winter Road Condition Sensor - Phase III:** Nothing new was reported.

**Project 2004-04 – Winter Weather Severity Index Enhancements:** Tina Greenfield gave the update on this project. She expressed that they hoped to continue the project, and she also stated that the group had made some progress on the index with the vendor. After a lengthy discussion, Tina adjusted the project's progress up to 70%.

**Project 2005-01 – Development of a RWIS Quality Assurance Monitoring System:** Jack Stickel spoke on this effort. They had begun work on the project, he noted, and in hopes of a good return on investment, the team planned to push Oracle as an option for the database. Lee Smithson mentioned that it was important to continue to use Mike Adams as a resource on this project, since this is an area of expertise for him. Jack agreed.

**Project 2005-02 – RWIS Telecommunications Issues and Options:** Dean Kernan shared the latest on this project. CTRE was still following up with agencies in regards to the survey they had sent out, he noted.

**Project 2005-03 – Mobile Weather and Road Condition Reporting:** Chris Albrecht noted that a final report was still pending. After discussion, it was suggested that Dr. Bob McCullough be consulted at this point.

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

**Project 2006-01 – Support of the Clarus Initiative:** No new information was provided for this effort.

**Project 2006-02 – Pilot Test of ESS Sensor Testing Guidelines:** No new information was provided for this effort.

**Project 2006-03 – Update of SHRP H-350 and H-351:** Tina Greenfield reviewed this project, noting that it was moving along well, and data had now been received from all three participating states. A benefit/cost ratio for RWIS was to be developed, Tina added, and she planned to forward a report to the group soon. Paul Pisano noted what an important project this was and that it needed to get wide exposure when complete. Lee noted that this would also be key to get future involvement in Aurora from other states. Tina noted that she was going to talk with WTI about working up a slide presentation that Aurora members could use. After further discussion, it was agreed that Tina, Lee, and Chris would work together to boost exposure on the project.

**Project 2006-04 – Evaluation of Vaisala Spectro Pavement Sensor:** Team members mentioned that they had been waiting to hear back from Mike Adams about the status of the report. They planned to make contact with him to complete the project, they noted.

**Project 2006-05 – Technology Transfer of Alternative Inexpensive RWIS:** No report was provided for this effort.

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

**Project 2007-1 - RWIS Equipment Monitoring System – Phase II:** No report was provided.

**Project 2007-2 – Cold Weather Testing of the Halliday Road Grip Unit:** A final draft report had been completed and shared with the participating states, Scott Roeder noted. Comments were being considered, and Max Perchanok had given some additional technical information, he added. It was also mentioned that Jeff Tilley may have some things to share on the project at a later date.

**Project 2007-3 – Incorporation of MDSS into Winter Weather Forecasting – Phase I:** Tina Greenfield reviewed this project, noting that it was still on hold.

**Project 2007-4 – Development and Demonstration of a Freezing Drizzle Algorithm for ESS:** No new information was shared for this project.

**Project 2007-5 – Multiple-Use ITS Data Collection Sites:** No report was provided for this effort.

**Project 2008-01 – Development of a National Road Weather Testing Facility/Program:** Tina Greenfield reported that not much was new, since the team was waiting to hear back on funding assistance from PNS. A short discussion followed.

**Project 2008-02 – Evaluation of Utah DOT’s Weather Operations/RWIS Program:** Ralph Patterson discussed the project. He reported that most of the surveys had been completed, and they were waiting to begin the next step of the project with WTI.

**Project 2008-03 – next Generation RWIS for Canada/MDSS Demonstration in Ontario:** No report was provided for this effort.

**Project 2009-01 Evaluation and Inter-comparison of the Lufft R2S Sensor** – Ralph Patterson noted that the project team was waiting for New York and Minnesota to finish their testing of the Lufft sensor. After some discussion, it was decided that they would likely give multiple awards to complete the sensor analysis.

**Project 2009-02 Road Weather Information Outreach/Second Peer Exchange** – Lee Smithson led the review of this project. Things had been moving along well, and a conference call was scheduled for Monday following this call, he noted. Tina also mentioned that exhibit floor time was added to the agenda for the event, which would be held in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Project 2009-03 Knowledge Base for RWIS and Environmental Data Loggers** – No report was provided for this effort.

**Project 2009-04 Road Weather Education Enhancements and Dissemination** – No report was provided for this effort.

**Project 2009-05 Further Development of Pavement Precipitation Accumulation Estimation System** – No report was provided for this effort.

**Project 2009-06 Salinity Sensor Improvements and Development** – Tina Greenfield noted that the project team planned to make some adjustments to the scope for this effort. After a short discussion, it was mentioned that this also could be a key project in getting exposure for the group.

**Project 2009-07 Review of Friction Detection Technologies** – No report was provided for this effort.

## **7. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.