

Aurora Program

minutes

Aurora Board Meeting June 4, 2009 – Web Meeting/Conference Call

Individuals Participating:

Ralph Patterson, Utah DOT
Bill Hoffman, Nevada DOT
Tina Greenfield, Iowa DOT
Dean Kernan, Illinois DOT
Jack Stickel, Alaska DOT&PF
Scott Roeder, Ohio DOT
Dawn Gustafson, Michigan DOT
Joe Doherty, New York DOT
Mike Adams, Wisconsin DOT
Curt Pape, Minnesota DOT
Max Perchanok, Ontario MOT
Kirk Carpenter, Indiana DOT
Lee Smithson, AASHTO
Jeff Tilley, UND/RWIC
Chris Albrecht, Iowa State University
Jennifer Serra, Iowa State University

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Call to Order (Ralph Patterson)
- 2) September Meeting in Des Moines (Chris Albrecht)
- 3) 2009-2010 Work Plan (Chris Albrecht)
- 4) Membership Priorities Survey (Chris Albrecht)
- 5) Project Status Reports (Project Champions)
- 6) Other Business (All)

1. Call to Order

Ralph Patterson began the meeting and asked for comments on the agenda. After a few minor comments, the agenda was approved and the meeting commenced.

2. September Meeting in Des Moines

Chris Albrecht gave a summary of meeting plans to date, noting that meeting rooms were being booked at the Embassy Suites. It was also noted that project updates tended to get too lengthy at times, so Chris proposed expanding the project mini-meeting times. This would allow for more time during the full meeting for agency updates, he added. The board agreed.

3. 2009-2010 Work Plan

Chris Albrecht opened discussion about highlighted sections of the new work plan. The board then commented on these sections. After a lengthy discussion, significant changes were made to more accurately reflect the group's current goals and objectives.

4. Membership Priorities Survey

Chris Albrecht presented the preliminary ideas and elements of the member survey. The board agreed that the survey would be important on many of levels. Specifically, Bill Hoffman noted that it would be important to send this out among members to refine the direction of the group and find common goals, but it would also be a valuable tool in determining the needs of future members. Lee Smithson suggested incorporating the survey into the presentation at the peer exchange in Madison, since the group would have a "captive audience" at that time. The group agreed on presenting the survey results at the peer exchange. In addition, the members agreed to collaborate on topics/questions. Chris noted that Jennifer Serra would be coordinating the survey with the members.

5. Project Updates

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

Project 2000-01 – Benchmarking the Performance of RWIS Forecasts: Max Perchanok noted that the project was moving forward again, noting that the team had a new work plan and were beginning to reconnect with those who had responded to the initial survey completed by Chris Albrecht and ISU staff. They were also in the process of assembling a data base of observations, he added.

Project 2000-05 – RWIS Leverage Opportunities: No new information was discussed.

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

Project 2004-04 – Winter Weather Severity Index Enhancements: Tina Greenfield gave the update for this effort. She noted that the team had only paid Accuweather approximately half of their project funds, so they would try to push progress along.

Project 2005-01 – Development of a RWIS Quality Assurance Monitoring System: No new information was discussed.

Project 2005-02 – RWIS Telecommunications Issues and Options: Dean Kernan noted that case study write ups were being prepared for the participating states.

Project 2005-03 – Mobile Weather and Road Condition Reporting: After a short discussion, it was noted that this project was essentially complete. The board then voted to accept the final report and consider this project completed. Chris Albrecht noted that he would move all final materials to the public side of the website.

Project 2005-06 – New Road Surface Condition Sensor: No report was provided.

Project 2006-01 – Support of the Clarus Initiative: No new information was discussed.

Project 2006-02 – Pilot Test of ESS Sensor Testing Guidelines: Ralph Patterson noted that he was in the process of working up an explanation for the project should being canceled. A short discussion followed. Chris noted that upon cancellation, all project funds would be moved back to the main fund for future research.

Project 2006-03 – Update of SHRP H-350 and H-351: Tina Greenfield first shared with the board the PowerPoint project summary presentation that WTI had presented at TRB. She also noted that the final report was posted on the Aurora members only site, and a vote to complete would planned for the next board meeting. Chris reminded the board to review the final report once more before the next meeting.

Project 2006-04 – Evaluation of Vaisala Spectro Pavement Sensor: Mike Adams noted that the project documentation currently consisted of two technical reports and a technical transfer summary. The group discussed these products in length before deciding that they would wait on final revisions to the UND report from Jeff Tilley before the project would be considered complete.

Project 2006-05 – Technology Transfer of Alternative Inexpensive RWIS: Jack Stickel reviewed this project. He noted that he was in the process of investigating some new products from Quixote that he had been exposed to at the ITS meeting in Canada.

Project 2006-8 - Low Cost Mobile RWIS: No report was provided.

Project 2007-1 - RWIS Equipment Monitoring System – Phase II: Jack Stickel reviewed this effort. After some discussion, he suggested that this effort could absorb Project 2006-05. Jack noted he would let the board know of his plan as soon as possible.

Project 2007-2 – Cold Weather Testing of the Halliday Road Grip Unit: Scott Roeder noted that the draft report was recently reviewed by Dan Halliday for comments and had been returned to the project team. It was agreed that Max Perchanok and Jeff Tilley needed to make time to discuss the final details of the report.

Project 2007-3 – Incorporation of MDSS into Winter Weather Forecasting – Phase I: Tina Greenfield had no new information to share on this effort.

Project 2007-4 – Development and Demonstration of a Freezing Drizzle Algorithm for ESS: Max noted that he thought a report should be ready in early 2010. UND was in the process of working on the analysis portion, more data collection was planned, and the sensors were going to be up again by September, Jeff added.

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

Project 2008-01 – Development of a National Road Weather Testing Facility/Program: Tina Greenfield had no new information to share on this effort.

Project 2008-02 – Evaluation of Utah DOT’s Weather Operations/RWIS Program: Ralph Patterson discussed this project. WTI had prepared a draft copy, he noted, which he planned to get sent out to the project team for review.

Project 2008-03 – Next Generation RWIS for Canada/MDSS Demonstration in Ontario: Max Perchanok stated that a work plan for this research should be developed soon.

Project 2009-01 – Evaluation and Inter-comparison of the Lufft R2S Sensor– Ralph Patterson noted that the project team was considering a new approach for the project. They wanted to test multiple sensors and compare the output from each, he explained. After a discussion, it was agreed that Chris and Ralph would discuss the necessary steps to continue at a later date.

Project 2009-02 – Second Peer Exchange – Lee Smithson led the review of the peer exchange. At least 30 states had already planned on attending the event in Madison, he reported. After discussing who was being funded, the group agreed to cover Ralph Patterson’s attendance to the event as Aurora Board Chair.

Project 2009-03 Knowledge Base for RWIS and Environmental Data Loggers – Jack noted that the scope would be approved soon and that Ralph planned to get information together about the data loggers.

Project 2009-04 – Road Weather Education Enhancements and Dissemination – Chris Albrecht and Dawn Gustafson spoke about the project’s status, noting that little progress had been made in the last several weeks.

Project 2009-05 – Further Development of Pavement Precipitation Accumulation Estimation – Ralph Patterson noted that the contract details were being finalized with UND, and that the Iowa DOT legal staff was in the process of looking over the changes that had been made to date.

Project 2009-06 – Salinity Sensor Improvements and Development – Nothing new was shared concerning this effort.

Project 2009-07 – Review of Friction Detection Technologies –The group was still waiting for the European study to be completed before they began the project, Max noted.

6. Other Business

The two upcoming Aurora meetings were discussed briefly. Chris Albrecht noted that an administrative meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 30 at 2 p.m., and the next board web meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 6 at 2 p.m.