

Aurora Program

minutes

Aurora Board Meeting June 26, 2008 – Conference Call

Individuals Participating in Call:

Max Perchanok, Ontario MOT
Ralph Patterson, Utah DOT
Tina Greenfield, Iowa DOT
Dean Kernan, Illinois DOT
Jack Stickel, Alaska DOT
Mike Adams, Wisconsin DOT
Scott Roeder, Ohio DOT
Dawn Gustafson, Michigan DOT
Lee Smithson, AASHTO
Bill Mahoney, NCAR
Jeff Tilley, UND
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) August 21 Board Conference Call Agenda (Chris Albrecht)
- 4) September Board Meeting Planning (Chris Albrecht)
- 5) December Friends of Aurora Planning (Chris Albrecht)
- 6) Work Plan (Chris Albrecht)
- 7) Project Status Reports (Project Champions)
- 8) Other Business (All)

1. Call to Order

Max Perchanok began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking for any comments on the agenda. After a few minor comments, the agenda was approved as the order of business for the conference call.

2. Review of Past Minutes and Actions

Chris Albrecht reviewed major activities since the June May board meeting in Reno, Nevada. He then asked the board to provide any comments on the March 6, 2008 board minutes. After a short discussion and a few minor changes, the minutes were approved.

3. August 21 Board Call Planning

Chris Albrecht led the discussion about the August 21 board conference call and mentioned he would send a reminder in July about new project ideas. Also, it was noted that the candidate projects would need to be added to the August 21 agenda. Chris noted that he would make the changes mentioned as soon as possible.

4. September Board Meeting Planning

Chris Albrecht reviewed the latest on preparation for the September on-site board meeting, which had been set for Toronto for September 24-25, 2008. The group then discussed hotel options for the meeting. After a short discussion, Max Perchanok noted he would assist Chris in scheduling a hotel.

5. December Friends of Aurora Planning

Chris Albrecht discussed the preparations made up to this point. After a short discussion, the board decided to wait on scheduling an event until the Toronto meeting.

6. Work Plan

Chris Albrecht briefly reviewed the schedule for the work plan update, which he noted would be completed after the meeting in Toronto.

7. Project Updates

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

Project 2000-01 – Benchmarking the Performance of RWIS Forecasts: Max Perchanok reviewed the status of this project, noting that the existing statement of work would likely be advertised as an RFP. The team had the necessary funding, and plans were to get going in July, he added.

Project 2000-05 – RWIS Leverage Opportunities: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2003-02 – Off-The-Shelf Component RWIS: The project was essentially complete, Chris noted.

Project 2003-03 – Technology Transfer of Swedish RWIS to North America: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

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

Project 2003-05 – Investigation of the Variability of Snow Cover Conditions: Max Perchanok noted that new project information had been posted on a website viewable on “members only” basis. The project was ready for board review at this point, he added. The board agreed to review the project materials.

Project 2004-04 – Winter Weather Severity Index Enhancements: Tina Greenfield gave the update on this project, noting that the observation database had finally progressed.

Project 2005-01 – Development of a RWIS Quality Assurance Monitoring System: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2005-02 – RWIS Telecommunications Issues and Options: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2005-03 – Mobile Weather and Road Condition Reporting: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2005-5 – Using RWIS to Trigger Spring Load Restrictions: The project was complete, Chris noted.

Project 2005-06 – New Road Surface Condition Sensor: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2006-01 – Support of the Clarus Initiative: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2006-02 – Pilot Test of ESS Sensor Testing Guidelines: A lengthy discussion was held concerning this project. Chris Albrecht agreed to set up a conference call to discuss the project in more detail. The project was still stalled pending resolution of a few existing issues with testing guidelines.

Project 2006-03 – Update of SHRP H-350 and H-351: Tina Greenfield noted that WTI had finished reviewing a few reports based on the collected data. Research was still anticipated into September, she added.

Project 2006-04 – Evaluation of Vaisala Spectro Pavement Sensor: Mike Adams reviewed progress on this project and estimated that a report would be provided to the group by the end of the summer.

Project 2006-05 – Technology Transfer of Alternative Inexpensive RWIS: Jack Stickel reviewed this effort, noting that he had some documents for the team to review.

Project 2006-07: Road Weather Information Outreach/ National Conference: The project was complete, Chris noted.

Project 2006-08 - Low Cost Mobile RWIS: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2007-01 - RWIS Equipment Monitoring System – Phase II: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2007-02 – Cold Weather Testing of the Halliday Road Grip Unit: Scott Roeder opened the discussion, noting that Jeff Tilley had recently presented the project findings in Indianapolis. He added that the team would be finishing the final report soon.

Project 2007-03 – Incorporation of MDSS into Winter Weather Forecasting – Phase I: Tina Greenfield noted that she was talking with the FHWA about options for completing a contract for this effort that all parties could agree on.

Project 2007-04 – Development and Demonstration of a Freezing Drizzle Algorithm for ESS: Max Perchanok noted that a conference call was scheduled for the following day to discuss a more detailed work plan and project schedule.

Project 2007-05 – Multiple-Use ITS Data Collection Sites: Nothing new was reported on this effort.

Project 2008-01 – Development of a National Road Weather Testing Facility/Program: Tina Greenfield led the review of this project, noting that another conference call would be scheduled soon.

Project 2008-02 – Evaluation of Utah DOT’s Weather Operations/RWIS Program: Ralph Patterson noted that the scope and budget for this effort were now complete. Hopefully, a sole source would be sufficient to complete the project, he added.

Project 2008-03 – next Generation RWIS for Canada/MDSS Demonstration in Ontario: Max Perchanok explained that the project team had met recently, and a work plan was nearly complete.

8. Other Business

No other items were discussed.