IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation
Interim Meeting Minutes
June 3-4, 1999
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Meeting called to order at 9:00 June 3 by Stephen Haddock. Objectives of the meeting are to resolve comments received during the Task Force Ballot on Draft 1.1. Intent is to incorporate the resolution of these comments into Draft 2.0 and to submit that draft to the 802.3 Working Group in July for Working Group Ballot.

After introductions, the group immediately began going through comments, beginning with the Technical and Technical Required comments. The minutes will be brief as the details are captured in the comment data base and will be posted on the 802.3ad web site. There were 122 total comments received during the ballot period, with an additional handful received late. The breakdown of the original 122 is:
>   33 Technical Required
>   11 Technical
>   10 Editorial Required
>   68 Editorial

The first technical comment, by Tony Jeffree, was a request to modify Clause 3 to clearly state that frames sourced and consumed below the MAC Client Service Interface shall not be tagged. This is clearly stated for LACPDUs in Clause 43, however Tony and others believe it would be appropriate to also note this in the 802.3 frame format description in Clause 3. The comment was withdrawn, but may be re-submitted as a Working Group Ballot comment following discussions at the Working Group meeting in July.

There was much discussion over the MaxCollectorDelay parameter and whether this should be exchanged in LACPDUs. Argument in favor is that when a device has a very low value for MaxCollectorDelay, making its partner aware of that allows very rapid and efficient movement of between links in a LAG. Argument opposed is that with many implementations it is difficult to assign a precise MaxCollectorDelay and exchanging a value may result in unwarranted complexity trying to actually make use of the value. Mick pointed out that exchanging the value was a simpler way of allowing expedited movement of conversations than tightly specifying Marker Response timing. Conclusion was to add this parameter as a new TLV in the LACPDU. It will be 16 bits long and represent the MaxCollectorDelay in units of milliseconds. A value of zero is allowed and is interpreted as "very fast".

The requirement to parse the DA field in LACPDU and Marker frames was removed between Drafts 1.0 and 1.1. The group concluded that was a mistake, and the requirement will be re-instated in Draft 2.0.

There was some discussion of how loopback conditions should be handled. The conclusion was that new selection rule is needed to the effect that an Actor cannot be aggregated with its own Partner.

The remainder of comments were resolved with much less discussion, and the resolutions will be posted in the comment data base.

Tony Jeffree moved, and Rich Seifert seconded, that the editors should use the resolutions to the Task Force Ballot comments to generate Draft 2.0, to post this draft on the web, and to announce it's availability for 802.3 preview at least one week prior to the July meeting. Motion passed without objection.

Rich Seifert moved, and Norm Finn seconded, that Tony Jeffree's extensive contributions to the Link Aggregation standard be recognized by making him a "co-editor" and including his name on the cover of the document. Passed unanimously.

Meeting plans for the plenary week (Montreal July 5-9) are to have a brief Task Force meeting, probably on Wednesday, to pass a motion to forward draft 2.0 to 802.3 Working Group. The intention is then to have a motion in 802.3 on Thursday morning to submit draft 2.0 to WG Ballot.