

**Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council**  
**Minutes**  
**January 18, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Council Members: John Irwin, Link Shadley, Pam Berrian, Agnes Box, Faye Stewart, Rob Myers, Ed Parker, Curt Pederson, Brant Wolf, Paul Zastrow, Art Hill, Onno Husing and Kim Hoffman.

Staff: Chris Tamarin of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and Eric Schmidt of Association of Oregon Counties

Others: Andrea Fogue of the League of Oregon Cities, Mike Zanon of Oregon State Police, Tom Clemo of the Medford Fire Department, Steve Caldwell, Ray Simila of Qwest, Bill Miller of the Medford Mail Tribune and Greg Wilkes.

Videoconference sites included Klamath Falls, Medford, Eugene, Lincoln City, and Pendleton.

**Old Business:**

**Action Item**

It was moved by Paul Zastrow that the November 30, 2006 minutes be approved as distributed. Art Hill seconded the motion. The Council approved the minutes.

**Presentation:**

John Irwin welcomed Mike Zanon for an update on the Oregon Wireless Interoperable Network (OWIN) project. Mike expressed that he wants people to have an appreciation for the work that has been done to date. He reported that there have been five years of planning including a needs assessment, infrastructure assessment, core site selection, review by local/county/federal agencies, technology selection, coverage analysis, radio frequency analysis and recommendation, microwave design, radio system design, and development of cost estimates.

Mike summarized the OWIN conceptual design. The State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) is recommending a statewide digital trunked radio system using a hybrid approach, 700 MHz in the Willamette Valley and VHF in the rest of the state. It was determined that there are not enough VHF frequency bands available to support a statewide VHF system. OWIN coverage should be equal to the coverage of the combined state systems today. The use of 700 MHz will require seventy plus additional sites to maintain current coverage. Mike noted that this is a conceptual design and when requests for proposal (RFPs) are issued, they will specify requirements and the SIEC will be open to considering RFP responses that present alternative technical solutions.

Federal Engineering (FE), the contracted consultant, has completed a “value engineering” process to arrive at current \$665 million cost estimate for the network. FE has drafted a business case, which will be finalized within the next few weeks and FE will be conducting interviews with the state agencies to develop draft RFP requirements.

Mike noted that there is a phased implementation planned for the network. Phase 0 and Phase 1 will take place during the 2007-09 biennium, and will deploy statewide control systems plus voice and data capabilities in Eastern, Northeastern, and Central Oregon, and will complete infrastructure preparatory work in Southwestern Oregon for approximately \$308 million. Phase 2 will align with the 2009-11 biennium and will deploy voice and data in Southern and Southwestern Oregon and perform infrastructure preparatory work in the Willamette Valley, Coast, and Northwestern Oregon for approximately \$166 million. Phase 3 will align with the 2011-13 biennium and will deploy voice and data capabilities in the Willamette Valley, Coast, and Northwestern Oregon for approximately \$191 million. This represents a projected total project cost of \$665 million. Phases 0 and 1 have been included as part of the Governor’s recommended budget for 2007-09 biennium.

Mike emphasized that \$665 million is a cost estimate of the conceptual design and noted some key points regarding the OWIN project:

- Cost estimates do not reflect potential reductions resulting from future partnerships
- Cost estimates do not reflect potential reductions resulting from competitive procurement process
- Next step is to develop RFP(s) for a detailed design and build for each phase
- Does not account for potential savings due to emerging technologies
- System is scalable/initial investment is preserved - as needs increase, appropriate investments can be made

Tom Clemo of the Medford Fire Department shared that Medford is interested in partnering with OWIN to share transmission tower facilities. He believes that there will be interest across the state as local communities seek to avoid “tower farms” and opt instead for co-location on shared facilities. Tom noted that OWIN, Integrated Wireless Network (IWN), City of Medford, the Sheriff’s office, State Police, Mercy Flight ambulance and virtually every public safety provider in Southern Oregon with a radio will be using a common tower on Roxanne Peak near Medford. Tom would like to proceed in the same manner for developing other tower sites in Jackson County. Mike added that this is a model that benefits all the participants.

Mike reported that there are two pieces of legislation that have been proposed

- Senate Bill 136 creates the Oregon Wireless Public Safety Communications Department and establishes the necessary governance processes and structure.
- Senate Bill 137 establishes a process for review and siting of public safety communication towers for OWIN; gives local government 90 days to approve siting request or recommend an acceptable alternative site.

Mike reviewed the anticipated benefits of the OWIN project including expanded interoperability coverage, P25 data coverage and compliance at all OWIN sites, installation of expandable standards-based radio and microwave systems, capacity for supporting potential local and federal partners as well as for growth of state agency requirements, the construction of reliable infrastructure consisting of trunked digital technologies, consolidated state agency public safety emergency response voice and data communication system, a new statewide public safety mobile data network, a statewide interoperable public safety communication backbone that can be used by all public safety agencies every day and during emergencies, increased reliability over current state systems, and it will be a scalable communication system. He added that OWIN would meet the FCC's 2013 "narrowbanding" requirements and also meet the needs for improved communications for homeland security and terrorism.

Mike reported that Oregon's congressional delegation in Washington DC has been briefed on the OWIN plan and project progress. He noted that there is concern at the federal level that Homeland security funds to the states are producing the desired results.

Mike recognized that OWIN faces many challenges including effective legislative outreach and education, addressing concerns about previous state government IT efforts, considering and incorporating alternative approaches, timing of funding decisions, navigating the procurement process, establishing partnerships, and providing sufficient network capacity. Chief Johnson, the chair of SIEC, formed a "555 Committee" made up of five police chiefs, five fire chiefs, and five sheriffs to help meet these challenges and articulate the nature and importance of the project. It's going to take a lot of work. John Irwin recommended making it a "5555 Committee" and adding five interested community representatives as well.

Brant Wolf asked about the provisions of SB136. Mike explained the provisions and noted that if the bill is not passed OWIN would remain in the State Police organization. Curt Pederson asked about the difference between the FE projected cost and the COT limitation, Mike responded that that was due to equipment that cannot be capitalized.

Mike asked for a statement of ORTCC support for the project. John responded that he has drafted a resolution that will be presented to the ORTCC in its February meeting. John Irwin asked about proposed federal changes in the use of the 700 MHz frequency band. Mike said that there are several proposals being considered by the FCC as a method of addressing existing frequency conflicts, but he doesn't know how it will be decided.

John asked about the synergies between the federal IWN and Oregon's OWIN. Mike responded that IWN is funded by the Department of Justice that needs a national microwave backbone network and is funding states to build and operate portions of the network. IWN can be leveraged to support segments of the OWIN. More information on IWN may be found at <http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/iwn/>. John asked if these funds had been factored into the cost estimates. Mike responded that partnerships have been formed with IWN and with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement

(CRITFE) Department <http://www.critfc.org/text/critfe.html> and that the funding from these established partnerships has been factored in.

John asked if the FE reports will be made available. Mike said yes, that they will be posted on the SIEC website <http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/>.

Paul Zastrow commented that it is his understanding that the Oregon Department of Forestry in the Mid-Columbia area is going with a narrowband system at the end of March, first of April 2007.

Art Hill asked whom Mike has been talking to in Eastern Oregon. Mike responded that he has been in contact with Steve Grasty, Fred Ziari, Terry Edvalson, Senator David Nelson, and members of the Childcare Enhancement Project (CCEP). Art said that he would like to discuss related regional economic development issues with Mike.

Ed Parker asked about the ability to share OWIN facilities with private sector users. He asked if the OWIN project could be used to boost cellular service in the state. Mike said that there is co-location of facilities with cellular companies today. The opportunity is certainly there, but he is not sure of the mechanics of how it might work. It could add to the complexity of the procurement process.

Link Shadley commented that he believes a packet radio system could significantly reduce the projected cost of OWIN. He added that he would have a problem with Oregon moving forward with the construction of this new infrastructure if it will only be available for government use. Link observed that the state makes use of alternate networks, such as HAM operators, when its own public safety networks fail. He feels that the network of towers should be made available for a broader public benefit. Tom Clemo agreed with that viewpoint and noted that they have tried to do that in Southern Oregon noting that he considers HAM operators to be an important component of the public safety communications infrastructure. He also noted, however, that there are important security issues to be addressed when opening access to these facilities. Link would also like to see these towers be used to support broadband wireless networks for public use. Mike responded to Link's comments that if there are alternative solutions that could significantly reduce costs, he wants them to be proposed. He also does not believe that there has been anything proposed to date that precludes the sharing of facilities that Link describes.

John Irwin noted that OWIN should be flexible and be able to take advantage of new technologies that become available in the future. Mike agreed, but noted that it is also a challenge given the confines of a government procurement process.

John thanked Mike again for meeting ORTCC despite his very busy schedule. Mike, in turn, thanked Tom Clemo for participating today. John also thanked Tom Clemo and noted that Southern Oregon has been a leader in addressing these issues and seeking solutions.

## **Reports:**

### *Telehealth Committee*

Kim Hoffman reported that there is a statewide interest in developing an application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pilot program to help public and non-public healthcare providers build broadband networks. There have been additional meetings and three committees have been formed to address the areas of governance, technology, and application development funding. She reported that E-Copernicus has developed a proposal to support the application process for a price of approximately \$25,000. Efforts are underway to see if this fee can be raised. It has been suggested that the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO) formally undertake a leadership role in the process. TAO will evaluate its ability to do this. Ed Parker added that if some conditions were met, TAO should be able to perform that role. Its membership and Board of Directors would need to be expanded to represent all the interests. Another organization may be needed to be the fiduciary agent to receive and dispense any funds awarded. Ed also reported that the technology committee has had a constructive first meeting to develop a network architecture. He added that there will likely be end user access issues. Kim noted that this project will be a lot of work. John Irwin suggested that these efforts are useful and will position Oregon for future opportunities in addition to the FCC pilot program.

### *Legislative Committee*

Chris Tamarin delivered a written report submitted by Cathy Britain, Committee Chair. In her report, Cathy indicated that five legislative concepts were submitted in November 2006 to legislative counsel for drafting and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology for sponsorship. To date, the joint resolutions supporting the Internet Forest concept and supporting the ongoing work of the Health/Education committee to join and expand the healthcare and education networks in Oregon have come out of legislative counsel. The Internet Forest resolution emerged as a bill. Cathy requested that it be sent back to Counsel for redrafting as a resolution, as originally requested by ORTCC. Cathy is attempting to fast track the Health/Education resolution so that it can be included in the FCC pilot program application. Cathy reported that draft legislation is coming out of Legislative Counsel very slowly, but that ORTCC shouldn't have to worry about deadlines since its concepts were pre-session filed. The ORTCC Legislative Committee will meet to discuss strategy and will have a broader report for ORTCC in February.

### *Association of Oregon Counties*

Eric Schmidt reported that Oregon counties are facing a \$254 million loss of funds due to the end of the federal Forest safety net provided under the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act. County payments expired last year. This is a serious financial problem for Oregon's counties and has implications for communities and the funding of schools and roads.

### *Open Council Seats*

John Irwin asked for help in recruiting applicants for the open seats on the council. Andrea Fogue reported that the League of Oregon Cities is preparing a recommendation to the Governor's office for a cities' representative. Rob Myers reported that he has discussed the need for a tribal representative with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Art Hill added that he will contact the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) regarding the open seat.

### *Frontier Telenet*

Rob Myers reported that Frontier Telenet is expanding the network into Jefferson, Wheeler and Crook Counties. They will also be connecting with CCEP.

### *Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association*

Onno Husing reported that he is pursuing funding to continue the work of OCZMA in developing and implementing a coast telecommunications strategy.

John Irwin noted that there is data gathering activity underway on the South Coast. Curry County is working with Del Norte County, California to assess their needs and develop strategies to address them.

### *SB 13 Broadband Report*

Chris Tamarin reported that the Oregon Public Utility Commission will be submitting the SB13 Broadband Report to the legislature by the end of January 2007.

### *Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference*

Chris Tamarin reported that the 2007 Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference will be held at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport on October 25 and 26. Information will be posted on the conference website at [www.oregonconnections.info](http://www.oregonconnections.info).

### **New Business:**

Faye Stewart recommended that Captain Dennis Ewing of the Lane County Sheriff's Department be invited to meet with ORTCC and provide an overview of plans for a federal interoperability communications grant that Lane County and other counties have been awarded.

Ed Parker noted that the February 22<sup>nd</sup> ORTCC meeting will be a statewide roundtable discussion of the Internet Forest concept and proposals. Steve Caldwell expressed an interest in this topic area and has suggestions on how to proceed. Steve was invited to attend and participate in the February meeting.

**Meeting Schedule:**

The next Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 22, 2007. ORTCC meeting dates for the rest of 2007 are March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 24, and November 29 in the Teleconference Room (Basement) of the Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, in Salem with the exception of the October meeting, which will be held in Newport. Meeting information will be updated and posted on the Council website [www.ortcc.org](http://www.ortcc.org). John Irwin adjourned the meeting.

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