

Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council
Minutes
February 24, 2005

Attendees:

Council Members: John Irwin, Link Shadley, Dan Bartlett, Pam Berrian, Agnes Box, Cathy Britain, Betty Dickson, Lylla Gaebel, Rob Myers, Ed Parker, Curt Pederson, Sal Sahme, Marlyn Schafer, Andrew Spreadborough, Brant Wolf, Paul Zastrow, and Kim Hoffman.

Staff: Chris Tamarin, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, and Bill Penhollow, Association of Oregon Counties.

Others: Jim Rose of Oregon Public Education Network (OPEN), Andy Margeson of Oregon Public Utility Commission, David Paulson of Sprint, Ginny Lang of Qwest, Jim Long of Blue Pages, and Art Hill of Blue Mountain Community College.

Remote videoconference locations included Astoria, Pendleton, Klamath Falls, Medford, and Palm Desert, California.

Public Input:

Jim Long, Petitioner before the Oregon Public Utility Commission regarding improvements in telephone directory Blue Pages, asked to speak. He attended the Council meeting, because he read the comments of Ginny Lang from Qwest in the ORTCC July 24, 2003 Minutes and wanted to clarify and create some balance to the information previously presented. Jim indicated that at that time in 2003, there was a Bill before the legislature to require telecommunications utilities to provide specific information in the Blue Pages sections of telephone directories that had a lot of support including the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Jim wanted to clarify that all Oregon subscribers do *not* have access to Blue Pages for government offices, schools, and human services. He said that for twenty years the Blue Pages were included in both the Portland White Pages and Yellow Pages directories. There are two types of listings, business and residential. Residents get one alphabetical listing and Businesses get one alphabetical listing plus additional classified listings. Jim said that government offices and schools should also get multiple listings. There is also a concern about the accuracy of information published in the Blue Pages, 33% to 45% of the current Blue Page listings are erroneous. Jim reported that on December 7, 2004, the OPUC opened a rule-making docket on the Blue Pages. Jim wanted to update the ORTCC on these issues and will be available as a guest speaker in the future to provide further updates.

John Irwin reported that Shayne Maxwell received the 2004 Citizen of the Year award from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments in recognition of her work in establishing Southern Oregon's regional Extended Area Service zone.

Chris Tamarin reminded the Council of Scott McMullen, Chair of the Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee (OFCC) and the presentation he made to the Council last November regarding undersea cables landing on the Oregon Coast. His presentation is posted on the ORTCC website www.ortcc.org on the Reports page. Chris reported that the OFCC, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) recently worked together on a project to promote Oregon as the place land undersea cables on the US West Coast. A display booth was developed and presented at the annual conference of the Pacific Telecommunications Council in Honolulu in January. The Pacific Telecommunications Council www.ptc.org is an international, non-profit, non-governmental membership organization that brings together both the providers and users of communication services in the Pacific Rim. This year's conference hosted attendees from 51 countries around the Pacific Rim and the rest of the world. Our display's message was unique. It was an invitation to "*Come Ashore in Oregon!*" with a personalized welcome from the Governor. Handout information included a letter from the Governor who chairs the State Land Board that must approve easements for cable landings. This information is also posted on the OECDD website at the following URL: www.econ.state.or.us/telecom. As Scott indicated when he spoke to ORTCC in November, telecommunications traffic between North America and Asia is rapidly growing especially to Korea, China, and India. New undersea cable projects are anticipated and will hopefully, "*Come Ashore in Oregon!*"

John Irwin noted that he would like to invite a representative from the Oregon Department of State Lands to speak to the ORTCC. He is interested in hearing more about Oregon's process and the structure of the easements. Brant Wolf indicated that he has a contact and will provide the information to John Irwin.

Old Business:

Action Item:

It was moved by Paul Zastrow that the January 27, 2005 minutes be approved as distributed. Rob Myers seconded the motion. The Council approved the minutes.

Open Seat Status:

Though they were not present at the meeting, John Irwin welcomed county representative Judge Dan Erickson of Wasco County and Fiber South Consortium representative Mark Shives City Administrator of Creswell. Art Hill of Blue Mountain Community College reported that he is still working on paperwork to be appointed as the Education - Community College representative. One vacant seat, representing the South Coast Telecommunications Task Force, remains without a candidate.

Committee Reports:

Health-Education Committee

Rob Myers reported on the activities of the committee. Rob presented the Report of the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council on the Plan for Healthcare and Education Networks. Cathy Britain noted that The Applications and Content subcommittee requested that the plan recommendations they brought forward be transferred to the Governor's Education and Workforce Policy group, as the more appropriate group to be working on those recommendations. She indicated that this group will continue to meet on an on-going basis, however, with the ORTCC Health Education Committee to collaborate going forward.

Ed Parker asked that the reference to ORTCC support of a joint resolution in the Report be clarified to specify Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 and that a copy of this Resolution be attached to the Report.

Action Item:

Paul Zastrow moved that the Report and Council support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 be approved. Marlyn Schafer seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion.

Legislative Committee Report

Cathy Britain reviewed the Bills introduced by and currently tracked by the Council.

- SB11 – To modify and extend the Advanced Telecommunications Facilities Tax Credit
- SB12 – To expand the number of available Enterprise Zone E-Commerce designations from four to ten.
- SB13 – To extend and expand reporting on telecommunications and broadband by the Public Utility Commission.
- SB14 – To expand the use of the Universal Service Fund for broadband.
- SB15 – To extend the sunset date for ORTCC.
- SB16 – To require the Public Utility Commission to support Oregon broadband access policy
- SB17 – To create a Telecommunications Task Force to do a comprehensive review of ORS 759, Laws relating to telecommunications.
- SCR 7 - Recognizes community teamwork in developing and implementing health care education initiatives.
- SB541 - Creates Task Force on Electronic Medical Records. Directs task force to study and make recommendations for standards for transfer and exchange of electronic medical records and health-related data.
- SB600 - Reorganizes and restates telecommunications utility regulation law.
- SB794 - Directs Public Utility Commission to replace all intrastate, interexchange toll routes with statewide flat rate interexchange service. Establishes Toll-free Calling Fund. Appropriates moneys from fund to commission for payment to telecommunications providers for costs incurred in providing toll-free calling within state.

- HB2234 - Increases number of enterprise zones that may be designated for electronic commerce. Extends period during which business firm may obtain certification for facilities in non-urban enterprise zones.
- HB2445 - Imposes requirements on local governments with respect to provision of telecommunications service by local government. Provides exceptions.

All bills and resolutions may be viewed at the following URL:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us:8765/> - enter the Bill number and click on *Search*. The Legislative Committee has been conferring with the PUC and industry representatives on the Bills to resolve issues. Cathy thanked David Paulson of Sprint and Brant Wolf of Oregon Telecommunications Association for their participation in working on issues.

Ed Parker asked if industry is supporting SB600. Brant Wolf replied yes, that it is viewed as a “housekeeping” bill. Andy Margeson indicated that the OPUC is also supporting the Bill.

Ed Parker asked if industry is supporting or opposing SB794. Brant Wolf indicated that OTA has not yet taken a position. He thinks that there may be industry opposition to SB794. Cathy Britain noted that she would prefer that Statewide EAS be pursued through the OPUC process rather than through legislation. Link Shadley asked Brant if OTA has one member one vote, or if the number of votes corresponds with the number of access lines of each member. Brant responded one member, one vote.

Action Item:

Ed Parker moved that the Council support SB600. Paul Zastrow seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion.

Action Item:

Cathy Britain moved that the Council support the concept of a Task Force on Electronic Medical Records in principle. Rob Myers seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion.

Action Item:

Ed Parker moved that the Council support the concept of Statewide Extended Area Service (EAS) in principle. Sal Sahme seconded the motion. Brant Wolf asked that it be noted for the record that he abstained from the vote. The Council approved the motion.

Action Item:

Ed Parker moved that the Council oppose HB2445. Dan Bartlett seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion. Brant Wolf asked that it be noted for the record that he voted no.

Cathy Britain recommended that there should be continued discussion of HB2445 with the sponsors of the Bill. David Paulson of Sprint indicated that he would appreciate continued discussion to determine how the HB2445 could be made more palatable to the Council.

Broadband Authority Committee

John Irwin opened a roundtable discussion on the concept of an Oregon Broadband Partnership. The Oregon Broadband Partnership's proposed mission is to expand broadband access for Oregon's citizens, institutions and businesses. Organizations in the public and private sector would be offered low-cost financing for the acquisition of hardware, software and services including assistance with preparation of federal broadband grant or loan proposals. A draft of the paper, "Oregon Broadband Partnership: Concept Evaluation and Recommendations," is on the ORTCC website Reports page. www.ortcc.org

Andy Margeson noted that in making such a proposal, it is important to know what problem is being solved and where the funding will come from: "Mission and money." He likes the Alaska model described in the paper. Andy thinks that industry involvement and support is essential if the Kentucky model were to be followed.

Andy also noted that Oregon Public Utility Commissioner Ray Baum has been appointed to the FCC Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and Andy has been appointed to the Board staff. He noted that broadband services in rural areas are now widely available through the efforts of service providers, notably small telephone companies. On the other hand, there remain areas in more populated territories where broadband gaps continue to exist. This may be in part due to the fact that Universal Service funds are only available on a very limited basis to larger telcos. He likes the approach of seeking grants. Before we create an organization, we need a clear definition of purpose and funding. We also need a clearer evaluation of broadband availability in Oregon.

Cathy Britain expressed concern about the possible elimination of federal grant programs due to budget deficits and also noted that federal grants often require a local match.

Andy noted President Bush's goal of universal broadband by 2007.

Link Shadley said that he would like to see broadband defined as a minimum of 10 Mbps.

Marlyn Schafer recommended inviting a representative from the Governor's Education and Workforce Policy group, perhaps Claire Berger, to meet with ORTCC and see how we might work together on this issue.

David Paulson noted that Sprint was the first private telephone company to use special funds in North Carolina to provide broadband to rural communities that otherwise would not be served. He noted that Verizon also participated in the North Carolina projects. He

and a representative from Verizon are collecting and will provide additional information on these projects to Cathy Britain for reference.

John Irwin invited industry representatives and others to participate in the Broadband Partnership Committee to help develop these ideas further. John feels that this concept is bigger than just proliferating broadband infrastructure.

Bill Penhollow recommended looking at public-private partnerships noting that public entities often have access to grants and funding sources not available to private industry such as federal, state, and regional economic development funds, and that it would be helpful to identify prospective sources of funds.

David Paulson agreed noting that the public-private partnerships in North Carolina brought broadband service to rural communities where it would not otherwise be deployed, because there was no business case for the investment. It takes working together, and both parties need to think about their roles and how to work together to develop a new paradigm. He expressed the concern that public entities receiving these types of funds often do not want to partner with the private sector and often make no attempt to develop public-private partnerships. These public entities view the private sector as competition. There needs to be some bridge building if these public-private relationships are to be developed.

Marlyn observed that the regional investment board funds in Oregon were earmarked for job creation and that in Coos and Curry County, 90% of the funds went to private industry. Ed Parker identified the following sources of funds that should be explored: Local governments, USDA RUS funds, and the Federal Universal Service Fund.

John Irwin added that in the Kentucky model, private sector participation extended beyond government and telecommunications companies to other types of companies. In Oregon, these other participants might be companies like Hewlett Packard or Intel giving it a much broader base of support. Andy Margeson asked if we might invite a representative of the Kentucky project to speak to the Council and share their experiences. Bill Penhollow said he would also like to hear more about the North Carolina experience.

Conference Planning Committee Report

Andrew Spreadborough reported that the planning process continues for the 2005 Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference scheduled for Wednesday, September 28 through Friday September 30, 2005, at the Mt. Bachelor Village in Bend. He reported that the theme for the conference, "Ten Years of Connecting Oregon: A Foundation for Future Prosperity" has been adopted. He asked ORTCC members to check their files for articles or other materials that could be used to document Oregon's telecommunications accomplishments over the past ten years.

Sal Sahme offered to contact the National Native Network Center for a speaker.

Public Safety Committee

Lylla Gaebel reported that that she is maintaining her contacts with the 911 community and that an updated listserv has been established for this committee. She would like some direction on the Council's objectives. One emerging problem is 911-service compatibility with VoIP services. Curt Pederson reported that staff at Oregon State University have developed a solution to this problem and have applied for a patent. Andy Margeson added that this is a major national issue and that the National Emergency Number Association is also working on this issue. Ed Parker suggested that backbone route diversity should also be on the agenda of this committee. John Irwin added that terrorism preparedness is also seeing a lot of activity in Oregon and recommended that Lylla contact Ann Steeves.

Reports from Consortia:

Eastern Oregon Telecommunications Consortium - Cathy Britain reported that she is moving to Medford. She has been asked to continue to represent EOTC through the end of the 2005 legislative session. At the end of the session she plans to resign from EOTC and from ORTCC.

North Coast Telecommunications Consortium – No Report

Klamath Falls Telecommunications Task Force – No Report

Regional Fiber Consortium – No Report

Gorge Teleconsortium – Link Shadley reported that this group will be meeting next week and that he plans to attend. Link also acknowledged the recent news stories regarding Google's pending decision to locate operations in the The Dalles. He noted that there are conditions to be satisfied and much work remains to be done before Google locates in The Dalles.

Frontier TeleNet – No Report

Oregon CoastNet – No Report

Oregon Tribes – Sal Sahme reported that the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest participates in the National Conference of American Indians. Senator Stevens of Alaska has proposed that Tribes be treated as corporations rather than sovereign governments. This development is requiring the attention of the Tribes. Also, the group is supporting the Native American Connectivity Act (S.2382) that has been introduced by US Senator Innouye of Hawaii. FCC - tribal government discussions are also continuing. Sal hopes that this positive relationship with the FCC will continue under the next FCC chair.

Fiber South Consortium – No Report

Central Oregon Telecommunications Council – Andrew Spreadborough reported that the Madras Central Office does not have Caller ID capability and this recently has become an issue for the local school district calling parents. Calls often are not answered without Caller ID.

Southern Oregon Telecommunications and Technology Council (SOTTTC) – John Irwin reported that he is continuing his work with this group and has recently been elected President. He reported that SOTTTC continues to offer Educational Forums in the community. The January Forum was on digital television and High Definition Television. The February Forum held in Medford was on Economic Development. Rogue Community College will host the March forum on Distance Education, which will be held on Tuesday, March 8 from 12:00 to 1:00pm in Grants Pass. The April Forum topic is planned to be healthcare - telemedicine and may include a tour of the new Asante facility in Medford. More information may be found at the following URL: www.sotttc.org The City of Rogue River has formulated a community strategic plan and is working to create a community portal.

New Business

Presenters for future meetings will be invited from the Governor's Education and Workforce Policy group, Oregon Department of State Lands, the Department of Homeland Security, and the North Carolina or Kentucky Broadband programs.

Meeting Schedule:

The next meeting of ORTCC is scheduled on Thursday, March 24, 2005 in Salem.

John Irwin noted for the record that he adjourned the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council meeting at 11:30 AM, ahead of schedule.

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