

Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council
Minutes
April 27, 2006

Attendees:

Council Members: John Irwin, Link Shadley, Pam Berrian, Cathy Britain, Ed Parker, Brant Wolf, Paul Zastrow, Terry Edvalson, Doug Cooley and Kim Hoffman.

Staff: Chris Tamarin of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department

Others: Dr. Ken Usiak and Dr. Larry Bundy of Blue Mountain Community College, Michael Weidman and Richard Schuman of LS Networks, and Rob Bole of One Economy Corporation.

Remote videoconference locations: Pendleton, Medford, and Eugene.

Old Business:

John Irwin reported that he has received notification from the Governor's office that Onno Husing has been reappointed to the Council.

Action Item:

It was moved by Paul Zastrow that the March 23, 2006 minutes be approved as distributed. Ed Parker seconded the motion. The Council approved the minutes as distributed.

Public Input:

A message was received from Rita Conrad of the Oregon Progress Board announcing that there are thirty-six custom slide shows containing Oregon Benchmark data for each of Oregon's counties now posted for public use at www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/CountyData.shtml.

Speakers:

Michael Weidman

John Irwin introduced Richard Schuman of LS Networks. Richard noted that there have been many changes since he last visited the Council in 2005 to report on the transition from NoaNet Oregon to LS Networks. Richard reported that the network infrastructure continues to grow, new customers have been added, and LS Networks is now providing network services in both Oregon and Washington. Richard introduced Michael Weidman, who has joined the company as the new President and CEO.

Michael provided the Council with information on his background including his years of experience in the United States Marine Corps and with MCI International in operations and technology management in North America and Asia and in general business management in Japan and in Asia before joining LS Networks.

Michael indicated that the mission of leveling the playing field in rural Oregon and bringing world-class network and Internet access to small communities, conceived by NoaNet Oregon, remains in place at LS Networks. LS Networks now has 26 points of presence around the state. LS Networks is within seven and a half miles of completing its “super-ring” that will connect the I5 corridor to the east side of the Cascades in a ring configuration. A coastal ring is already in place to Coos Bay and there are spurs off the network to Newport, Tillamook and east to Hermiston. A logical map of the network may be found on the website at www.lsnetworks.net. Once the super-ring is completed they will be able to more efficiently route traffic to selected express points around the state. The network is capable of providing T1 to OCn services as well as wide area Ethernet services. LS Networks is working with content providers and application service providers to deliver solutions and content to the rural areas of Oregon.

Michael read the Internet Forest concept paper and offered some observation to the Council. He indicated that there are many challenges to reaching the traffic density levels needed to get onto the Tier One carrier “radar screens.” He noted that during his time with MCI in Asia, even locations like Singapore and Hong Kong did not have sufficient traffic density to warrant peering with a Tier One carrier. He noted that it has to make business sense for the carriers to offer peering versus transit services and that is a real challenge for Oregon. He also observed that most of the Asian Internet Service Providers and Application Service Providers are look for a United States Autonomous System (AS) number to home their traffic out of the United States. LS Networks is currently peering with NWAX and is a member of the Seattle IX. He observed that there are a lot of queries, but fundamentally there is not a lot of content currently originating from Oregon, which is needed to balance the send and receive packets in order to make an attractive business case for the carriers.

Ed Parker asked about the potential to aggregate Oregon traffic and establishing Oregon transit exchanges including Southern and Eastern Oregon where Oregon ISPs would be able to collectively route traffic to Tier One Carriers at lower costs while keeping local traffic local. Ed indicated that this exchange could be used by public and private sector users. He is not certain how the financial and contractual arrangements would look, but the public sector users could serve as anchor tenants to create the exchange, which could then also be used by the private sector to the benefit of all. Ed views this as important to improve IP network performance in Oregon to support expanding time sensitive applications such as Voice over IP and videoconferencing over IP. Michael responded that LS Networks might be in a position to facilitate this type of evolution depending upon IP peering engineering constraints. He noted that this is a different model from what is in place in Oregon today. He would need to evaluate it from a network architecture standpoint. Chris Tamarin suggested that the current Network for Education and Research in Oregon (NERO) architecture www.nero.net/images/nero_map.png could

be a model for a statewide IP exchange. Chris said that the Council would appreciate any recommendations Michael could make regarding steps that Oregon could take to improve its position relative to the Internet backbone for both better connectivity and lower costs. Michael agreed that this is a complex issue and indicated that he would like to consider the question and come back at a later time with further comments.

John Irwin raised the issue of public safety applications and the Oregon Wireless Interoperable Network planning process and its implications for users and service providers in Oregon. Michael responded that the extent to which this network would be an overbuild of existing backbone network infrastructure that could support its applications should be considered. There are existing assets that could be leveraged. He would welcome the opportunity to provide input to the planning process. Richard added that he has contacted the State Interoperability Executive Council and has been included in the distribution list and he plans to attend future meetings. Chris Tamarin noted that the SIEC has been conducting regional forums around the state to provide information. The next session is tomorrow, April 28, in Medford and there will be a forum on Wednesday, May 3rd in Sherwood. The Power Point presentation for the sessions is available on-line at www.oregon.gov/SIEC/docs/resources/regional_forum.ppt. The next meeting of SIEC is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, in Salem.

Ed Parker, as a representative of CoastNet, thanked Michael and Richard for LS Networks collaboration with CoastNet and the huge difference it has made to large bandwidth network connectivity on the coast in Lincoln County. Ed added that CoastNet's next priority is to extend northward to complete a ring through Tillamook.

John Irwin thanked Michael for his presentation.

Mark Simmons

John Irwin Introduced Mark Simmons, Oregon Director of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/index.htm. Mark noted that he does not consider himself to be a technical person, but rather a vision person interested in making things happen. He is a former member of the Oregon Legislature and former Speaker of the House. After spending some time in the private sector he was recruited to work on rural development at USDA. He noted that USDA has a wide range of programs and he has found that there is not a high level of awareness of rural development programs – with some programs going completely unused. Last year his department had a \$132 Million impact on the state of Oregon. His department is increasing its outreach activities to generate awareness of available programs and hopefully increase Oregon's utilization of available programs including telecommunications. Mark is interested in bring more USDA dollars to Oregon.

Mark noted that the rural economy is changing dramatically. The movement of manufacturing jobs offshore and the reduction of federal timber availability have been two trends that have impacted rural Oregon communities. Many rural Oregon communities need to redefine themselves, and government should help them be

successful. Other important developments include the transformation of the economy into a knowledge-based value added economy and the international trade pressures on the US to remove crop subsidies. Mark suggested that the future of rural Oregon will be in specialty crops, renewable energy / biofuels and in “place.” Place refers to where people want to live and work. Mark believes that the factor will enable families and businesses with high paying jobs to locate in places like John Day, Burns, and Elgin is broadband telecommunications. He noted that USDA RUS has up to \$2 Billion in programs for rural broadband development and these programs have not been sufficiently used in Oregon. He observed that access to RUS programs has been difficult. He feels that the deployment of broadband digital networks today can be compared to the construction of the nation’s transcontinental railroad system and later the Interstate Highway System. Communities that are not located along broadband digital network routes and are left without access will be significantly impacted, just as communities that were bypassed by the railroad and the interstate highway were impacted. Rural communities that do not have access to broadband communications will continue to fall behind. Mark wants to address this issue for Oregon’s rural communities.

Mark is also concerned about the current definition of broadband used by USDA RUS; a minimum of 200 Kbps upstream and downstream. He doesn’t believe that this definition is adequate. Today’s applications require higher speeds. He has raised that issue at RUS.

John Irwin asked if Mark was familiar with the emerging broadband concept of the “smart home” designed to enable people to remain in their own homes longer through telehealth. Mark indicated that RUS is very interested in rural healthcare issues and service delivery. He agrees that broadband infrastructure can be leveraged to address rural healthcare issues. John observed that there might be an opportunity to combine state and federal programs to fund pilot projects in this area. Rob Bole added that the Oregon Community Services Department now requires that new affordable housing be wired for high-speed Internet. Rob views health maintenance applications as growing in importance and said it is an issue that he is available to work on. More information on the use of technology for seniors and disabled persons may be found at <http://oregon.networkofcare.org/home.cfm> and at http://www.newmillenniumresearch.org/archive/Litan_FINAL_120805.pdf

Brant Wolf noted that the work that Wes Lannen of USDA RUS does with rural communities in Oregon is greatly appreciated. Brant asked about the difficulties Mark referred to in applying for funds. Mark responded that efforts are underway to streamline the application process and make it easier to use, though this may take some time to accomplish. John Irwin recommended that people review the position paper on a proposed “Oregon Broadband Partnership” posted on the ORTCC website at <http://www.ortcc.org/PDF/ORPAwhitepaper.pdf> with ideas on how to bridge gaps and coordinate efforts. John added that one of the barriers to access USDA RUS funds has been a lack of expertise in rural communities needed to successfully prepare an application. Mark agreed that many applicants use consultants for this reason.

Ed Parker observed that difficulties are compounded when more than one government agency is involved. There needs to be improved coordination, for example, with the US Department of Health and Human Services. One of the greatest barriers to the smart home type healthcare applications is that Medicare does not currently reimburse for it. Though advances are being made in the technologies to deliver services in-home, deployment will be limited until there is expense reimbursement for these services. Mark acknowledged the problem. Rob Bole suggested that the first step would be in-home health monitoring applications. Cathy Britain indicated that progress in this area of reimbursement will likely be with private sector payers and state Medicaid programs before the federal programs.

John Irwin said that he would distribute a paper on the benefits of broadband for healthcare to the ORTCC list serve. John thanked Mark for his time and his presentation.

Robert Bole

John Irwin introduced Robert Bole, Vice President Northwest Region of One Economy Corporation. Rob provided an update on One Economy's "BeeHive," an on-line portal used by over 100 thousand Oregonians last year for access to information services that make a difference to their lives. Rob noted that the Internet provides a unique tool available to reach low-income families in their homes and provide needed services. The more information and the better information people have, the better choices they make and the more connected they become to their communities.

Rob reported that One Economy has created the "Entrepreneur's Center" with the help of the Ebay Foundation and the Kellog Foundation to aid small business development. The mission is to make broadband network access relevant to the lives of low-income families. He believes that the next generation of WiFi and WiMAX networks will bring a tremendous opportunity to improve access for entire communities. More information on the Entrepreneur's Center may be found at the following URL:
<http://www.thebeehive.org/Templates/Ecenter/Level3NoRight.aspx?PageId=1.4084&Local=1&Lang=1>.

Rob reported that One Economy plans to launch a new public policy initiative, the Public Internet Channel, on June 8th. The Public Internet Channel is an evolution of its online, bilingual, consumer portal, the Beehive www.thebeehive.org. This proposed online portal will provide access to national, state and local public service information with the combined content of C-SPAN, public television, and the Beehive. It will be an online destination designed to provide free and quick access to essential information regarding safety, economic livelihood, education, and public affairs and to provide an online public space to share community information. The Public Internet Channel will aggregate information from governmental, nonprofit, and private entities on a range of safety, economic, educational, and public affairs issues. This information will include topics such as preparing for a disaster, finding childcare, searching for a job, building a business, and finding educational support. It will also include content regarding public affairs issues. One Economy has an Advisory Board that includes Reed Hunt Former

chair of the FCC, Jack Kemp former Chair of HUD, and Henry Cisneros former Secretary of HUD.

Rob indicated that he is working on an Oregon strategy for the Public Internet Channel and is looking for suggestions. He wants to have it running by the Fall of this year. He is also planning to hold a symposium around issues of technology and economic development to identify unexplored areas of economic development using technology, e.g., WiMAX and municipal wireless systems, Open Source technologies, and content.

Brant Wolf asked for clarification on what a Public Internet Channel is. Rob responded that it will be a website, but will have content and a public service policy similar to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and CSPAN. The content will be provided and updated by a range of organizations and public agencies.

Doug Cooley suggested that Rob look at “211 service” which, where available, connects people with community services and volunteer opportunities. Rob responded that he is familiar with this service and sits on the Board for 211 service in the Portland Metro area, and that this is precisely the type of information they want to provide access to through another channel – the Internet.

Ed Parker observed that healthcare would be a good topic area to consider. Information on resources and support services could be provided. Rob agreed and would appreciate help in understanding that world. Ed recommended that he look at the “Network of Care” which provides a website in Lincoln County on Behavioral healthcare and is looking to expand to chronic healthcare services. They provide a community resource where people with disabilities and caregivers and service providers can access information about their issues of concern <http://oregon.networkofcare.org/home.cfm>.

Chris Tamarin noted that in a portal, as has been described, One Economy does not need to create a lot of content, but rather organize and structure access to established sources of content. Terry Edvalson added that national sources of information are readily available, it is the local sources that are often difficult to identify and find. He would pick children’s services and mental health as high priority topic areas.

John Irwin recommended that Rob look at the San Diego version of the Network of Care website as a mature and well-developed example: <http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/home/prop63.cfm>. He added that the challenge is to keep the website and its content current. Rob agreed and observed that this has been One Economy’s experience with its BeeHive sites as well.

John Irwin thanked Rob for his presentation.

Reports:

SB17 Task Force

Ed Parker reported that he delivered the recommendations discussed by ORTCC in the last meeting to the SB17 Task Force on March 24th. He thought the presentation was well received and comments regarding the Universal Service Fund issues and incentives for broadband infrastructure investment were appreciated. The full text of the comments is posted at <http://www.ortcc.org/PDF/SB17ORTCCcomments3-24-06.pdf>. Ed indicated that ORTCC is invited back to provide additional input at any time.

Healthcare Education Committee

John Irwin reported on the Allied Health for Oregon: Seeking Solutions through Technology (AHOSST) project presented at last month's meeting. John provided several updates: the Objective 2 workforce meeting has been held, and the Objective 3 workforce meeting will be on June 5, and John Irwin will attend representing ORTCC. They have drafted a ten point program, which includes a follow-up meeting with ORTCC to seek advocacy and support. John invited Council members to submit any comments and recommendations they may have.

Legislative Committee

Cathy Britain reported that the Legislative Committee met on Friday, April 21, 2006 and discussed the following issues.

- Memo from Justice Department - John received a memo from the Oregon Department of Justice reminding all state employees, commission, and task force members that they may not use their department, commission or task force to support or oppose state ballot measures or candidates for office.
- SB 17 taskforce - Ed Parker reported that the taskforce meeting was well attended and very productive. Two items were of particular interest were broadband deployment incentives and network configuration incentives. Ed and Doug agreed to work on a proposal for broadband deployment incentives. Doug will talk with providers about incentives they think would be appropriate. The Idaho Broadband Tax Credit was discussed as a model.
- Federal telecom legislation - The difficulty keeping up with federal telecom bills was again discussed. The committee decided to post two perspectives to the Council. First is the summary prepared by Century Tel (with company specific comments taken out) and the second is the link to the legislative summaries from the Benton Foundation www.benton.org/index.php?q=tracking_legislation. The committee wants to encourage Council members to stay up-to-date on these bills as markups are beginning soon and they will most likely change on a daily basis. The issues addressed in these bills include the Universal Service Fund, video franchising, net neutrality, state and local deregulation of telecom and VoIP 911 service.

Cathy recommended that the Council have a discussion about strategies for educating state legislators about telecommunications issues prior to the 2007 session.

Infrastructure Committee

Ed Parker added that the examination of the Idaho Broadband Tax Credit bill was recommended by Ginny Lang of Qwest. The Idaho bill will be reviewed. Ed reported on South Coast backbone network route redundancy discussions are taking place between Curry and Del Norte (California) counties. Del Norte County has many needs and concerns in common with Curry County regarding backbone diversity and redundancy. John Irwin added that he has been engaged by Del Norte County to work on a strategic plan. Ed added that public safety concerns are also related to route redundancy and network reliability. Ed indicated that a presentation on the Computing and Networking Infrastructure Consolidation (CNIC) project by the Department of Administrative Services has been confirmed for next month's ORTCC meeting and that he would like to prepare some questions to provide to the speakers in advance. He invited input on the questions.

Chris Tamarin provided an update on the "From Silicon Forest to Internet Forest: A Vision for the Oregon Economy" project. The Open Technology Industry cluster has adopted the Internet Forest concept as an element of their proposal to the Oregon Innovation Council. Open Technology along with six other industry clusters made presentations to the Council's Emerging Industries and Business Growth Committee on April 11. This Committee deliberated and reported to the full Oregon Innovation Council this past Friday in Portland identifying Open Technology as one of two Tier 1 clusters (the other being Wave Energy) that have a business strategy "ready for action." The Signature Research Center Committee also identified Open Source as a Tier 1 candidate for an applied research center. Oregon InC is scheduled to issue the first draft of its recommendations to the legislature and Governor on June 30, 2006.

Chris also reported that, as a result of Internet Forest discussions, EasyStreet has now established a peering relationship with OSU's Open Source Lab through NWAX and plans to host open source dot-com projects that grow out of dot-org projects.

Chris reported that on April 19th, he delivered an Internet Forest presentation to the InnoTech conference in Portland and participated in a panel discussion along with Deb Bryant, Scott Kveton of OSU, and others. The session was entitled, "Open In Oregon - What does being an Open Technology Mecca mean to the State?"
http://pdx.innotechconference.com/Event/Portland_2005_Events/Open_in_Oregon.php .
He also noted that a meeting has been scheduled in May with Duncan Wyse of the Oregon Business Plan to discuss the Internet Forest concept and strategies.

John Irwin indicated that he hopes that a "son of 622" legislative concept will emerge from these discussions. Ed responded that in order for that to happen a consensus must first be reached between the public and private sectors.

Public Safety Committee

John Irwin reported that the committee drafted recommended guidelines for public safety legislation. The guidelines are intended to help legislators and policy makers render thoughtful and well-considered decisions. The Guidelines are posed as questions with

responses that range from Highly Desirable to Less Desirable. The intent is to create a process of thoughtful examination and discussion of proposals that may surface. Questions on technical details are raised and, perhaps of equal if not greater importance, critical questions cutting to policy directions must be examined and answered. John asked for input and detailed feedback on the guidelines. It is currently positioned as a draft for discussion.

Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference Planning Committee

Chris Tamarin reported that a website at www.oregonconnections.info has been launched with basic conference and contact information. Information and forms for exhibitors and sponsors were drafted and reviewed and will be added to the website. Exhibitors and sponsors will be able to pay fees and make donations on-line. The website will also be expanded to provide on-line registration and payment capability for attendees. Chris will visit the Agate Beach Inn in the first week of May to review conference center layout, location of exhibitor space, location of breakout sessions, food service and other considerations. The initial email "hold-that-date" broadcast has been distributed. Additional broadcast messages will be sent as new information such as the announcement of a keynote speaker becomes available. The first draft of the conference program agenda has been developed with the prospective tracks of Technology, Legislation and Public Policy, and Applications. A priority for the planning committee is to identify and secure a keynote speaker.

Telehealth / Telemedicine Committee – (Telehealth Alliance of Oregon)

Kim Hoffman reported that the annual meeting of the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO) was held on March 30, 2006. New TAO officers were elected and the group's new President is Kim Hoffman. The group brainstormed on its direction, goals, funding, and organizational priorities. The TAO website is being developed, the URL is www.ortelehealth.org.

Fiber South and Regional Fiber Consortia

Pam Berrian reported that two responses have been received to the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued looking for entities (businesses, corporations, firms or other legal entities) interested in leasing or otherwise obtaining a right to use two fiber optic cable (one pair) from the Consortia along some portion of (or all portions of) one or more routes controlled by the Consortia. There should be a selection and public announcement of plans this summer.

New Business

Steve Bass, CEO and President of Oregon Public Broadcasting and Al Grapoli and Darin Rand of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services have been confirmed for the May ORTCC meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

The next meeting of ORTCC is scheduled on Thursday, May 25, 2006 in the Teleconference Room (Basement), Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, in Salem. The 2006 meeting schedule is posted on the meetings page of the Council website www.ortcc.org. John Irwin adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.

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