

Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council
Minutes
October 28, 2009

Attendees:

Council Members: Onno Husing, John Irwin, Pam Berrian, Ed Parker, Marlyn Schafer represented by Phil Barker, Michael Weidman and Kim Hoffman.

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

Others: Commissioner Georgia Nowlin of Curry County, Caroline Bauman of Central Coast Economic Development Alliance, Marsha Spellman and Adam Haas of Converge Communications.

Council Business:

2009 Legislative Session

Chris Tamarin reviewed the results of the 2009 Legislative Assembly.

House Joint Resolution 6 - Expresses policy of state to improve broadband availability and to encourage utilization of broadband applications for benefit of Oregonians and Oregon communities. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://landru.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hjr1.dir/hjr0006.intro.pdf>

HB 2083 - Alters membership of Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council. Extends sunset date for council. Requires council to report to Legislative Assembly on certain date during each regular session of Legislative Assembly until 2017. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://landru.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2000.dir/hb2083.intro.pdf>

HB 2096 - Prohibits telecommunications utility or competitive telecommunications provider from entering into exclusive agreement to provide local exchange telecommunications service in certain circumstances. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://landru.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2000.dir/hb2096.intro.pdf>

HB 2097 - Provides that Public Utility Commission may exempt telecommunications utility, cooperative corporation or municipality from carrier of last resort obligations if commission finds that other telecommunication utility or competitive telecommunications provider has entered into exclusive agreement to provide local exchange telecommunications service to four or more residences within territory allocated to telecommunications utility, cooperative corporation or municipality. Signed by the Governor into law 5/26/09.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2000.dir/hb2097.a.pdf>

HB 2253 - Requires consumer-owned utilities, telecommunications cooperatives and cable operators to pay to Public Utility Commission a fee in an amount to be determined annually in order to defray the expenses of hearings and oversight related to safety and reliability of consumer-owned utilities, telecommunications cooperatives and cable operators. Specifies allowable purposes for commission's expenditure of fees paid. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://landru.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2253.intro.pdf>

HB 2405 - Prohibits department, agency, commission or political subdivision of state from regulating Voice over Internet Protocol service and Internet Protocol-enabled service. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2405.a.pdf>

House Joint Memorial 6 - Urges Congress to set goals for universal and open access to Internet. Sponsored by Rep. Brian Clem. Referred to Consumer Protection 2/3. No hearing scheduled. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hjm1.dir/hjm0006.intro.pdf>

HB 3158 – Creates Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to apply for and oversee implementation of state and federally funded or mandated broadband programs. Sponsored by Representatives J SMITH, CLEM, DEMBROW and STIEGLER. Signed by the Governor into law 7/22/09.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3158.a.pdf>

The ORTCC members expressed support for the new Council and will look for opportunities to engage and contribute.

SB 24 - Requires health benefit plan to provide coverage of medically necessary, evidence-based telemedical health service that meets specified criteria if health service is otherwise covered by plan. Signed by the Governor into law 6/18/09

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0024.a.pdf>

SB 468 - Requires health insurers, and Department of Human Services through state medical assistance program, to cover services performed using telemedicine. Requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services and Director of Human Services to adopt rules. Sponsored by Senator ATKINSON; Senator STARR (at the request of Dr. Norwood Knight-Richardson). In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://landru.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measures/sb0400.dir/sb0468.intro.html>

SB 747 - Provides state matching funds for the Oregon Health Network to receive awards from the federal Universal Service Fund. The award / matching fund ratio is 85% / 15%. Sponsored by Senator David Nelson. In Committee upon adjournment.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb0700.dir/sb0747.intro.pdf>

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

Chris Tamarin provided an update on the stimulus funding programs through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (USDA RUS).

State Broadband Data & Development Grant Program

Chris reported that an application submitted to NTIA by the Oregon Public Utility Commission is pending. The proposed project is to collect comprehensive, statewide broadband data, including tribal lands, on a detailed and disaggregated basis (address level), process and map the information into a GIS system, inventory the data, and provide the means to aggregate the result for a comprehensive state-wide broadband map that includes technology type and speed. The project also incorporates planning functions to identify gaps and constraints that prevent wider coverage, to determine tactical and short-term solutions to close the gaps, and to drive evidenced-based and data-driven strategic planning and investments in the state's infrastructure and/or policies aimed at promoting broadband coverage and related services. In addition to addressing broadband availability issues, methods will be deployed to facilitate the adoption and utilization of broadband services. A consortium headed by One-Economy Corporation will be contracted to do the work if the grant is awarded.

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)

Chris reported that over 2,200 Round One applications were submitted for the BTOP and BIP programs for over \$4 billion nationwide and, that 93 proposals included Oregon service areas. Twelve Projects were recommended to NTIA by the Governor for a total of \$32.9 million. Round One funding announcements are expected in December potentially funding Oregon broadband infrastructure, computer center, and adoption programs. Round Two rules are expected in January 2010, with a possible change in the rules for grant awards.

John added that ARRA grants are also available to fund Health Information Exchanges and that a National Broadband Plan is being developed by the FCC for presentation to the Congress in February 2010.

Additional information on broadband stimulus programs is available at www.recovery.gov, at www.broadband.gov and at www.oregon.gov/recovery.

ORTCC Plans for Sunset

The Council will sunset on January 2, 2010. Chris Tamarin noted that ORTCC has completed all of its assignments and obligations under the current statute.

Chris Tamarin reported that ORTCC's body of work, including reports and papers, has been archived at the Oregon State Library. The main ORTCC listserv and the telehealth listserv will be retained until the end of the year. All other listservs have been deleted.

The council website was discussed. Interest in the ORTCC website remains active. The website received 7,246 hits from 3,506 visitors in September 2009. The council website at www.ortcc.org will continue online through June 30, 2010, however, it will be static after January 2, 2010. The domain name will be renewed for two years expiring December 31, 2011, registered by Regional Information System, Lane Council of Governments. The website content is currently 38 MB of data and can be preserved on a CD ROM. Chris Tamarin recognized the long standing generosity and continuous support that has been provided by the City of Eugene and the Lane Council of Governments for the sponsorship of the website for ORTCC.

Onno celebrated the body of work and the achievements of the ORTCC and thanked the members for their contributions.

Reports

Oregon Health Network:

Kim Hoffman reported that OHN has been very active, continues to grow and has been adding staff including an Operations Manager, a Business Development Manager, and an Information Technology Project Manager. The October Progress Report is available at www.oregonhealthnet.org. Kim reflected that the existence of OHN is due to the work and activism of ORTCC and of the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon along with many other contributors. Chris noted that OHN is a fabulous Oregon story of vision, collaboration and volunteerism.

Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network:

Eric reported that a report on the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN) project has been released by the Oregon State Legislative Fiscal Office.

CoastNet:

Ed Parker reflected in this, the last meeting of ORTCC, that the lasting legacy of CoastNet is the legal precedents set by regulatory filings and a court case that involved CoastNet. It set the foundation for and enabled private-public partnerships that have greatly enhanced the broadband infrastructure on the Oregon Coast. The story may be found at www.co.lincoln.or.us/counsel/coastnet.html. Michael added that, today, CoastCom continues to expand its coverage and that this legacy also has contributed to the growth of LS Networks which now has multiple diverse routes, 80 points of presence, 40 channels of 10 Gbps capacity, and is hiring.

Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference: Chris Tamarin reported that all preparations have been completed for the conference. Registration has been excellent and there will be a full house. The Keynote presentation and panel discussion will be video recorded, and will be posted on the website and made available to PEG channels. Chris reported that the plenary sessions on Friday will be focused on ARRA broadband stimulus programs, projects and issues. Chris announced that the 2010 conference will be held in Hood River on October 21st and 22nd. Conference information is available at www.oregonconnections.info.

Meeting Schedule:

This is the last scheduled council meeting. Chris Tamarin will request a roll-call vote by e-mail for approval of the October 28, 2009 minutes. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed by the Chair. Meeting information will be updated and posted on the Council website at www.ortcc.org.

Thanks, again, to all Council members for their public service...

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