

Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council
Minutes
November 29, 2007

Attendees:

Council Members: John Irwin, Pam Berrian, Agnes Box, Cathy Britain, Rob Myers, Ed Parker, Curt Pederson, Brant Wolf, Michael Weidman, Paul Zastrow, Art Hill, Doug Cooley, and Kim Hoffman.

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

Others: Joe Franell of the City of Ashland, Steve Macartney of Qwest, Andrea Fogue of the League of Oregon Cities, John Stadter of Leducor, Rich Ryan of Hunter Communications, and Al Grapoli of the Oregon State Data Center.

Old Business:

Paul Zastrow moved that the September 24, 2007 and the October 24, 2007 minutes be approved as distributed. Ed Parker seconded the motion. The Council approved the minutes.

New Business:

2007 Annual Report – Final Review

John Irwin presented the Council's 2007 Report to the Legislature for discussion, final edits and approval. The document provides a review of the Council's 2007 activities, legislative recommendations and presents the study topics for 2008. John noted that though an interim report is not required, it has been prepared to communicate the Council's activities and direction to the Legislature and the Governor. The Council reviewed, discussed and made edits to the Report.

Action Item

Paul Zastrow moved to approve the 2007 Report as edited. Michael Weidman seconded the motion. The Council approved the Report with edits as discussed.

The Report will be delivered by e-mail to the Governor and all the members of the Legislature. It will also be posted on the Reports page of the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council web site at www.ortcc.org.

Public Safety Committee

John Irwin reported that he has received a letter from Rob Myers resigning his position as co-chair of the ORTCC Public Safety Committee to avoid any possible conflicts of interest and due to time constraints. John thanked Rob for his service as co-chair on the committee.

Open Seats

John Irwin reported that he is working on scheduling a meeting with the Governor's office regarding the status of pending appointments to the Council. Ed Parker reported that he also asked the Governor to look into the status of the pending appointments. Brant Wolf asked about the status of the motion made by Ed Parker in the October ORTCC meeting to establish a new seat on the Council representing the Ashland FiberNet. John responded that a quorum was not available at the October 24, 2007 council meeting and that the question has not been called.

Action Item

Ed Parker withdrew his motion made during the October 24, 2007 Council meeting to create a seat on the Council to represent Ashland FiberNet.

Reports:

Association of Oregon Counties

Eric Schmidt reported that the AOC Communications Policy Steering Committee met in November during the AOC annual conference to discuss interoperability and other communications issues. The interoperability issue has proven to be very complex and challenging. Eric reported that OWIN has been directed by Senator Schrader to go to the seven Northwest Counties of Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah for an inventory of the current public safety telecommunications infrastructure. AOC is assisting and ensuring that OWIN works with County Commissioners on the project. Eric reported that he and Andrea Fogue of the League of Oregon Cities have also been working to ensure that Cities and Counties statewide are included in OWIN discussions and planning. It is expected that action on OWIN will be on the agenda for the 2008 Special Legislative Session.

CoastNet

Ed Parker reported that CoastNet has established a Point of Presence (PoP) located in Lincoln City at City Hall to interconnect carriers. Ed also reported that a fiber span is being constructed between Lincoln City and Tillamook that will complete a ring for CoastNet providing improved network reliability through diverse routing on its backbone.

Fiber South / Regional Fiber Consortia

Pam Berrian reported that the consortia have been meeting to work on the merger process and to work on proposals for future network development.

Oregon Health Network

Kim Hoffman reported that on November 19, 2007 the Federal Communications Commission announced the approval of the Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems Research and Education Foundation's application for universal service funding in the amount of \$20,182,625 for the Oregon Health Network project. The application and the FCC Order 07-198 in the matter of the awards may be found at the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon website www.ortelehealth.org. Work is ongoing to understand the FCC Order and to meet its requirements.

Telehealth Alliance of Oregon

Kim Hoffman reported that TAO held its annual membership meeting on November 1st. Sessions were held on telemedicine reimbursement and demonstrations of high definition videoconferencing and healthcare robotics.

Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference

Chris Tamarin reported that the October conference hosted by the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation had 120 attendees and that feedback on this year's program has been very positive. The conference benefited from the excellent, news breaking Keynote presentation by Morgan O'Brien of Cyren Call Communications and the outstanding general session panel discussion on "Public Safety Communications: Needs, challenges and solutions" by Morgan O'Brien, Chief Jeff Johnson of the Oregon SIEC, John Powell Chair of the California SIEC, and Eric Schmidt of the AOC. The website at www.oregonconnections.info has been updated post-conference and will remain up through next year. Power Point presentations from the sessions have been posted on the website. The 2008 conference has been scheduled. It will be at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17, 2008.

Other News:

John Irwin reported that he has been working with people in Northern California on a Broadband Aggregation Pilot Project in four counties. He noted that the people in California look at Oregon with envy with regard to Oregon's levels of broadband service penetration.

Doug Cooley reported that Century Tel is continuing its deployment of broadband services in rural parts of the state.

Andrea Fogue reported that a Fiber-to-the-Premises Symposium is scheduled to be held at Western Oregon University on December 4th. The event is being sponsored by Alcatel-Lucent and MINET.

Curt Pederson reported that he and Deb Bryant of the Oregon State University Open Source Laboratory traveled to Toronto on November 15 to attend the inaugural meeting of “Open Health Tools.” This is an international group organizing to encourage the development of interoperability in healthcare information systems in an open source environment. Curt noted that work is also being done in this area by the Eclipse Foundation www.eclipse.org, a group that was spun out of IBM about six years ago. OSU OSL has been approached about hosting an open source healthcare applications development forge in Corvallis. There should be some announcements regarding this initiative in early 2008.

Curt Pederson also reported that a 503(c)(3) corporation was formed in Oregon called the “Friends of eHealth” and that Richard Sears, the founder of Flir Systems, will be leading fund raising efforts for the group. Curt noted that IBM, Red Hat, and Oracle are already committed to supporting a healthcare curriculum for workforce development in the Open Source healthcare IT area given their interest in healthcare applications. Ed Parker asked how this relates to the Continua Health Alliance. Curt responded that the efforts should be complementary. Cathy Britain recommended that contact between the Friends of eHealth and the Continua Health Alliance should be encouraged. Cathy added that interest was expressed in standards and interoperability for healthcare hardware and software applications at a recent Northwest Telehealth Resource Center board meeting.

Chris Tamarin reported that the Oregon Leadership Summit will be held on December 3rd in Portland and that information about the summit may be found at www.oregonleadershipsummit.org and at www.oregonbusinessplan.org.

Meeting Schedule:

The council will meet next on Thursday, January 17, 2008 in the Teleconference Room (Basement) of the Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, in Salem. Meeting information including the 2008 Schedule will be updated and posted on the Council website at www.ortcc.org.

* * *