

**Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council**  
**Minutes**  
**November 20, 2008**

**Attendees:**

Council Members: Link Shadley, Pam Berrian, Cathy Britain, Ed Parker, Jon Dolan representing Curt Pederson, Phil Barker representing Marlyn Schafer, Stephen Macartney representing Michael Weidman, Onno Husing and Kim Hoffman.

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

Others: Lonny Macy of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and David Sloan of the Oregon Public Utility Commission

**Council Business:**

Action Item

Cathy Britain moved that the October 15, 2008 minutes be approved as distributed. Ed Parker seconded the motion. The Council approved the minutes.

Presentation

Link Shadley welcomed David Sloan, Senior Telecommunications Analyst, Oregon Public Utility Commission. David provided an overview of the 458/451 All-Service Overlay plan.

David noted that the issue of NPA or area code assignments in Oregon has a long history. NeuStar, acting as the North American Numbering Authority (NANPA), filed a number relief plan for Area Code 541 back on June 6, 2000. In mid 2000, the FCC issued its Number Resource Optimization Order (NRO), which included 1,000 number block assignment rather than the previous 10,000 number block, number pooling for 100 largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 75% utilization and 6 months to exhaust rules for exchanges, and number reclamation procedures. In July 2000, the FCC granted Oregon's request for extended number conservation measures for the 541 service area including mandatory number pooling in eighty-seven rate centers. These measures combined resulted extended the life of the sole 541 area code for eight years.

NeuStar's current 541 exhaust date estimate is the fourth quarter of 2010. On April 30, 2008, NeuStar filed number relief plan for Area Code 541 recommending an "All-Services Overlay." Other options that were considered included a Concentrated Overlay which would have added an area code in just the I-5 corridor, Extended Overlay which would have extended the existing 971 area code in the Portland LATA over the entire state, and a Geographic Split which would have added a third geographic area for NPA assignment.

Dave reported that there are currently sixty-six Area Code 541 prefixes or NXXs remaining in 541. As of October 21, 2008, there are 710 Area Code 541 NXXs assigned;

about 53% are assigned to RBOCs and other ILECs, about 16% are assigned to CLECs and about 31% are assigned to Wireless and PCS carriers.

Dave noted that 7,760,000 assignable numbers will be provided by the new 458 Area Code and that there will be 776 new NXXs. He added that there are 191 Rate Centers in area code 541 and that 541 serves 27 of Oregon's 36 counties and approximately 681 cities, towns and villages.

There are twenty franchised wire line carriers, thirteen wireless carriers, and twenty-three competitive local exchange carriers involved.

Dave presented the schedule for implementation of the 458/541 Overlay Plan.

October 21, 2008	Commission adopted staff All-Services Overlay proposal NeuStar issued new Area Code 458 to overlay 541
October 27, 2008	NeuStar issued new 941 Number Exhaust projection of 4Q2010
November 4, 2008	Commission issued Order 08-528, approving All-Services Overlay
November 12, 2008	NeuStar held Industry Planning Meeting
December 3, 2008	NeuStar to issue Implementation Planning Letter
December 4, 2008	Industry starts 14 month implementation schedule
June 2009	First Notice to Customers (30 days prior to permissive) (Press releases/Open Houses, etc. coordinated w/1 <sup>st</sup> Notice)
July 12, 2009	Permissive Dialing begins allowing both seven digit and ten digit dialing for a period of six months
August 10, 2009	Earliest date carriers can order 458 NPA numbers from NANPA
December 2009	Second Notice (30 days prior to Mandatory 10-digit)
January 10, 2010	Mandatory 10-digit dialing begins (New code effective)
February 10, 2010	Earliest 458 NPA central office code activation for assignment to users

Ed Parker expressed a concern about implementation. He said that the end-user experience is frequently twenty-one digit dialing given the way some carriers implement permissive dialing. Users add a one before dialing the ten digits and then receive a recorded message that they cannot add the one and must redial the ten-digit number. Ed asked that the commission work with the carriers to try and avoid this cumbersome experience. Ed added that testimony on this issue was submitted to the PUC prior to the order. Dave responded that the issue was also raised in the first industry meeting and that making all telephone numbers eleven digit "dial-able" is currently a carrier option. There will be many more technical committee meetings with the carriers, and this issue is on the agenda. Ed will follow up with the technical committee.

Steve Macartney asked where the greatest use of numbers is taking place? Dave responded that the PUC does not track that information. Numbers are issued by NANPA. Steve asked about VoIP services and number assignments. Dave responded that he believes they are acquiring blocks of numbers from other carriers. The North American Number Plan Administrator (NANPA), which is currently NeuStar, assigns 1,000 blocks of numbers, and NXXs, to telecommunications carriers. Dave believes that the reason that NeuStar is not currently assigning numbers directly to VoIP providers is because the FCC has determined that VoIP is not "telecommunications". Anyway, VoIP providers are currently getting their numbers (to assign to their end users) from telecommunications carriers. This causes a lot of confusion in NeuStar's attempts to track numbers. NeuStar tracks "numbers available for assignment" (numbers in NeuStar's Number Inventory or its Number Pooling Inventory) and "assigned" numbers (numbers assigned to carriers for assignment to the carrier's end users). NeuStar also attempts to track assigned numbers by "active" (assigned to an end user) and "inactive" (assigned to a telecommunications carrier but not yet assigned to an end user). These are numbers in the carriers' number inventory - available for assignment to an end user. This gives NeuStar a "Percent Utilized" for numbers it has assigned to a carrier (by rate center).

The problem with the VoIP numbers today is that they are misrepresented in the reporting - and resulting databases. If Verizon Wireless were assigned the 503 451 NXX associated with a Portland rate center - and, let's say that Verizon Wireless provides the 503 451-6XXX block of these numbers to Vonage - and, so far, Vonage has assigned 100 of these numbers to its end users. NeuStar's data base (and the most accurate of the data bases on web sites) would show the 503 451-6XXX block of numbers as assigned to Verizon Wireless (not Vonage). Also, Verizon Wireless would report this block to NeuStar as "active" (or assigned to an end user), even though Vonage had assigned only 100 of the numbers to an actual Vonage end user. This results in an inaccurate data base of "assigned" numbers (data base shows assignment to Verizon instead of Vonage; as well as an inaccurate reporting of "active" numbers vs. "inactive" numbers from NeuStar's data base.

Link Shadley recommended that the PUC be sure to include the Tribes in its 458/451 Overlay outreach program.

### Framing an Oregon Broadband Policy

Link Shadley asked if there is any further discussion on the “Report of the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council?” Steve Macartney passed on a question from Michael Weidman regarding inputs to the paper. Michael had made comments that were not reflected in the draft. Chris Tamarin questioned whether the draft that was distributed was the latest. He also noted that some edits that he thought had been made did not appear. Ed Parker also thought that this may not be the latest draft. The draft will need to be reviewed to make sure it includes the latest edits. Chris will ask John Irwin to follow-up with Michael Weidman as well.

The proposed joint resolution was discussed and edited to read,

*It is the policy of the State of Oregon to continue its resolve and initiative to improve broadband availability, and to promote, facilitate and encourage utilization of broadband applications for economic development, citizens access to government, distance education, telehealth, telework and public safety for the benefit of Oregon’s citizens and communities.*

### Action Item

Cathy Britain moved that the proposed resolution be approved as amended pending the distribution of the revised draft to Council members, and that the resolution be submitted following the December conference call meeting of the Council. Link Shadley seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion.

### Continuation Legislation

Cathy Britain reported that ORTCC is on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda of the House Committee on Government Accountability and Information Technology to present the Extension Bill. Cathy has also spoken with Committee staff about delivering the report and whether the Committee wants a presentation of the Report as well.

Chris Tamarin noted that the statute specifies that the report is due to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology no later than February 1, 2009. That committee no longer exists. Last year, the report was delivered to the President of the Senate, the Leader of the House and to the Governor’s office. Cathy replied that she is currently discussing both items with the House Committee and that we need to be prepared.

Cathy reported that Onno Husing will represent the Council before the House Committee. Representative Riley is interested in considering the Extension Bill as a Committee Bill and it has been submitted to Legislative Counsel. Cathy will get more information from the Committee on its expectations for the December 3 meeting and work with Onno.

Link Shadley reported that he and Eric Schmidt presented the Extension Bill to the Communications Steering Committee of the Association of Oregon Counties and they were very supportive and recommended it on to the AOC Legislative Committee.

Pam Berrian asked for the level of support of all Council members and their organizations so that those at ORTCC volunteering to work on the legislation would know exactly where members stood, where support was available and opposition might be neutralized.

#### Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Link Shadley noted that John Irwin announced at the October meeting that he would be resigning as Chair at the end of 2008. He asked that people think about candidates for the leadership positions. Nominations may be submitted to Chris Tamarin via e-mail through January 22, 2009. There will an election of the new Chair and Vice Chair in the January Council meeting. Cathy Britain also suggested an option of having two co-chairs.

### **Reports**

#### Committee Chair and Council Member Reports

*Telemedicine Reimbursement:* Cathy Britain reported that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services has accepted the draft Telemedicine Reimbursement Bill, LC 1338, as a committee bill to be carried forward to the 2009 legislative session. Cathy will continue to work on strategies and issues.

*Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference:* Chris Tamarin reported that this year's conference has received positive reviews. There has been very positive feedback on the program, and in particular, Vinton Cerf's keynote address was a hit. This year, for the first time, the keynote address is available through streaming video on the website at [www.oregonconnections.info](http://www.oregonconnections.info). Chris reported that the 2009 conference will be held in Newport on October 29 and 30.

#### *Oregon Health Network:*

Jon Dolan reported the first RFP has closed and multiple proposals have been received and are being reviewed. Cathy Britain reported that a second RFP is in development with a target release in December.

*Regional Fiber:* Pam Berrian reported that the merger with Fiber South has been completed and the organization is now the Regional Fiber Consortium. Regional Fiber is working on several lease agreements. Pam was pleased to report that as of October, the consortium is debt free. Pam hopes to be able to announce some new partnerships in the next Council meeting. Pam will distribute a Regional Fiber website URL.

*Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association:* Onno Husing reported that the second meeting of the Oregon Rural Congress will be on December 5th in Coos Bay. For more

information contact Colleen MacLeod at 541 963-1001 or e-mail [colleen@union-county.org](mailto:colleen@union-county.org) or visit <http://www3.eou.edu/alliance/>. Registration forms may be also be found at [www.oczma.org](http://www.oczma.org). There will be a focus on rural finance issues and local government at this meeting. Onno reported that he is also working on documenting the telecommunications successes on the coast.

*Gorge Teleconsortium:* Link Shadley reported that Fossil has a new US Cellular cell phone tower, which has improved service coverage in the area. Additional towers have been approved for Morrow and Grass Valley. Link also reported that CenturyTel has announced its purchase of Embarq. Link is continuing his work on the “Oregon Public Broadband Wireless” project to build a wireless broadband network to cover the entire state.

#### Other Reports

Link Shadley also reported that he received an inquiry about having a seat on ORTCC representing the State Interoperability Executive Council serving as a liaison between the two councils. Link will invite SIEC to the January meeting to provide an update report on its activities.

Pam Berrian asked if anyone had information about LC 1293 that will exempt Voice over Internet Protocol services from regulation. No one had any knowledge of this legislative concept.

Lonny Macy of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs reported that he is seeking a grant for an engineering and cost study for purchase of the local franchised telephone company exchange. Lonny also reported that the Tribes are working with a carrier on the construction additional cell towers to improve wireless service coverage on the reservation.

#### **Meeting Schedule:**

There will be a council meeting by conference call in December (date to be determined) for final approval of the Report to the Legislature and the proposed Joint Resolution.

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, January 22, 2009 in the Mt. Neahkahnie Conference Room, 1225 Ferry Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Meeting information will be updated and posted on the Council website at [www.ortcc.org](http://www.ortcc.org).

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