

MINUTES

Oregon WIN Board Meeting
May 30, 2003, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Linn-Benton Community College, Albany

Members: John Greydanus, Alan Heywood, Mark Kramer, Larry Pribyl, Tom Matney, and Paul Snyder. **Participating Members:** Donna Carver, John Sneed, and Nancy Vollmer

I. FCC Reconsideration of ITFS Spectrum

John Greydanus reported that the ITFS spectrum is once again under review by the FCC. WCA, NIA and CTN (called the Coalition) filed a proposed New Band Plan with the FCC in 2002. The goal of the New Band Plan is to facilitate the transfer of ITFS spectrum from existing uses to mobile, digital applications. The Coalition Band Plan protects the interest of ITFS licensees as well as enables development of the spectrum by commercial partners. The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in May that agrees with some aspects of the Coalition Band Plan, but also contains differences that are problematic for ITFS licensees. Main differences include:

- How spectrum will be segmented between upstream and downstream applications.
- How the FCC will regulate spectrum protection and interference.
- Eligibility rules for holders of ITFS licenses and plans for unassigned ITFS spectrum.

Oregon WIN members may be called on to provide information and support lobbying efforts as the FCC moves toward a final rulemaking.

II. Network Update

John Greydanus provided a network update.

- A number of high school ITFS receive sites were revisited by Sprint engineers to test operability and review technical considerations with staff.
- The Sweet Home beambender will be shutdown by end of June due to the removal of the tower on Marks Ridge. WIN will continue to look for a replacement site during the summer in preparation for fall classes.
- The two-way video connection to Bend is scheduled to be operational by June 9. The connection will deliver WIN video programs to the Bend ITFS system and to BendCable.
- WIN is improving the switching arrangement at OPB Macadam to resolve a number of failed switches occurring under the previous system.
- OUS is working with WIN to establish a depreciation plan and record of WIN-owned equipment at various sites throughout the Willamette Valley.

III. Program Updates

John Greydanus reminded members that ITFS licensees have programming requirements that must be met in order to hold licenses. With renewals scheduled for 2005 and the FCC reviewing ITFS spectrum use, it is

important to maintain programming records and develop a plan for programming each channel. Under WIN's funding model, signing fees and 2/3 of the monthly royalties are retained by members. The remaining royalties support central management of licenses, agreements, scheduling and network operations. John suggested that each member assess how royalties are being spent and develop a plan for program development. Program updates were provided.

- OUS – OUS programming efforts have focused on supporting OPAN. OPAN originates 2-hour broadcasts, Monday – Friday, as well as distributing live coverage of the legislature from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Programs are distributed over ITFS channels in Eugene, Salem and Portland to cable channels, reaching 400,000 homes. OPAN continues to pursue grants and donations to stabilize operations. A Joint Resolution (JR41) in support of OPAN passed both chambers of the Legislature in May. In May OPAN produced its first civic education program. Organized by an OPAN board member from Eugene, a group of South Eugene High School students held a discussion with Eugene area legislators on the implications of new CIM/CAM laws and federal “No Child Left Behind” legislation. John requested members who operate PEG channels to review schedules and look for opportunities to run OPAN’s 2-hour, nightly program.
- WOU – Alan Heywood reported future programming responsibility will be taken up by his replacement, yet to be identified. At this time WOU is programming the ITFS channel 24 hours a day with the same programming that is fed to WOU’s PEG channel. Programming includes student productions, sports, and telecourses from Chemeketa Community College. There was discussion about WOU distributing FEMA programs to the fire stations that are part of WIN. Right now OSU is distributing FEMA programs but the service may tie more closely with WOU fire administration and police training programs.
- UO – Tom Matney reported UO continues to videotape on-campus lecture series for OPAN. They also are investing WIN funds to produce a documentary on the history of the University of Oregon. The UO Media Center is installing a video-on-demand service that will archive and stream video to classrooms and other users.
- OSU - Larry Pribyl reported that OSU ran a 10 week special lecture series on OPAN during spring term. The series, “War on Main Street: The Impact of Terrorism on Business and Society,” ran every Thursday on OPAN and included a range of experts and panel discussions. OSU has also been running a weekly FEMA series to fire stations and will begin running the Research Channel on their ITFS channels in July. The Research Channel is a collaboration among research institution for the purpose of sharing lectures and seminars dealing with science and technology. OSU is a member of the organization and holds re-broadcast rights for all programs. OSU will continue running German language programs and is considering a joint Lewis & Clark video series with PSU.

- PSU – Mark Kramer reported PSU is investigating possible courses for delivery to Chemeketa Community College in Salem. PSU has helped to produce several OPAN programs. The lack of an on-campus television studio limits PSU's ability to provide ITFS programming. PSU applied for, but failed to secure, a grant to rebuild television studios on campus
- LBCC – Paul Snyder reported LBCC is using a mix of technologies to reach clients. The ITFS channel is used to provide two hours of courses a day to the Corvallis cable channel including algebra, writing and English courses. LBCC also delivered a broiler course to regional hospitals this spring. LBCC hopes to have 7x24 access to an education cable channel starting next year. LBCC plans to work with Lane CC to help program the new channel. Paul reported LBCC and Lane are developing a scheduling system to share telecourses. Paul and staff presented a short demonstration of the scheduling prototype. Members expressed interest in expanding the web-based application for scheduling all ITFS channels.
- Participating Members - Participating members also shared programming information. Donna Carver reported Chemeketa Community College programs their ITFS channels 7x24 with telecourses that serve learning centers and a number of cable systems in Salem, McMinnville, Woodburn and Monmouth. John Sneed reported PCC is working to up-grade connectivity to WIN and a number of other community colleges in the Portland area. PCC sees the ITFS system as a way to share telecourses and provide a last mile network reaching homes through connections to cable headends. PCC is developing adult basic education and family literacy programs aimed at serving adults in the workplace and in their homes. Both programs would benefit from a regional or statewide distribution system.

IV. Follow-up to program discussion

Following the review of programs the Board discussed next steps. It was agreed that the Director would schedule a meeting with LBCC staff to review the scheduling software and investigate ways to expand the application to include multiple ITFS channels. The Board also agreed the WIN network offers potential to share telecourses among community colleges and provides a regional distribution network for adult basic education and literacy courses.

V. 2003-04 Budget Review

John Greydanus handed out a proposed 2003-04 budget for review by Board members prior to the next meeting scheduled for June 26, 2003.