

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

March 15, 2005 Hearing Room 357

1:00 P.M. Tapes 25 - 26

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. John Dallum, Chair**

Rep. Jerry Krummel, Vice-Chair

Rep. Kelley Wirth, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chuck Burley

Rep. Brad Witt

STAFF PRESENT: **Dallas Weyand, Committee Administrator**

Louann Rahmig, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

High Performance Computing Briefing – Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 25, A

003	Chair Dallum	Calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introduces the high school students from Mitchell, Oregon, attending the committee meeting as
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guests. Opens the informational meeting on high performance computing briefing.

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING BRIEFING – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

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| 015 | Brian Wornath | LCN Media & Consulting Group. Announces that he represents the Oregon High Performance Computing Consortium. Distributes hard copy of <i>General Proposal for Establishing an Oregon High Performance Computing Infrastructure</i> PowerPoint presentation (EXHIBIT A). Begins the presentation with an overview and the goals of developing a supercomputing resource in Oregon. |
| 055 | Wornath | Provides an explanation of supercomputing and who would use it. |
| 074 | Wornath | Describes the old-style, traditional, single-purpose computer called a “monolith.” |
| 088 | Wornath | Discusses types of supercomputers. Refers to case studies in EXHIBIT A, Page 14 . |
| 117 | Wornath | Discusses how much unused computing time is available after regular office hours, creating an affordable and powerful computing “grid.” |
| 149 | Wornath | Continues with justification to develop affordable high performance computing resources within Oregon. |
| 184 | Wornath | Proposes to create a state resource that markets the unused capacity and the accompanying consulting services, offering “one-stop shopping” for high-performance computing. |
| 216 | Wornath | Outlines sources for general initial capitalization. States that earnings from operations would come from leasing affordable high-performance computing time. |
| 237 | Wornath | Shows comparison of estimated financial scenarios (EXHIBIT A). |
| 313 | Wornath | Discusses the percentage of return and cost per year of operating a computer grid. |
| 381 | Wornath | Suggests implementing a pilot project to determine the best technical solution. Displays the estimated pilot profitability. |

TAPE 26, A

- 019 Wornath Discusses a possible organizational structure similar to an Oregon high-performance computing consortium. Continues with explanation of challenges.
- 069 Wornath Has spoken with Chief Information Officers around the state, who believe the concept is good.
- 083 Wornath Summarizes by stating that the technology is proven, can easily be applied to numerous applications and uses, and is easily expandable.
- 121 Chair Dallum Asks about the “down side.”
- 125 Wornath Responds that information technology people will say this is a very specialized area. Believes that ideally the universities and the state would co-develop a pilot program.
- 148 Chair Dallum Inquires if this concept is attractive to private enterprise.
- 155 Wornath Replies, it is. Continues that there are certain niches that don’t have the financial resources to take on a project such as this. Cites examples of researchers who believe they can use.
- 192 Chair Dallum Asks what proposed legislation should look like.
- 196 Wornath Answers that funding for a pilot project could be requested.
- 227 Rep. Burley Inquires what is preventing us from using this now.
- 233 Wornath Responds, nothing. Indicates from a financial standpoint, it is best to consolidate and not have many small clusters.
- 261 Rep. Burley Refers to the case studies in **EXHIBIT A** that were mostly done by private corporations. Comments that if we were going to use public resources, that is a different set of circumstances particularly since we are concerned with security issues.
- 270 Wornath Agrees. Offers to provide more up-to-date information. Reports on other states that are doing this for economic development.

313	Rep. Burley	States that the corporate environment is more controlled than ours as we have computers all across the state. Asks how we would insure security.
323	Wornath	Agrees that some environments are better suited than others.
329	Rep. Krummel	Asks if setting something like this up in the new data center might generate the dollars to pay for it.
338	Wornath	Replies, absolutely. Reports that high performance computing is being done on a limited basis at the Oregon State University Oceanic School.
404	Rep. Krummel	Asks if there have been discussions with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) or other privately owned data centers to see if there is an interest.
416	Wornath	Has spoken with DAS and some small companies affiliated with academics.
439	Rep. Witt	Inquires if one has to be a participant in the network to be able to utilize supercomputing capacity.

**TAPE 25,
B**

011	Wornath	Responds, yes, for security reasons. States that the criteria needs to be identified in the business model.
020	Rep. Witt	Asks if he is aware of any claims in other states that there is not equal access.
025	Wornath	Answers that he has not heard of any.
027	Rep. Wirth	Inquires if anyone has expressed an interest in helping finance a pilot study.
032	Wornath	Replies, absolutely.
038	Rep. Wirth	Asks how much private money might be available.

046	Wornath	Replies that there is interest, and some medical schools are trying to lure grants. Believes discussions with interested parties to determine how much money is available would be needed.
069	Rep. Wirth	Inquires if other states have included some public financing, and how far along they are in the process.
077	Wornath	Answers, it varies.
089	Wanda Brennan	High School Science Teacher, Mitchell, Oregon. Cites problems of areas with limited internet access. Asks how high-performance computing will benefit them.
096	Wornath	Responds that not all rural areas will receive the same amount of benefit; however, areas with community colleges perhaps can provide access.
140	Chair Dallum	Closes the informational meeting on high performance computing and adjourns the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. High Performance Computing Infrastructure, General Proposal for Establishing, printed copy of PowerPoint presentation, Brian Wornath, 67 pp**