

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 2, 2010**

REGULAR _____ **CONSENT** X **EFFECTIVE DATE** February 2, 2010

DATE: January 21, 2010

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Marlene Gorsuch

THROUGH: Lee Sparling, Bryan Conway, and Kay Marinos

SUBJECT: OREGON UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (OUSF) ADVISORY BOARD:
Approval of candidates for OUSF Advisory Board positions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Commission should re-appoint the following persons to the Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) Advisory Board for terms ending December 31, 2012: Mark Reynolds of Qwest Corporation and Mark Bilton-Smith of Umpqua Indian Development Corporation Telecommunications Division, dba Rio Networks.

DISCUSSION:

In docket UM 731, the Commission established an OUSF Advisory Board (Board) consisting of ten members. See Order No. 99-197. One member is from the Commission's staff. The other nine members are as follows:

- Three from telecommunications utilities;
- Three from competitive telecommunications providers;
- One from radio common carriers;
- One from a consumer group representing residential customers; and
- One from among business customers

The Commission established the following functions for the Board:

- Assist and advise the Commission in the selection of the OUSF Administrator;
- Advise the Administrator and Commission regarding the effective operation of the OUS Fund;
- Assist the Administrator in reviewing and identifying irregularities in information provided on OUSF worksheets;

- Provide an interface between the Administrator and telecommunications providers to resolve problems or disputes and to recommend appropriate actions; and
- Assist the Commission in evaluating the success of the OUSF program.

Membership on the Board is limited to three consecutive years by any member representing a particular company. Members may seek reappointment to another term. The terms are staggered so that no more than one-third of the members will be new in any one year. The Commission's staff membership is permanent. Information about current Board members and their terms of office is available on the Commission's website.

On December 4, 2009, staff mailed letters seeking nominations to fill vacant Board positions for each of the following four groups: 1) telecommunications utilities, 2) competitive telecommunications providers, 3) radio common carriers, and 4) residential consumers. Staff received no nominations for the latter two positions. These positions have been vacant for some time, despite repeated efforts by staff members to solicit nominations for them. The first two positions are currently vacant because their terms expired at the end of 2009. Staff received only one nomination for the telecommunications utilities position – Mark Reynolds, Regulatory Manager for Qwest Corporation. Staff received only one nomination for the competitive telecommunications provider position – Mark Bilton-Smith, President of Umpqua Indian Development Corporation Telecommunications Division, dba Rio Networks. Each of these nominees held the positions previously and expressed a desire to serve another term. Both nominees served the Board well during their previous terms.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The following persons be re-appointed to positions on the OUSF Advisory Board, effective as of the date of the public meeting and ending on the dates specified:

- Mark Reynolds, Qwest Corporation
Representation: Telecommunications Utilities
Term ending: December 31, 2012
- Mark Bilton-Smith, Umpqua Indian Development Corporation
Telecommunications Division, dba Rio Networks
Representation: Competitive Telecommunications Providers
Term ending: December 31, 2012.