

**PORT OF HOOD RIVER
Resolution No. 2001-02-5**

Support for Formation of Gorge Teleconsortium

WHEREAS, access to advanced telecommunications services is important infrastructure for maintaining and promoting economic development; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications is evolving from a regulated environment with monopoly providers to increased competition; and

WHEREAS, the future viability of communities requires access to government services, education, healthcare, economic development, and other critical services available through advanced telecommunication services; and

WHEREAS, historically some rural and remote areas are disadvantaged in competing for industry and growth because of fewer services and/or higher costs than are available in metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for self-help through aggregation of demand, state and federal assistance, and eligibility for low-interest loans or grants require coordinated action of local governments, community organizations, community interests, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, an Ad Hoc Committee for Advanced Telecommunications representing the Mid-Columbia region, a bi-state, multi-county region, has been formed calling itself Gorge Teleconsortium to be made up of representatives of local governments, community organizations, community interests, and services providers; and

WHEREAS, the Gorge Teleconsortium has identified its mission and goals to be: **Mission:** To maximize the use of telecommunications technology in strengthening the economy and quality of life of our region;

Goals:

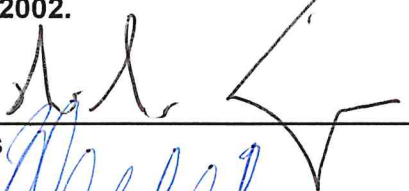
- To support education and training in the design, maintenance, and effective utilization of telecommunications;
- To assure access to telecommunications services with necessary capacity, quality, and reliability, including route diversity, provider diversity, and development of self-healing rings;
- To achieve price parity, where possible, with metropolitan areas for advanced telecommunications services;
- To ensure a competitive, customer-friendly telecommunications environment;
- To encourage the development and growth of technology-based and technology-aided businesses;
- To develop strategies for serving rural and remote areas that might otherwise not have access to advanced telecommunications services;
- To pursue assistance and resources through alliances, participation in public networks, and state/federal/private program grant applications, and development of action plans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port of Hood River Commission supports the formation of the Gorge Teleconsortium and recognizes its objective to provide a forum for sharing information, coordinating efforts with regional significance with possible

recommendations to local government, tribal council, and service providers on regional telecommunication issues that will service for the public and private benefit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Port of Hood River Commission will appoint one or more individuals to serve as representative(s) to the Gorge Teleconsortium.

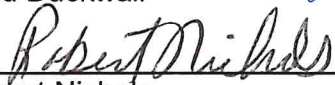
This resolution is hereby adopted by the Port of Hood River Commission this 23rd day of April, 2002.




Bill Lyons



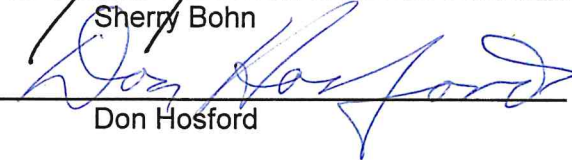
Fred Duckwall



Robert Nichols



Sherry Bohn



Don Hosford