

Minutes of Meeting #437
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Videoconference Meeting
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 No. 33rd Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
February 7, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioner Dennis Baack
Commissioner Ken Bird
Commissioner Roger Breed
Commissioner Kim Dinsdale (Grand Island videoconference site)
Commissioner Curt Frye
Commissioner Dick Shoemaker
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Darlene Starman
Commissioner Dara Troutman

ABSENT: Commissioner Fred Ohles
Commissioner Clay Smith

Advance notice of the public meeting was sent to Nebraska news media by means of a news release forwarded from the Commission office with Agenda posted in the NET Lobby, NET elevator bulletin board areas and on the State and NET web sites. LB 898 (related to Open Meetings Act) is also posted in the NET Board Room on 1st floor.

Chair Dick Shoemaker called meeting #437 to order at 9:33 a.m.

Following the call of the roll, it was determined that a duly constituted quorum of Commissioners to be present.

Chair Shoemaker called for public comment. There was none.

The Chair next requested approval of the minutes of meeting #436 as held on November 29, 2012. It was moved by Commissioner Troutman and seconded by Commissioner Starman to accept minutes of meeting #436 as presented. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Baack, Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Starman, Shoemaker, and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Ohles and Smith.

General Manager Bates introduced the new member of the Commission, Curt Frye from Wayne State and welcomed him to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. Commissioner Frye will represent the State Colleges on the Commission. Commissioners next introduced themselves to Commissioner Frye.

Commissioner Baack left the meeting at 9:40 a.m. due to a legislative bill pending in the Legislature that needed his attention.

Chair Shoemaker called for the Nominating Committee report. Commissioners Shoemaker, Breed and Starman were appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee with Commissioner Shoemaker as Chair. It was moved by Seline and seconded by Breed to approve the following slate of officers for 2013: Ken Bird, Chairman; Clay Smith, Vice Chairman; ad, NET's General

Manager, Secretary/Treasurer. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Starman and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Ohles and Smith.

Chair Shoemaker next called for approval of the NETC Executive Committee for 2013. Pursuant to the NETC By-Laws, Article V, Section 1 “there should be a permanent executive committee consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and one or more other regular members of the Commission to be elected by the members of the Commission.” The NETC Nominating Committee submits the following Commissioners for the 2013 Executive Committee: Ken Bird, Clay Smith, Darlene Starman, Kim Dinsdale and Dick Shoemaker. It was moved by Seline and seconded by Breed to approve the proposed slate of Commissioners to serve on the Executive Committee. Discussion followed regarding the absence of a formal education representative on the committee. All commissioners are invited to these committee meetings and care will be taken to look after the interests of the formal education community per the intent of the legislation. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Starman and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Ohles and Smith.

The Chair called for approval of the NETC Finance Committee. Pursuant to the NETC By-Laws, Article V, Section 2, “additional committees may be designated and selected for such purposes and at such times as the Chair or a majority of the commissioners shall determine to be advisable”. Chair of the Commission would recommend the following to serve on the Finance Committee: Ken Bird, Clay Smith, Darlene Starman, Kim Dinsdale and Dick Shoemaker. It was moved by Troutman and seconded by Seline to approve the proposed members to serve on the Finance Committee. . Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Starman and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Ohles and Smith.

Chair Bird assumed the chair and thanked Commissioner Shoemaker for his many contributions while serving as chair 2011-2012. He then presented the following resolution to Dick:

- WHEREAS Dick Shoemaker effectively provided exceptional leadership to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission as Chairman, January 2011-January 2012, and;
- WHEREAS He understands the value of NET’s programs and services to the citizens of Nebraska, and is most supportive of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications through a variety of capacities, and;
- WHEREAS Dick has demonstrated a particular passion for the importance of service to rural Nebraska through educational, arts and cultural programming, and;
- WHEREAS He has been an outstanding advocate for public support from both the national and state level as well as contributing his own family’s financial support, and;
- WHEREAS He has repeatedly confirmed his support of the Mission and Vision of NET in a variety of capacities, and;
- WHEREAS Dick will continue his service as an NET Commissioner to ensure a smooth transition of leadership,
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:
- Expresses its most sincere gratitude to Dick Shoemaker for his unwavering service to Nebraska educational and public telecommunications; and,
 - Acknowledges with pride his loyal leadership and dedication in the furtherance of Nebraska public telecommunications.

(Signed)
Ken Bird
Chairman

Clay Smith
Vice-Chairman

Resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen reviewed the 2nd quarter budget report for period ending December 31, 2012 for both the Television and Radio Divisions. The Finance Committee met prior to the meeting to review the report in greater detail. It was moved by the Finance Committee to approve the 2nd quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Starman and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Ohles and Smith.

General Manager Bates and Assistant General Manager-Content David Feingold next presented the NET Principles of Editorial Integrity and Independence. It was moved by Shoemaker and seconded by Breed to approve the NET Principles of Editorial Integrity and Independence, which has its roots in the Constitution and the Public Broadcasting Act; and direct NET management to seek approval from the two partner institutions, the University of Nebraska and the NET Foundations for Radio and Television. Discussion followed regarding background leading to the reason for an adoption of the Principles of Editorial Integrity. NET management emphasized the importance of reviewing and revising these principles on a periodic basis to assure that public trust in its services remains high. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Dinsdale, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Starman and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Ohles and Smith.

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen reported on the Governor's Biennial Budget Recommendations and its impact on NET. He indicated that the Governor's operating biennial budget recommendation was for salary increases and the DAS workers compensation increase only. This does not include a potential increase in health insurance costs. NET will keep the current surplus of approximately \$60,000 in the base budget to cover future health insurance cost increases. However, they are reducing NET's budget for this \$60,000 surplus in FY 2013 but only temporarily for the one year, FY 2013. They did not recommend funding any additional operating budget requests. They also recommended only one of NET's capital construction requests—the tower lighting request for \$100,000. NET is hopeful to get a few additional items (operating and capital) funded through working closely with the Legislature in the coming months.

AGM-Operations Michael Winkle gave an update on the FCC rule making and its impact on the discussions regarding the UNO Tower Project. Additional information was presented to Commissioners as referenced in material submitted in the Board packet.

The Secretary's report included the following items:

- Jeff Beckman has resigned his position as Executive Director of NET Foundation for Television and Radio. Secretary Bates recognized Jeff's outstanding accomplishments and contributions over the past 6 ½ years and expressed his appreciation for everything that Jeff did while at NET.
- Secretary Bates mentioned the passing of Jerry Johnston, a beloved member of the NET staff and asked Nancy Finken, NET Radio Network Manager for additional comments regarding Jerry. She indicated that Jerry Johnston passed away on Friday, February 1, about 6 weeks after he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Jerry began working at NET about 16 years ago as an on-call substitute announcer and worked his way up to senior producer. NET has received condolences from listeners across the state and even from Canada from people who listen on line. Nancy then read several condolences that she had received.
- J. Paul McIntosh of Norfolk has been selected as the Nebraskan of the Year. Paul was a former NET Commissioner and is a major donor to NET. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln on February 12, 2013 from 11:30 am until 1:00pm.

- Rod Bates, Dick Shoemaker, Ron Hull and Stacey Decker will be going to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual Public Media Summit on February 23 through the 26th.

It was moved by Commissioner Troutman and seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission go into closed session as authorized by Section 84-1410 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Nebraska for the purpose of holding a discussion limited to personnel matters involving members of the staff. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Commissioners went into closed session at 10:34 a.m.

Executive Session and General Session adjourned at 10:50 a.m. by acclamation of members.

Future meetings for 2013:

May 2 – NET

June 20 – NET

August 22 – NET

December 5 – NET

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates, Secretary