

August 13, 2013

TO: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commissioners

Enclosed for your review are the minutes of Meeting #438, reports and a preliminary agenda for our Thursday, August 22, 2013 Commission public meeting.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at NET, 1800 No. 33rd, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1st Floor Board Room.

We look forward to meeting with you on the 22nd.

Note: The Finance Committee (Ken Bird, Kim Dinsdale, Dick Shoemaker, Clay Smith and Darlene Starman) will meet at 8:30 p.m. in the Lobby Conference Room.

Sincerely,

Mark Leonard
Secretary

MEETING #439

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center

1800 No. 33rd Street-Lincoln, NE

August 22, 2013

9:30 A.M.

AGENDA

ALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- I. COMMISSION CONSENT AGENDA
 1. *Approve Minutes of Meeting #438*
- II. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
 2. *Approve 4th Quarter Budget Report (Randy Hansen)*
 3. *Approve TV & Radio Equipment Replacement Listings (Randy Hansen)*
 4. *Approve Radio Transmission Project Deficit Request (Randy Hansen)*
- III. COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA
 5. NET Content Report – David Feingold
 6. NET Engineering Report – Stacey Decker
- IV. COMMISSION STRATEGIC AGENDA
- V. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
 - Secretary's Report – Mark Leonard
 - Review Proposed 2014 Meeting Dates

ADJOURNMENT

2013 TING SCHEDULE

■ December 5 – NET

Minutes of Meeting #438
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 No. 33rd Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
June 20, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioner Ken Bird
 Commissioner Roger Breed
 Commissioner Curt Frye
 Commissioner Steve Seline
 Commissioner Dick Shoemaker
 Commissioner Clay Smith
 Commissioner Darlene Starman
 Commissioner Dara Troutman

ABSENT: Commissioner Dennis Baack
 Commissioner Kim Dinsdale
 Commissioner Fred Ohles

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 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 Ken Bird called meeting #438 to order at 9:35 a.m.

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

Chair Bird called for public comment. There was none.

General Manager Rod Bates introduced special guests Pat Butler and Cynthia Fenneman who are national leaders in the public television system. Pat is President and CEO of APTS (Association of Public Television Stations) and Cynthia is President and CEO of APT (American Public Television). They will be giving presentations later in the meeting.

The Chair next requested approval of the minutes of meeting #437 as held on February 7, 2013. It was moved by Commissioner Shoemaker and seconded by Commissioner Seline to accept minutes of meeting #437 with the correction that Commissioner Clay Smith was absent and Commissioner Steve Seline was present. Motion was approved by acclamation.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen reviewed the 3rd quarter budget report for period ending March 31, 2013 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 Smith and seconded by Starman to approve the 3rd quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman, and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Dinsdale and Ohles.

Chairman Bird called for the FY 2014 Operating Budget report. AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen reviewed the proposed FY 2-14 operating budget. It was moved by Shoemaker and seconded by Smith to approve the Commission's FY 2014 operating budget totaling \$10,493,059. Also, to approve a July 1, 2013 base salary increase of 2.25% for non-contract, rules covered Commission employees (exempt, salaried employees) and for Commission employees covered by the union contract (non-exempt, hourly rate employees) as recommended by the Governor and approved by the Legislature this past session. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Bird, Breed, Frye, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman, and Troutman; Absent: Commissioners Baack, Dinsdale and Ohles.

Assistant General Manager-Content David Feingold reviewed NET Radio and Television including activities of *Shakespeare Uncovered*, *Nebraska's Capitol Masterpiece*, *Remembered Voices* and *Nebraska From the Air* (with SkyWorks in the UK). He also invited people to attend the evening performance of Twelfth Night on Friday, July 5, that has been designated as NET Night at Shakespeare on the Green in Omaha.

AGM Feingold and Nancy Finken, NET Radio Network Manager commented on the recent unexpected death of William Stibor, Music Director for NET Radio. William hosted the weekday classical music program *Morning Concert* and *Friday Live*. Nancy reported that Bill began working at NET Radio in 1989. NET has received condolences from listeners across the state and beyond from people that knew him or listened to him. A special *Friday Live* tribute to Bill Stibor will be at the Sheldon Museum of Arts, June 28, 9:00 am. It will also be available online and on NET2.

AGM-Technology Stacey Decker reported on status of the Omaha tower project and the relocation of KYNE. Dow Lohnes Law firm in Washington, DC evaluated the plans and submitted a written statement to be shared with partners of this project. The FCC Spectrum Act will dictate what can be approved by the FCC. Updates will be presented at future meetings.

Commissioner Troutman left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Assistant General Manager-Education Gary Targoff reported on Education Services activities and highlighted the Ready to Learn (RTL) outreach. An Auburn Literacy Night was held in April that involved an evening of learning that included RTL digital resources. RTL website is available free of charge at <http://www.netnebraska.org/basic-page/learning-services/nebraska-ready-learn>.

The Chair next called on Jim Adams, Assistant General Manager of University of Nebraska-Omaha Television who reported on activities at UNO-Television.

Secretary Rod Bates indicated that the Principles of Editorial Integrity has now been signed by officials of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, NET Foundation and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Secretary Bates presented background information on Patrick Butler, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS). Pat then addressed the Commission and reported on activities in Washington, DC.

He next introduced Cynthia Fenneman, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Public Television (APT). She reviewed activities of APT and how this organization relates to NET and showed a clip of APT programs.

Secretary Bates presented the following resolution to Dr. Roger Breed and thanked him for his support of NET the past years:

WHEREAS Dr. Roger Breed joined the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission on March 30, 2009 representing the Nebraska Department of Education, and;
WHEREAS He provided exceptional leadership to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications during this time, and;
WHEREAS Dr. Roger understood the value of NET's programs and services to the citizens of Nebraska, and was most supportive of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications through a variety of capacities, including the importance of service to Nebraska through educational programming, and;
WHEREAS He has repeatedly confirmed his support of the Mission, Vision and Values of NET in a variety of capacities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:
➤ Expresses its most sincere gratitude to Dr. Roger Breed for his service to Nebraska educational and public telecommunications; and,
➤ Wishes him our best in the years ahead.

(Signed)
Ken Bird
Chairman

Clay Smith
Vice-Chairman

Rod Bates summarized his service at NET over the years and thanked the NET Commission and staff for their service and support.

Chair Bird thanked Rod for his many contributions to NET and the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission and presented him with a plaque and the following resolution:

WHEREAS Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commissioners have submitted comments regarding Rod Bates, as follows:
WHEREAS Rod Bates has nurtured mutually productive partnerships between NET and the independent universities and colleges of Nebraska, and;
WHEREAS He has carried and expanded the original vision of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications as a state leader and national ambassador by his total commitment to NET; and,
WHEREAS The standards have been set and the future looks bright, and;
WHEREAS Rod Bates has provided local, statewide and national leadership that has resulted in all Nebraskans having access to quality educational radio and television for over 17 years as General Manager, and;
WHEREAS Rod has served as an effective leader as NET has evolved into the digital age and he has kept NET relevant in the twenty first century by adapting to the newest technologies, and;
WHEREAS He has been the premier Ambassador for Nebraska Educational Telecommunications on both a local and national basis and has done so with great enthusiasm and results,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:
➤ Expresses its most sincere gratitude to Rod Bates for his service to Nebraska; and,
➤ Thank You, Rod and Live Big in your next life chapters.

(Signed)
Ken Bird
Chairman

Clay Smith
Vice-Chairman

Future meetings for 2013:

August 22 – NET

December 5 – NET

There being no further business, Meeting #438 adjourned at 12:00, Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates, Secretary

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Television Division
June 30, 2013

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	\$Diff	%Diff	Prior Year YTD Actual
TELEVISION DIVISION					
Personnel Expenses	834,961	757,301	(77,660)	-10%	879,782
Insurance	34,000	33,339	(661)	-2%	33,339
TOTAL TELEVISION DIVISION	868,961	790,639	(78,322)	-10%	913,121
GENERAL MANAGEMENT					
Personnel Expenses	91,200	100,406	9,206	9%	87,689
Other Operational Expense	5,600	39,163	33,563	86%	4,124
TOTAL GENERAL MANAGEMENT	96,800	139,569	42,769	31%	91,813
ADMIN & FINANCE					
Personnel Expenses	241,400	240,119	(1,281)	-1%	236,425
Memberships	49,000	49,582	582	1%	47,347
Utilities	490,000	509,949	19,949	4%	514,133
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	38,000	38,014	14	0%	44,011
Communication Expense	71,600	67,363	(4,237)	-6%	73,075
Professional Fees	35,600	18,427	(17,173)	-93%	19,694
Insurance	64,200	59,797	(4,403)	-7%	58,505
Other Operational Expense	15,201	12,267	(2,934)	-24%	11,873
Grants to Station/Partner	210,672	210,672	0	0%	230,161
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	170,700	175,104	4,404	3%	155,739
TOTAL ADMIN & FINANCE	1,386,373	1,381,293	(5,080)	0%	1,390,962
PROGRAMMING					
Personnel Expenses	244,200	244,126	(74)	0%	239,485
PBS Member Dues & Fees	225,000	225,000	0	0%	210,000
Program Acquisition&Fees	115,000	111,235	(3,765)	-3%	119,433
Other Operational Expense	74,900	65,298	(9,602)	-15%	69,837
Travel & Registrations	12,000	10,794	(1,206)	-11%	5,947
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	671,100	656,453	(14,647)	-2%	644,703
PRODUCTION					
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	46,700	43,442	(3,258)	-8%	31,497
Other Operational Expense	35,300	27,029	(8,271)	-31%	27,090
Travel & Registrations	32,000	33,196	1,196	4%	32,397

UNLT Production Services	460,000	460,000	0	0%	460,000
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	981,000	987,301	6,301	1%	950,753
TOTAL PRODUCTION	1,555,000	1,550,968	(4,032)	0%	1,501,738
ENGINEERING					
Personnel Expenses	1,908,000	1,934,943	26,943	1%	1,855,153
Utilities	375,200	413,269	38,069	9%	390,112
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	412,200	422,286	10,086	2%	401,533
Communication Expense	285,600	286,875	1,275	0%	304,552
Consultant Services & Exp	49,000	49,162	162	0%	51,469
Other Operational Expense	45,900	46,592	692	1%	222,930
Travel & Registrations	151,900	123,884	(28,016)	-23%	114,057
TOTAL ENGINEERING	3,227,800	3,277,011	49,211	2%	3,339,806
COMMUNICATION SRVC					
Other Operational Expense	15,000	15,652	652	4%	15,896
TOTAL COMMUNICATON SRVC	15,000	15,652	652	4%	15,896
MGMT INFO SERVICES					
Personnel Expenses	65,700	44,485	(21,215)	-48%	64,663
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	139,400	127,904	(11,496)	-9%	118,271
Other Operational Expense	15,500	27,466	11,966	44%	28,766
TOTAL MGMT INFO SERVICES	220,600	199,855	(20,745)	-10%	211,700
MEDIA MANAGEMENT					
Personnel Expenses	282,900	291,342	8,442	3%	358,520
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	13,700	9,769	(3,931)	-40%	36,967
Other Operational Expense	4,200	4,616	416	9%	3,395
TOTAL MEDIAL MANAGEMENT	300,800	305,726	4,926	2%	398,881
BUILDING MAINTENANCE					
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	195,000	192,590	(2,410)	-1%	222,318
Other Operational Expense	7,400	9,703	2,303	24%	11,574
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	103,200	102,596	(604)	-1%	101,653
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	305,600	304,889	(711)	0%	335,545
CAPITAL PURCHASE					
Capital Expense	700,000	733,476	33,476	5%	740,109
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASE	700,000	733,476	33,476	5%	158,492
TOTAL TELEVISION DIVISION	9,348,034	9,355,533	7,499	0%	9,002,657

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
RADIO DIVISION
 June 30, 2013

YTD Budget	YTD Actual	\$DIFF	%DIFF	Prior YTD A
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RADIO DIVISION

Personnel Expenses	39,489	34,929	(4,560)	-12%	3
Insurance	3,900	3,922	22	1%	
TOTAL RADIO DIVISION	43,389	38,851	(4,538)	-10%	4

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Personnel Expenses	82,300	82,308	8	0%	7
Communication Expense	5,700	5,523	(177)	-3%	
TOTAL NETWORK MANAGEMENT	88,000	87,830	(170)	0%	8

ADMIN & FINANCE

Other Operational Expense	5,790	8,476	2,686	46%	
TOTAL ADMIN & FINANCE	5,790	8,476	2,686	46%	

PROGRAMMING

Personnel Expenses	93,400	87,966	(5,434)	-6%	9
Program Acquisitions	22,000	22,000	0	0%	2
Other Operational Expense	2,600	3,000	400	15%	
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	118,000	112,966	(5,034)	-4%	11

ENGINEERING

Utilities	118,000	130,161	12,161	10%	12
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	34,100	16,950	(17,150)	-50%	4
Equip/Building/Tower Rent	23,000	22,985	(15)	0%	2
Other Operational Expense	2,600	7,787	5,187	199%	
TOTAL ENGINEERING	177,700	177,884	184	0%	19

COMMUNICATION SRVC

Other Operational Expense	1,400	1,630	230	16%	
TOTAL COMMUNICATION SRVC	1,400	1,630	230	16%	

CAPITAL PURCHASE

Capital Expense	52,000	53,723	1,723	3%	4
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASE	52,000	53,723	1,723	3%	4

TOTAL RADIO DIVISION	486,279	481,359	(4,920)	-1%	49
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NETC - FY2014 TV Equipment Replacement Listing

Item	Description	Qt	NorR	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Running Total
Maintenance						
1 Electric Lift	Lift for maintenance moving heavy equipment	1	N	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
				Subtotal	\$ 8,000.00	
Information Services						
1 Nexsan E18	Disk-to-Disk backup device	1	R	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
2 Avid upgrade		1	R	\$300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 343,000.00

						Subtotal	\$ 335,000.00	
Production								
1	Eye piece	Eyepieces to replace viewfinders in EFP configuration	3	R	\$ 3,421.00	\$ 10,263.00	\$ 353,263.00	
2	Camera Sleds	Sleds to convert from handheld to tripod cameras	3	R	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 404,263.00	
3	DSLR Package	EOS C100/Lens/Audio Recorder	1	N	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 410,763.00	
4	HD Tricaster w/o trade in	HD output to replace old SD system	1	N	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 430,763.00	
5	Waveform Monitor	TEK WFM5200	1	R	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 437,763.00	
6	Frame Syncs	For_A 9520 & 95RU	1	R	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 443,713.00	
7	Box Camera	Black Magic camera and lens	1	R	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 447,713.00	
8	Wide Angle Lens	1/2" lens	1	R	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 455,363.00	
9	Wireless mics	Lectrosonics 400 Series Transmitter/Receiver	2	R	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 460,363.00	
10	Prompter Upgrade or new software	BDL Autoscript or another software vendor	1	R	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 463,163.00	
11	ProTools	ProTools Upgrade	1	R	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 467,963.00	
					Subtotal	\$ 124,963.00		
Network Operations								
1	Primary Device Server	CHP Primary Device Server	1	N	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 486,163.00	
2	Backup Device Server	CHP Backup Device Server	1	N	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 509,663.00	
3	BXF-Live Update Integration	BXF-LiveUpdate Integration & Commissioning	1	N	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 519,663.00	
4	Invenio Plugins	Invenio Plugins and Modules (TBD) with 20 monitors	1	N	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 579,663.00	
5	Transition Equipment	Initial phase	1	N	\$ 91,837.00	\$ 91,837.00	\$ 671,500.00	
					Subtotal	\$ 203,537.00		
Transmissions								
1	Ktech 200	Replace TMX 2010 with Ktech 200	5	R	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 691,500.00	
2	Fiber Optic Cable	UNL facilities, including PB Arena	1	N	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 716,500.00	
3	KUON Tower Inspection & Paint	Inspect, Plumb, Tension & Paint	1	R	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 750,000.00	
					Subtotal	\$ 78,500.00		
							\$ 750,000.00	
							Grand Total	

NETC - Radio FY2014 Capital Equipment List

New/Repl

1	KUCV Audio Processor	Replacement audio processor for KUCV FM/HD	Replace
2	AudioVault Servers	Replacement servers for audio automation system	Replace
3	Studio AoIP Setup	Installation of Audio over IP system for main broadcast studio	New
4	Remote AoIP system	System for Audio over IP from remote locations	Replace
5	Replacement Translator	Replacement FM translator for Harrison, NE	Replace

Waiting list:

a	Digital Music Library Storage	Networked storage for new digital music library	New
b	Concert recording Mics	Matched set of omni capsule recording microphones	New
c	Remote production software	Software for remote audio productions/recordings	Replace

PROPOSED COMMISSION ACTION

DATE: August 22, 2013
SUBJECT: FY 2014 Budget Deficit Request

EXPLANATION:

The deadline to submit the Commission’s deficit funding requests for the current fiscal year for consideration by the Governor and Unicameral is anticipated to be sometime in late October 2013. We are recommending the following Capitol Construction deficit funding request be submitted on behalf of the Commission to the State Budget Administrator. This is a revised, updated version of a project funding request that was made as part of our FY2014 & FY2015 Biennial Budget request, submitted in September 2012.

Request Description: Radio Transmission Replacement Project

The replacement of aging FM antennas and feed lines at FM sites KHNE (Hastings) and KMNE (Bassett). Replacing this equipment and older components would be done to reduce rising maintenance costs and to eliminate downtime. Power has already been reduced by 15% at KMNE to reduce stress on the components. Delaying the completion of this final phase any further would just increase public radio off-air, downtime at these sites and increase annual operating expenses for repairs, maintenance and supplies. It would also impact public safety as the NET FM system is the State of Nebraska’s primary relay system for the Emergency Alert System. Work on the FM transmitter sites would begin spring of 2014 for KMNE and run thru the fall of 2015 for the KHNE installation. Total costs for this project are estimated at \$280,000, split \$140,000 in FY2014 with the remaining \$140,000 in FY2015.

Description	Vendor	Quantity	Estimated Cost	
Feed Line	Dielectric	1	\$45,000.00	KMNE
FM Antenna	Dielectric	1	\$65,000.00	

Tower Crew	SFT	1	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	
			\$140,000.00	
Feed Line	Dielectric	1	\$45,000.00	KHNE
FM Antenna	Dielectric	1	\$65,000.00	
Tower Crew	SFT	1	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	
			\$140,000.00	

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Management recommends this Capital Construction deficit request, as noted above, be approved for submission to the DAS Budget Office on or before the State of NE's deficit request deadline.

August 12, 2013

To: NET Commission and NET Foundations Board
 From: David Feingold, NET Assistant General Manager-Content
 Re: August Content Report

Digital Humanities

I'm pleased to report that this month we are launching an exciting new initiative for digital humanities. During our recent endowment campaign, NET collected private donations for the *Ron Hull Fund for Telling Nebraska's Stories*, which was set up as a permanent digital humanities endowment supported by an NEH Challenge Grant. We now have the welcome task of spending \$100,000 of endowment earnings every year in support of digital humanities projects. We are committed to using these funds for innovation that will increase civic and cultural awareness and education in Nebraska.

- Broadcasts of programming about Nebraska and the region have gained some of our largest audiences. It's our responsibility to find new ways to tell and interpret those stories and to engage with new, more diverse audiences. NET's digital humanities will help to keep the humanities alive in the collective memory—shared impressions that are increasingly defined by our interactions with the media. We are a convener helping to set the cultural agenda in our state; and we are a respected regional representative giving Great Plains perspectives a voice in the national conversation.
- With the help of our staff and our humanities advisors, we'll soon begin the process of proposing, reviewing, funding, and creating new projects. The NEH challenged us to raise private funds, in order to earn their match. Now we're challenging ourselves to genuinely innovate, and to stretch our thinking about content and services for the humanities.
- Preliminary discussions on how to invest the first endowment proceeds will include consideration of a long-needed redesign and rebuild of the Nebraska Studies website (www.nebraskastudies.org).

NET Radio

In Memoriam - On June 17th, we learned of the passing of NET Radio's Music Director William Stibor, who died at home unexpectedly. Bill had been with us since 1989 and was the producer and host of *Morning Concert* and *Friday Live*. Born in Ainsworth and reared in Bassett, Bill excelled in the arts in high school, college and graduate school. He was a classically trained tenor, an actor, poet, and composer. *Friday Live* went on hiatus after Bill's passing and will resume August 23rd with a road show from Kearney's Merryman Performing Arts Center. Bill's passing came on the heels of another great loss for NET Radio. Senior producer Jerry Johnston passed away from cancer on February 1st. Following Bill's death, the Sheldon Museum of Art invited *Friday Live* to their Abbott Auditorium. A large audience was on hand to listen to performances in Bill's honor, along with conversations with arts and performance leaders from across the state who spoke about the importance of the arts to our state and Bill's enormous contribution. Before Jerry passed away, he began work on radio and television stories about North Platte "outsider" artist Emery Blagdon. Jerry completed his radio piece before he died. His co-producer, Kelly Rush, completed the television documentary which will premiere later this month and is dedicated to Jerry's memory.

We are currently reviewing applications for music director and senior producer.

Arts & Humanities –

- Friday Live - NET Radio and the Nebraska Chamber Players are teaming up to present a concert in Kearney at The World Theatre on August 23. NCP will be joined by tenor Nathan Pacheco, a vocalist who has been making a name for himself as a cross-over artist. His classically trained voice is suitable for soaring opera and popular songs alike. Pre-concert hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:00 p.m., the concert starts at 7:00 p.m. with a dessert reception immediately afterward.
 - Earlier in the day, *Friday Live* returns to the air with a live broadcast from Kearney's Merryman Performing Arts Center. Mr. Pacheco and the NCP will be featured on the show along with Kearney area arts organizations. NET Radio manager Nancy Finken will host the program.
 - The Bard - NET's months-long focus on Shakespeare continues with a *Friday Live* interview featuring Nebraska Shakespeare and their upcoming fall tour across Nebraska, including Kearney.
- Nebraska Concerts – In August our music performance series featured the UNL School of Music jazz ensembles, the UNL Brass Quintet, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, and the Petar Jankovic Ensemble.
 - September's line-up offers a full range of music recorded at concert venues in Lincoln and Omaha.
 - Sunday, September 2nd, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra performs Beethoven's Ninth Symphony recorded at the Holland Center. Music Director Thomas Wilkins leads the symphony, augmented by soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, tenor Nicholas Phan, baritone Phillip Addis, the University of Nebraska-Omaha Concert Choir, the Omaha Symphonic Chorus, and the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir in one of Beethoven's greatest compositions.
 - Sunday, September 9th, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra performs "KC Swing" recorded in Lincoln and featuring Kerry Strayer on saxophone. Strayer is a Fairbury native, a Doane College graduate, and a current resident of Kansas City.
 - Sunday, September 16th, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra returns for "Russian Rhapsody." Guest conductor Andrew Grams directs the orchestra in Alexander Borodin's "Overture to Prince Igor;" Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43," with pianist Joyce Yang; and Dmitri Shostakovich's "Symphony #5 in D Minor, Op. 47."

- Sunday, September 23rd, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra presents an "Evening with Beethoven." Music Director Edward Polochick conducts an all-Beethoven program that features the "Egmont Overture, Op. 84," performed with the Lincoln Youth Symphony; the "Piano Concerto #5 in E-flat Major, Op. 73 'Emperor,'" performed with Mark Clinton, professor of piano at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and the "Symphony #7 in A Major, Op. 92."
 - Sunday September 30th, the program features music from the "Abendmusik: Lincoln" series featuring the Doane College Choir, the Abendmusik Chorus, and the Abendmusik Orchestra in "Dona Nobis pacem: A Tribute to our Veterans." Abendmusik: Lincoln is now known as Abendmusik at First-Plymouth, named after the church that houses the series. On the same bill, the Nebraska Chamber Players play works by Florent Schmitt, Giacomo Puccini, Albert Roussel and Tristan Fuentès.
- PHC - Ticket sales have been brisk for *A Prairie Home Companion* at The Lied Center on October 19th. Assurity Life Insurance Company has been secured as an event sponsor. That corporate sponsorship, pledges from radio members, and strong ticket sales are making this a successful project for NET Radio.
- Research - NET Radio participated for the first time in a national survey to measure public media consumers' usage of technology. The Jacobs Media study provided numerous insights which will help guide our efforts in better serving and engaging with our current audience, as well as determining strategies to engage with audience members who are not regular consumers of public media.
 - Among the NET Radio findings:
 - 94% of our audience uses a cell phone regularly
 - 73% engage in social networking
 - 65% have a Facebook profile
 - 56% text regularly
 - 47% use a smart phone
 - 85% access our content in traditional ways (listen to radio)
 - 13% access our content digitally (our app, computer stream, podcasts)
 - 32% visit the NET Radio website at least weekly
- The NET Radio membership drive is scheduled for November 8th through November 16th.

NET News

Harvest - NET News and Harvest Public Media teamed up to produce several multi-media projects over the summer. *Changing Lands, Changing Hands*, a 30-minute television news special, focused on the impact of the aging farm population on farm land ownership in the future. The program included segments from three states - Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri - produced by NET News reporters Grant Gerlock, Mike Tobias, and Ryan Robertson. A companion half-hour television discussion program, *How Can We Save Rural America?*, hosted by Grant, examined possible solutions for rural small towns facing declining populations.

- NET News also hosted a two-day meeting in July of all Harvest Public Media reporters and staff. The team focused on editorial plans and sustainability issues for this Local Journalism Center as it enters its fourth year.
- Awards - Producer Mike Tobias and videographer-editor Ray Meints received a 2013 Heartland Chapter Emmy Award for *Campaign Connection 2012: Voter Voices*. The television election special featured questions gathered from Nebraskans through a network of local libraries across Nebraska. Voters recorded questions for the U.S.

Senate candidates featured in a pre-election television special. *Voter Voices* was one of three NET programs honored with regional Emmy Awards.

- Nebraska Broadcasters Association - NET News will also be honored later this month with five awards for radio news reporting from the Nebraska Broadcasters Association. Bill Kelly earned awards in the categories “Service to Children,” “Best Spot News,” and “Best In-Depth Sports Story.” Hilary Stohs-Krause was honored for her work on *Signature Story* reports on domestic violence against Native American women. NET was also honored in the “Best Station Website” category. NET Television productions also earned four awards in the statewide competition.
- Outreach - NET News contributed to the beta testing of the social screening tool OVEE developed by ITVS (Independent Television Service). With OVEE, viewers watch programs online and give instant feedback, as well as ask questions of producers and experts involved in the project. NET News participated in OVEE social screenings on our three recent documentaries *...until he is dead*, *Devil Clouds*, and *Changing Lands, Changing Hands*. We also produced screenings for our online legislative interview program *Capitol Conversations*, and an in-depth *Signature Story* radio report on women entrepreneurs.
- Upcoming coverage - Bill Kelly spent this summer examining the impact of Colorado medical marijuana availability on western Nebraska. He’s produced several *Signature Stories* on the issue for NET Radio and the NET News website, incorporating the perspective of law enforcement, community leaders, and users in the two states. Bill’s reporting will come together this fall in a new television documentary on the topic set to air in November.
- NET News is planning two upcoming reporting projects for the fall:
 - In September, Hilary Stohs-Krause will produce and report on new technology in healthcare in Nebraska. Her four *Signature Stories* will examine how new technology is affecting Nebraskans, from electronic health records to the impact of technology on patient privacy and doctor-patient interactions.
 - In October, Ariana Brocius will focus on water issues as part of a special *Signature Story* report made possible by a grant from Penn State Public Media for a *Think Outside the Pipes* radio initiative. Her stories will include a report on data being retrieved from cameras placed along the Platte River, a project led by Michael Farrell of NET and conservation photographer Michael Forsberg.

NET Television Production

- Capitol documentary - *Nebraska’s Capitol Masterpiece* completed production and was broadcast on NET Television as a Pledge special on August 5th. The program examines the story of how the art and architecture of the Capitol building were designed by a creative team that included New York architect Bertram Goodhue, sculptor Lee Lawrie, and mosaic muralist Hildreth Meiere, in collaboration with University of Nebraska philosopher Hartley Burr Alexander.
 - This program was created by a talented NET team, including: videographer/editor Tyler Kersting, videographers Pat Aylward and Dan Smith, audio engineers Werner Althaus, Erin Thomas Green, and Emily Kreutz; visual

effects designer Scott Beachler, lighting designer Foster Collins, and post production editor John Beck. Gary Hochman produced the program and Joe Turco was executive producer.

- Nebraska artist - A new half-hour documentary, *Emery Blagdon and His Healing Machine*, premieres on August 18th at 9:30 p.m. In a small ramshackle shed on his farm about twenty miles northeast of North Platte, Blagdon constructed an environment he believed would harness electromagnetic power from the atmosphere. In death, his self-taught art has impressed the art world and is now on public display. Co-producer Kelly Rush and videographer-editor Pat Aylward completed the program after the death of co-producer, Jerry Johnston, to whom it's dedicated. In the fall, we're planning a screening in North Platte, as well as a screening and panel discussion at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln. National distribution of this fine documentary is expected.
- Great Plains - Now two-part one-hour programs, *Great Plains: America's Lingerin Wild*, will be fed to all PBS stations early next month. With the cooperation of a coalition of national conservation organizations, we expect extensive carriage of the programs across the country. A "station relations" campaign begins later this month, which will put us in touch with every station programmer in the PBS system.
- Backyard Farmer - The August 8th edition of *Backyard Farmer* was recorded in front of a live audience at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. The production was set amongst the ornamental plants and trees in the Lauritzen conservatory. Members and supporters of NET, and special guests of Lauritzen Gardens, were invited. On August 28th, *Backyard Farmer* travels to Grand Island for the Nebraska State Fair. We expect an active and appreciate audience for this taping session which will air on Thursday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m.
- *Nebraska Stories* – Our arts and humanities series begins its fifth season in September, after winning a Heartland Emmy for *Free Land: A Nebraska Stories Special* which aired in May, 2012. The new season has its broadcast premiere on on Sunday, September 22nd with four new stories: *Johnny Salsa* delivers his spicy homemade salsa to locations all over Lincoln on his bicycle. We go behind the scenes as a Latino sculptor immortalizes famed Omaha pitcher Bob Gibson in bronze. In an unheated shed near North Platte, a self-taught artist, Emery Blagdon, worked tirelessly to create his "Healing Machine." Now it's a major work of art in need of conservation. And we end with a visual essay about a woman who was born in a buckskin tipi on the wild frontier and went on to make history in ways that seem remarkable, even today.
- QUEST – Our education, radio, television, digital media partnership with other leading public media organizations has moved into high gear. Five thirty-minute *QUEST* television programs are scheduled for broadcast in October, with production contributions from NET. We're very pleased that the new series will be hosted by prominent environmental journalist and educator Simran Sethi. NET and its QUEST partner stations are examining the science of sustainability on television, radio, web and mobile, and educational outreach. Nebraska stories currently being covered include: photographer Joel Sartore's *Photo Ark* project to document the world's 6,000 captive endangered species produced by Gary Hochman ; an NET Radio story *Drought, Heat, Fire Killing Trees* produced by Ariana Brocius; and an informative and entertaining

online article, *Tough and Tasty: Recasting a Resilient Weed as a Wild Edible*, from associate producer Jon Augustine which was picked up nationally by the PBS Food website, reaching 1.7 million users.

- Capturing Nebraska from the air – Our partners at SkyWorks spent the Fourth of July week flying across our state and recording dramatic sequences from the air. From the UK, this highly accomplished team and NET and its Nebraska partners spent a year organizing and planning this large undertaking. The helicopter was tracked across the state on a special internet site and generated a lot of excitement. An early, sample assembly has, so far, garnered more than 99-thousand views (and counting): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD_iSqmyfpg.
 - The Nebraska Tourism Commission, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska Office of Communications shared the planning, coordination, and expenses and will use this very large new archive for commercials, on-line promotions, education, trade shows, etc. At NET, manager of television production, Joe Turco, and senior videographer-editor, Ralph Hammack, recorded sequences with the SkyWorks team while they were on the ground in several locations. They also rigged the helicopter with GoPro cameras to capture the behind-the-scenes activities of this large undertaking. On its overnight in Lincoln, the chopper landed just outside our mobile unit's garage, next to our satellite dishes for some local media coverage.
 - Aerial special - We are currently planning a spectacular new pledge special for 2014 which will give Nebraskans breathtaking and surprising views of our state. We'll also use the new archive for our on-air "look", integrate the material in other documentaries, and make it available for various educational projects.

NET Sports

- Big Red Wrap-up - A new season of *BRWU* begins Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. on NET Television, and will again be hosted by sportscaster Kevin Kugler. In addition to his work on NET Sports productions, Kevin is the play-by-play announcer for many BTN national events and is also the national college football voice of the Westwood One/Global Sports radio network. Joining Kevin are analysts Adrian Fiala and Blake Lawrence, along with recruiting expert Sean Callahan of HuskerOnline.com.
 - This year we're adding sports injury reports from Dr. Rob Rhodes, MD. A former University of South Dakota linebacker, he is now one of the top sport injury experts in Nebraska. Dr. Rhodes will present a series of segments using an interactive 3D animated athlete to highlight the areas of the body that are prone to sports-related injuries. The weekly show will continue to include game highlights, player profiles, Husker history segments, In-the-Hudl play breakdowns, and social media viewer interaction.
- Concussions - PBS' *Frontline* and ESPN's *Outside the Lines* have launched a joint project to investigate the ongoing story of concussions in the National Football League. The year-long effort, which culminates this fall, examines the latest research on brain injuries and football, the impact on players, and the NFL's effort to deal with a crisis that threatens the long-term health and popularity of the sport.

- On October 8th, at 9:00 p.m., *Frontline* premieres the two-part *League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis*, which reveals the hidden story of the NFL and brain injuries. What did the NFL know and when did it know it? What's the truth about the risks to players? What can be done?
- NET Sports is planning a Nebraska-focused special on sports injuries and how to prevent them among high school and collegiate players. We'll also take a look at the new UNL brain research center and its work on concussion prevention. Produced by Gavin Felix, this additional program will air in 2014.
- Launching a new sports season – We had a great turn-out at NET for our annual breakfast for members of the NET Sports Partners Club. They heard from UNL Athletic Director Shawn Eichhorst and Joe Turco, NET's Manager of Television Production and Executive Producer of NET Sports about upcoming events and programs. A tour of the NET facilities followed.
- Husker Volleyball - Volleyball returns to NET Television next month from the newly renovated Devaney Center Arena and the Terry Pettit Court. Negotiations are underway between NET Sports and BTN that will soon finalize our exciting schedule of Nebraska Volleyball, along with Men's and Women's Basketball.
 - Later in the season, NET Sports produces the first televised basketball game from the new Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln: UCLA vs Nebraska Women's Basketball on Friday, November 8th. NET was first to televise games from Lincoln's Haymarket Park and Omaha's TD Ameritrade Park. Now we're preparing for the first live telecasts from Devaney and Pinnacle. Once final agreements are in hand, we'll release our complete fall schedule, including more Nebraska and Creighton Basketball and UNO Hockey. We continue to proudly say, NET Sports is Nebraska's Home for Sports!

NET Television Programming & Distribution

- Audience Development - During the May Nielsen ratings period, the number of households watching NET across the state in prime time increased by 13% to 203,500 households compared to May, 2012. The full day audience decreased 8% due to unexpected weakness in kids and Saturday "how-to" programming. Over 850,000 Nebraskans watched NET each week in May. Terry Dugas, Manager of Content Distribution is addressing the audience reduction and will be making scheduling changes to strengthen the schedule.
 - NET- produced programs continue to be among the most popular on the network, with sports leading the way. Of the 10 most watched statewide, three were UNL baseball games. The most watched program statewide was the UNL-Creighton game, with 26,000 households. The perennial crowd pleaser *Backyard Farmer* was the fourth most watched program statewide.
 - The value of the archive of NET programs was proven again. *Wetlands of Nebraska*, produced in 2005, placed in the top 30 statewide and was the 13th most watched program in Omaha. *Buffett and Gates Go Back to School*, produced in 2006, was the 24th most watched program statewide and was number 12 in Lincoln.

- Unicameral coverage - The State Legislature concluded in May, with on-line viewing setting new records. During the 2013 session, over 5-million minutes of Legislative content were watched online through more than 155-thousand requests. Approximately 8% of the views came from mobile devices, a number sure to grow.
- Social Media and the Web - NET's Twitter feeds continue to gain followers. Almost 12,000 people follow the combined NET feeds, an 82% increase from June of 2012.
 - NET Nebraska continues as the most followed Twitter feed, with over 5,000 followers, a 64% increase from June of 2012. The number of times an NET Nebraska Tweet was mentioned increased 79% from last June.
 - *Big Red* continues to have wide coverage with almost 5,000 Twitter followers in the off season, a 64% increase from 2012.
 - NET News Twitter followers continue to grow, increasing to almost 1,800, a 132% increase from 2012.
 - In June, the NET Facebook pages generated almost 15,000 "likes," a 22% increase from 2012. The number of "engaged users – people who clicked on a post" increased by over 328% from 2012.
 - With the implementation of the new Content Management System, year-to-date web measurements are no longer accurate. However, in the month of June almost 49,000 visitors came to the NET website, with NET Television having the most traffic followed by NET Radio and the NET main page. News drives an increasing amount of traffic to the site, with over 6,700 visitors to the NET News stories archives. A strong 31% of web viewers used mobile devices, including tablets.

September-October PBS Highlights -

- Hispanic Heritage Month - NET is working with the Nebraska Latino American Commission to promote the many programs of special interest to Hispanics in the state during this period (September 15th to October 15th). On September 17th, at 8:00 p.m. it's the premiere of part one of *Latino Americans*, the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos. The series will continue for the following three weeks.
 - On October 28th, at 9:00 p.m. *Independent Lens* premieres *The Graduates*. This two-part program is a story about how Latino students are faring in our nation's public education system. It's also a story about the American future. Additional specials will air in September and October highlighting Latino contributions to America's culture and history.
- Nature - Premiering on September 4th at 7:00 p.m. *Nature* presents the six-part *Earthflight*. This series is a breathtaking voyage of the world's birds, soaring across six continents, witnessing spectacular animal migrations and great natural wonders, swooping down to interact with life-and-death dramas on land and at sea. Part one features birds of North America, including a sequence of the geese migration and their confrontation with bald eagles filmed in Nebraska's Platte River Valley. Immediately following, at 8:00 p.m. we'll present an encore broadcast of NET's *Crane Song*.
- The African Americans - On October 22nd at 8:00 p.m. PBS premieres the six-part *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. The series, hosted by Henry Louis Gates,

chronicles the full sweep of African American history, from the origins of slavery on the African continent through five centuries of historic events up to present day and our first black head of state, President Barak Obama.

Respectfully submitted,
David Feingold

(Proposed) NETC MEETINGS -- 2014

- February 20, March 6, March 13
- June 19
- August 28
- December 4

For Immediate Release

NET Commission's August Meeting Scheduled

LINCOLN, Neb. (August 13, 2013) -- The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission (NETC) will conduct its meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2013 beginning at 9:30 a.m. CT at the Terry M. Carpenter & Jack G. McBride Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln.

The Commissioners are scheduled to vote on approval of the minutes of the previous meeting FY 2013 4th Quarter Budget and TV/Radio Equipment Replacement Lists. In other activity, Commissioners will hear reports from NET Content and NET Engineering.

The Commission meeting agenda is available for inspection during business hours at the Terry M. Carpenter & Jack G. McBride Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, in Lincoln.

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