

Minutes of Meeting #439
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 No. 33rd Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
August 22, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioner Dennis Baack
Commissioner Ken Bird
Commissioner Kim Dinsdale
Commissioner Curt Frye
Commissioner Fred Ohles
Commissioner Dick Shoemaker
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Darlene Starman
Commissioner Scott Swisher
Commissioner Dara Troutman

ABSENT: Commissioner Steve Seline

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 #439 to order at 9:43 a.m.

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

Chair Bird welcomed Mark Leonard to the Commission as NET's new General Manager. Mark joined NET's staff on August 1, 2013.

The Chair called for public comment. There was none.

The Chair next requested approval of the minutes of meeting #438 as held on June 22, 2013. It was moved by Commissioner Shoemaker and seconded by Commissioner Frye to accept minutes of meeting #438 as presented. Motion was approved by acclamation.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen reviewed the 4th quarter budget report for period ending June 30, 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 Commissioner Ohles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 4th quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Baack, Bird, Dinsdale, Frye, Ohles, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman, Swisher and Troutman; Absent: Seline.

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen reviewed the 2014 Television Capital Purchase List. Within the television operational budget is a line item for \$750,000. This line is for capital purchases of systems required to either maintain or enhance the capabilities of the television infrastructure and equipment. The list is decided on by a committee consisting of the Assistant

Directors of Engineering (Transmissions, Network Operations, Maintenance and Information Systems), a representative from the TV Production Department and the Assistant General Manager for Technology. It is based on agreed upon prioritized needs in the system. This year the priority for item selection was as follows: 1) items that need immediate replacement to keep the current level of service; 2) items that affect the enterprise as a whole; 3) items that will have a long term impact on operations within a specific Department; and, 4) all other items.

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen next reviewed the FY 2014 Radio Capital Purchase List. Within the radio operational budget is a line item for \$52,000. This line item is for capital purchases of systems required to either maintain or enhance the capabilities of the Radio infrastructure and equipment. The list is decided on by a committee consisting of the Assistant Directors of Engineering (Transmissions, Network Operations, Maintenance and Information Systems), several representatives from the Radio Department and the Assistant General Manager for Technology. It is based on agreed upon prioritized needs in the system. This year the priority for item selection was as follows: 1) items that need immediate replacement to keep the current level of service; 2) items that affect the enterprise as a whole; 3) items that will have a long term impact on operations with a specific Department; and, all other items.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Starman and seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker to approve the Television and Radio Capital Purchase Lists as attached. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Baack, Bird, Dinsdale, Frye, Ohles, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman, Swisher and Troutman; Absent: Seline.

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen presented the 2014 Budget Deficit request. 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 late October 2013 for the Radio Transmission Replacement Project. Staff is recommending the following Capital 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 the FY 2014 & FY 2015 biennial budget request, submitted in September 2012. Total costs for the Radio Transmission replacement project is estimated at \$280,000, split \$140,000 in FY 2014 with the remaining \$140,000 in FY 2015. It was moved by Commissioner Shoemaker and seconded by Commissioner Baack that this capital construction deficit request be approved for submission to the DAS Budget Office on or before the State of Nebraska's deficit request deadline. Following discussion, roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Commissioners Baack, Bird, Dinsdale, Frye, Ohles, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman, Swisher and Troutman; Absent: Seline. It was suggested that NET staff forward strategic talking points to Commissioners to encourage support from the State for funding of this project.

Assistant General Manager-Content David Feingold reviewed activities of NET Television and Radio including the redesign and rebuild of the Nebraska Studies website (www.nebraskastudies.org), *Nebraska's Capitol Masterpiece*, *Emery Blagdon and His Healing Machine*, *Backyard Farmer*, and Volleyball coverage. He also showed excerpts of SkyWorks—capturing Nebraska from the air. Sample viewing is presently available on you tube.

Assistant General Manager-Education Gary Targoff reported on Education Services activities and indicated that Fremont is now the 2nd model community for the Ready to Learn (RTL) project. He also indicated that funds are being set aside to revise the NebraskaStudies.org on-line learning website. This is currently used to fulfill the Nebraska State History Curriculum for middle school.

Assistant General Manager-Technology Stacey Decker indicated that studies are being done to determine if NEMA can use NET's tower facilities to hang microwave dishes. This project will assist in a statewide 911 communications project. Since long term funding isn't supported for

this project, NEMA will be taking care of tower paint on two towers equaling approximately \$70,000.

Stacey also reviewed the Omaha project. The transmitter and antenna specifications have been submitted to Todd Gray of Dow, Lohnes Law Firm in Washington, D.C. With this information, the FCC can determine if NET's plan to consolidate the KYNE and KUON facilities and move the KYNE license to the KUON site can be completed. Additional information will be presented to Commissioners as it is provided to NET staff.

Stacey then announced his resignation from NET effective September 13. He has accepted a position at WGBH (Boston). Stacey expressed his appreciation and thanks for everything that he was able to accomplish while at NET.

The following meeting dates for 2014 were reviewed: February 20, March 6, or March 13 (videoconference meeting); June 19, August 28 and December 4. These dates will be confirmed at the next NETC Meeting.

General Manager Mark Leonard indicated that he is very happy to be part of the NET staff and that everything has exceeded his expectations. He said he continues to be impressed with the quality of NET and looks forward to becoming more acquainted with all aspects of the organization.

Chair Bird requested that Commissioners do whatever they can in their districts to help Mark become acquainted with people across Nebraska. Some suggestions were to extend invitations to attend activities of key organizations throughout the State, i.e, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Group, MONA, pre-game functions to meet and greet people, Governor's tailgate party and various organizations that are important in various areas of the State. This should be ongoing to include Mark into activities of Nebraska.

Future meetings for 2013: **December 5 – NET**

There being no further business, Meeting #438 adjourned at 11:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Leonard, Secretary