

Minutes of Meeting #441
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 No. 33rd Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
February 20, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioner Dennis Baack
Commissioner Ken Bird (Omaha site)
Commissioner Matt Blomstedt
Commissioner Curt Frye (Wayne site)
Commissioner Fred Ohles
Commissioner Steve Seline (Omaha site)
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Darlene Starman

ABSENT: Commissioner Kim Dinsdale
Commissioner Dick Shoemaker
Commissioner Dara Troutman

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 #441 to order at 9:40 a.m.

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

The Chair called for public comment. There was none.

The Chair next requested approval of the minutes of meeting #440 as held on December 5, 2013. It was moved by Commissioner Seline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept minutes of meeting #440 presented. Motion was approved by acclamation.

Chair Bird called for the Nominating Committee report. Commissioners Bird, Shoemaker, Seline and Smith served on the Nominating Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Blomstedt and seconded by Commissioner Starman to approve the following slate of officers for 2014: Clay Smith, Chair; Dick Shoemaker, Vice-Chair, Mark Leonard, NET's General Manager, Secretary/Treasurer and Randy Hansen, Assistant Secretary & Assistant Treasurer. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Blomstedt, Frye, Ohles, Seline, Smith and Starman. Absent: Commissioners Dinsdale, Shoemaker and Troutman.

Newly elected Chairman Clay Smith called for approval of the NETC Executive Committee for 2014. 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 2014 Executive Committee: Clay Smith, Dick Shoemaker, Kim Dinsdale and Darlene Starman. It was moved by Ohles and seconded by Baack to approve the proposed slate of Commissioners to serve on the

Executive Committee. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Blomstedt, Frye, Ohles, Seline, Smith and Starman. Absent: Commissioners Dinsdale, Shoemaker and Troutman.

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". Commission Chair Smith recommended the following members to serve on the Finance Committee: Commissioners Smith, Shoemaker, Dinsdale and Starman; and, NET AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen. It was moved by Blomstedt and seconded by Baack to approve the proposed members to serve on the Finance Committee. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Blomstedt, Frye, Ohles, Seline, Smith and Starman. Absent: Commissioners Dinsdale, Shoemaker and Troutman.

Chair Smith thanked Commissioner Bird for his many contributions while serving as chair during 2013. He then presented the following resolution to Ken:

WHEREAS Dr. Ken Bird effectively provided exceptional leadership to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission as Chairman, January 2013-January 2014, 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, and;
WHEREAS Ken has demonstrated a particular passion for the importance of service to all Nebraskans through educational, arts and cultural programming, and;
WHEREAS He has repeatedly confirmed his support of the Mission and Vision of NET in a variety of capacities, and;
WHEREAS Ken 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 Ken Bird 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)
Clay Smith
Chairman

Dick Shoemaker
Vice-Chairman

Resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the 2nd quarter budget report for period ending December 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 Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Starman to approve the 2nd quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Motion was approved by acclamation.

AGM-Content David Feingold reviewed activities of NET Television and Radio including Distracted Driving, Growing up Gambling, and Farm Waste Fashionista. He showed excerpts of Quest's video segment of UNL biochemical engineer's research on a sustainable process to extract textile fibers similar to cotton from corn husks. He also indicated that the online audience is growing dramatically.

He also reported on the unexpected death of Jim Carmichael, longtime producer/director with NET Television Jim Carmichael died February 12 at the age of 62. Jim was producer for NET sports *Big Red Wrap-Up* series as well as live coverage of Nebraska high school and collegiate

sports competition. He also produced the *Backyard Farmer* series for NET Television. He died in his NET office while preparing for a live broadcast of UNO Maverick hockey.

NET pledge drive is scheduled for February 28 thru March 24 and will include the following pledge programs: *Gordon Lightfoot: Live in Reno; America's Wild West from American Experience; and, All of Me: A Story of Love, Loss and Last Resorts.*

The Chair next called on Jim Adams, Assistant General Manager of University of Nebraska-Omaha Television who reported on activities at UNO-Television. He also commented on the loss of both Jim Carmichael and Don Gill from NET.

Secretary Mark Leonard welcomed Dr. Matt Blomstedt as a new NET Commissioner. Dr. Blomstedt replaced Dr. Roger Breed as Nebraska Department Commissioner of Education. Commissioners introduced themselves to Commissioner Blomstedt.

The Secretary introduced Debbie Hamlett as Assistant General Manager for development and marketing at NET. She comes to NET from the University of South Carolina where she was director of development for USC's College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to this time, she worked at Illinois Public Media as director of development leading membership, marketing, corporate support and major giving.

Secretary Leonard reviewed some of the activities that he has participated in during the past six months including testifying to the Education Committee to introduce a legislative bill that would authorize proposed changes to the NETC statutes to update and re-define NET's role.

Secretary Leonard and Commissioner Shoemaker will attend the APTS Public Media Summit event February 23-26. They will meet with Senators and Congressmen in Washington, D.C. and also attend the Nebraska Breakfast at the Capitol.

Commissioner Ohles left the meeting at 10:17 am.

Commissioner Seline requested an update on the UNO tower relocation. NET engineering staff are exploring the feasibility of co-locating the UNO tower to a downtown Omaha tower that would replicate current footprint. They need to determine if this location would be technically and financially feasible. The second option would be to co-locate to a tower in Northwest Omaha. This site would cost more for the total project. Commissioners Seline and Bird volunteered their services if it would help expedite the project.

Chair Smith indicated that the Lincoln Rotary Club honored Ron Hull as the 2014 Nebraskan of the Year. The event was held at the Embassy Suites on February 4 and was very well attended. This is a tribute to Ron and his years of service to NET.

The next Commission meeting will be the annual meeting on June 19, 9:30 am. at NET.

Being no further business, Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Frye and seconded by Baack to adjourn meeting #440 at 11:16 a.m. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Leonard, Secretary