PRESENT: Commissioner Fred Ohles (Chair)
Commissioner Patricia Kircher
Commissioner Nick Baxter
Commissioner Marilyn Hadley
Commissioner Randy Schmailzl
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Stan Carpenter

ABSENT: Commissioner Darlene Starman
Commissioner Lisa May
Commissioner Matt Blomstedt
Commissioner Rod Markin

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 websites. LB898 (related to Open Meetings Act) is also posted in the NET Boardroom on the first floor.

Chair Fred Ohles call the meeting #460 to order at 10:35 a.m.

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

The Chair called for public comment. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA
The Chair requested approval of the minutes of meeting #459 as held on June 29, 2018. It was moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hadley to approve the minutes of meeting #459 as presented. Voting aye: Commissioner Ohles, Kircher, Baxter, Hadley, Schmailzl, Smith, Carpenter. Opposed: None.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the 4th quarter budget report ending June 30, 2018. It was moved by Commissioner Hadley and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 4th
Quarter Budget Report. Roll call was recorded as follows: Aye Ohles, Kircher, Baxter, Hadley, Schmailzl, Smith, Carpenter  Opposed: None. The Finance Committee met prior to the meeting to review the report in greater detail.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the Television & Radio Equipment Lists for FY2019. It was moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kircher to approve the Television & Radio Equipment Lists for FY 2019. Roll call was recorded as follows: Aye Ohles, Kircher, Baxter, Hadley, Schmailzl, Smith, Carpenter  Opposed: None. The Finance Committee met prior to the meeting to review the report in greater detail.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the FY2020 & FY2021 Biennial Budget. It was moved by Commissioner Hadley and seconded by Commissioner Kircher to approve the FY2020 & FY2021 Biennial Budget. Roll call was recorded as follows: Aye Ohles, Kircher, Baxter, Hadley, Schmailzl, Smith, Carpenter  Opposed: None. The Finance Committee met prior to the meeting to review the report in greater detail.

**COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA**

**NET Education Update**

AGM-Education Debbie Hamlett presented the update:

**Indie Lens Pop Up Series**

- It is looking for a new partner in Omaha to identify panelist and help support the screenings along with searching for a bigger venue. The current venue only holds 50 people and it needs about 3-4 times that size.

**Nature: Spring Live**

- The National Science Foundation, PBS, and WNET announced the launch of a major station and community engagement initiative in support of the upcoming series NATURE: Spring LIVE.

  NATURE: Spring LIVE will follow a diverse group of researchers, scientists, and citizens as they investigate – in real time – how a variety of organisms respond to the change of seasons, in ecosystems ranging from Montana’s Rocky Mountains to Florida’s Everglades, and from inner-city parks on the East Coast to remote wilderness preserves in the desert Southwest.

- Through a far reaching and vigorous social media campaign, viewers will be urged to participate in the project and inspired to join in the adventure of science. Through strategic alliances with national organizations and partnerships with PBS stations across the country, Spring LIVE will spark additional conversations about climate, weather, and phenology.

- NET received a grant from WNET to support a significant educational outreach initiative around this program over the span of two years

**NET Engineering Report**

AGM-Engineering Ling Ling Sun presented the update:
FCC filings

- We have filed TV transmitter power increase with the FCC for KXNE, KMNE, KLNE, KHNE and KYNE. Filling status is still pending at time of this report.
- Displacement Applications were granted and construction permits issued for NET Neligh and Broken Bow translator sites. For Neligh, the new call sign will be K27NI-D (channel 27) and for Broken Bow the new call sign is K31OC-D (channel 31.) Awaiting Culbertson application approval.
- FCC has announced the opening of the ETRS (EAS Test Reporting System) portal in preparation for the 2018 National Periodic Test that will happen this fall. Deadline for first filing is August 27th, 2018. For the first time the test will include the Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEA), which is designed for mobile phones. The WEA test will begin at 2:18PM Eastern time. The broadcast EAS test will be sent at 2:20 PM Eastern time.

Capital Equipment Purchase

- Request for Proposal (RFP) for the NET Network Monitoring and Control System has been submitted to State Purchasing for processing.
  - Pre-bid conference was held on April 19th.
  - RFP opening date was May 31st, have received four responses.
  - RFP evaluation has begun on June 11th. The evaluation period is June 5th -22nd.
  - RFP evaluation committee conducted RFP oral interviews with bidders on July 31st. State Purchasing requested “Best and Final Offer” after the oral interviews.

Terrestrial Circuits Versus Ove The Air (OTA) Reliability for Television and Radio. Graphic representations were attached to the engineering report.

NET Broadcast Production and Programming

AGM-Broadcast Production and Programming Nancy Finken presented the update:

Follow the Water

- Over the summer, NET held sneak peek screenings of “Follow the Water” in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Bellevue, and Lincoln followed by a question and answer session with NET Executive producer Christine Lesiak and the film’s central characters Mike Forsberg and Pete Stegen. The documentary shows Forsberg and Stegen’s 1300 mile journey to follow a mythical drop of water through three different states in the Platte River Watershed. Viewers realize where their water comes from through remarkable photography, drawings, and insightful commentary. PBS is reviewing “Follow the Water” for possible distribution.

Sports

- NET Sports captures the drama of the 2017 Nebraska Women’s Volleyball season, the extraordinary success and expertise of Coach Cook, and the history of the rivalry between Nebraska and Penn State in “Nebraska Volleyball: Culture of a Champion.” Husker fans will be the first to see it when the program is shown on the big screens at the Bob Devaney Sports Center immediately following the Red and White Scrimmage on August 18.
NET Radio and News
Director of Radio Bill Anderson was not in attendance for this meeting. He was attending a conference in Austin, TX.

- NET Radio will broadcast All Things Considered live from The Mill in the Haymarket District on August 31st. NET All Things Considered host Jack Williams will be joined by News Director Dennis Kellogg on the eve of Nebraska’s home football opener. In addition to the national and international news from NPR, NET will have features and live segments wrapped around the home opener in Lincoln.
- All Things Considered is also having its time slot extended and will now run from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
- American Public Media dropped Marketplace Weekend from its production and distribution lineup. NET Radio expanded NPR’s Weekend Edition with Scott Simon into the 7am hour to fill one void and Ask Me Another filled the noon hole in the HD-2 lineup.

NET Emerging Media
AGM-Emerging Media Chad Davis presented the update:

- Our 360-video *Prairie Fire: Controlling Invasive Species* was awarded a Heartland Emmy. This is the first time a 360-video has won an Emmy in direct competition against traditional (fixed frame, “flat”) media. Additionally, NET was awarded a Technical Achievement Emmy for its development of a 360-video production unit.
- **Watershed**
  - A 360-video series for PBS Digital about living/thinking at watershed scale is looking for a digital distribution pick up.
- The PBS online film festival picked up Total Eclipse of the Heartland 360 video. This is the first 360 video accepted into the festival.

**COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA**

**General Manager’s Report**

**Building and Transmitter Security:**

NET is working with the UNL police department to design and purchase a video security camera system for the NET building. The existing system is outdated. There have been incidents of vandalism to employee’s vehicles and evidence of vagrants living in sheltered areas of the building so an updated system is needed. Additionally, there have been four incidents of break-in’s and thefts at two of our transmitter locations (KUON and KLNE). Recent threats on media and news organizations have heightened our attention to security concerns for our facilities and employees.

The camera monitoring systems have been designed and are in the process of being purchased. Once installed, all cameras will be monitored and recorded by UNL police, adding our facilities to the University security program. The cost of the system is $61,000 and is line 6 of the NET FY 2019 Television Capital Equipment List.

**EBS Licenses:**
EBS (Educational Broadband Service) was formerly called ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service), these are a portion of the broadcast spectrum that has historically been reserved for use by school districts and universities, as well as public broadcasters. With high demand for spectrum services from wireless providers, the FCC has opened a comment period to evaluate future applications of this band of frequencies for application beyond education.

Over the past couple of months, NET has been partnering with the state OCIO office and the Nebraska Department of Education to identify and describe how available frequencies in Nebraska could be used to create better connectivity in areas with limited or no internet availability within the state. This is of particular concern in areas where students may have access to the internet in classrooms but lack access in their homes. The comments were signed by Matt Blomstedt, Ed Toner and Mark Leonard. The comments were submitted to the FCC on August 8, 2018.

CPB Compliance:

As part of NET’s receipt of federal funding, we are expected to maintain and report compliance to CPB funding requirements on an annual basis. These include financial reporting, compliance with CPB open meeting requirements, adoption of a diversity program, completion of harassment training and other industry specific requirements. Compliance with these regulations is one of the primary areas of concern for the CPB Inspector General, who can initiate audits and investigations of stations that are non-compliant. CPB has been increasingly concerned about the inability of our systems to improve its compliance to these requirements, and has established a penalty schedule of fines to strengthen its enforcement efforts.

University Licensees have been the category of station with the most troubling compliance results, often as a result of differences of opinion regarding direct and indirect financial support calculations compared to other license types.

Although NET has never been cited with any failures in compliance, given our complicated governance and financial structures, it has been an area of great focus for NET management over the past several years. To be pro-active, we are engaging Bob Winteringham, a former CPB lawyer, to conduct an onsite review of NET’s compliance program. He will be here for two days in November doing interviews and research. He will prepare a completed report with recommendations for our consideration. If we have the completed report in time for the December 6th Commission meeting we would like to arrange for Bob to share his report during that time.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

The next meeting is December 6, 2018.

There being no further business, Meeting #460 was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Leonard