Minutes of Meeting #462

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 N 33rd St.
Lincoln, NE
February 21, 2019

Present: Commissioner Fred Ohles
Commissioner Patricia Kircher (Chair)
Commissioner Nick Baxter
Commissioner Marilyn Hadley
Commissioner Matt Blomstedt
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Paul Turman
Commissioner Lisa May
Commissioner Greg Adams

Absent: 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 Patty Kircher called the meeting #462 to order at 10:31 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.

New Commissioners Greg Adams and Paul Turman were introduced.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
2nd Quarter Budget Report

AGM-Administration and Finance Randy Hansen presented the 2nd Quarter Budget report ending December 31, 2018. It was moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hadley to approve the 2nd Quarter Budget report. Roll call was recorded as follows: Aye Commissioner Adams, Baxter, Blomstedt, Hadley, Kircher, May, Ohles, Smith, Turman. The Finance Committee met prior to the full Commission meeting to review the report in greater detail.
COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA

NET Education Update
AGM – Development, Marketing and Education Debbie Hamlett presented the update:

INDIE LENS POP-UP FILM SERIES
- Indie Lens Pop-Up features screenings of documentaries scheduled for upcoming broadcast on INDEPENDENT LENS. They are free and open to the public, and are generally followed by a panel discussion or other presentation featuring local experts or key organizations working on issues covered in the film.
  - In Lincoln, our lead partners will be the University of Nebraska–Lincoln/Center for Civic Engagement, the Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of People of Color, OASIS through the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center, University Housing and Student Affairs. In Omaha, NET will be screening three films in the black box theatre at the Union for Contemporary Art.
  - Please join us for our 2018-19 season themed "It Takes a Community": (Omaha screenings are scheduled to start in April)
    - **DAWNLAND** tells the story of the first government-sanctioned truth and reconciliation commission in the U.S., investigating the devastating impact of Maine’s child welfare practices on Native American communities. With intimate access to this groundbreaking process, the film reveals the untold narrative of Indigenous child removal in the United States. Dec. 6, Lincoln – 65 attendees
    - **WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?** For over 30 years, Fred Rogers was beamed daily into homes across America where he and his cast of puppets and friends spoke simply and directly to young children about some of life’s weightiest issues. There wasn’t anything like Mr. Rogers on TV before and there hasn’t been since. In Won’t You Be My Neighbor? Academy Award-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville looks back on Rogers’ radical legacy of love and kindness.
      DATES TBA

NATURE: AMERICAN SPRING LIVE
- NET spent November and December developing the implementation plan with partners for the upcoming American Spring LIVE community engagement initiative. Educational events will be held from March 2019 through June 2020.

- Each station participating in this project is required to build collaborations with community organizations who serve diverse, underserved, and/or underrepresented audiences.
• NET will be coordinating with eight community organization to build audience and participation for statewide citizen science training workshops.

• The primary collaborating partners on this project are:
  • Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo
  • Omaha STEM Ecosystem
  • Homestead National Monument
  • Nebraska Families & Children: Beyond School Bells Mobile STEM units
  • Ducks Unlimited
  • Osher Life-Long Learning
  • Nebraska Wildlife Federation
  • Nebraska Game and Parks

All grantee stations participating in the initiative are required to host a large-scale family event. These events will feature American Spring LIVE promotional activities, nature walks, hands-on science activities related to spring’s arrival, and informational sessions on the citizen science opportunities.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Family & Community Learning Workshops
NET received a grant from the Woods Charitable Fund that will help support workshops in March conducted in Lincoln. Planning includes choosing PBS KIDS lessons/materials to use; books for families to take home and other lesson supplies; and collaborating with two title 1 school administrators and teachers to promote workshops to English Language Learning families.

Grand Island Public School STEM nights
NET’s early childhood specialists conducted STEM workshop nights at three elementary schools.

PBS EdCamp
NET was one of 17 stations selected to create an EdCamp teacher training with a facilitator from PBS in Lincoln. This workshop training is scheduled for March 23rd at NET.

NET Engineering Report
AGM – Technology/CTO Ling Ling Sun was attending an external conference and did not present her update:

Network Operations and Distributions
• PBS sIX Project: Work is in progress on VLAN configuration pending on new NET firewall cutover on 2/17/2019.

• PBS has decommissioned its Non-Real Time file delivery (NRT) system and released equipment for station use via email notification.
• PBS discontinued its C-band services on 1/31/2019.

Network Transmission
• KXNE TV:
  o Work with 309 Task Force on roof replacement is ongoing. Contract was awarded to 10 Men Roofing. Consultant services is provided by Jackson - Jackson & Associates, Inc. Omaha. Pre-Construction Conference was held at NET, 2/7/2019.

• KHNE:
  o KHNE TV Transmitter Replacement Invitation to Bid has been posted to state purchasing website on 11/16/18 with Opening Date of 12/7/2018. Intent to Award was issued to Technical Services Group, Inc. on 1/9/2019.
  o KHNE Tower Lights Replacement Invitation to Bid has been posted to state purchasing website on 11/07/18 with Opening Date of 12/6/2018. Intent to Award was issued to National Tower Controls, LLC on 2/5/2019.

• K08LN Harrison TV translator:
  o Restore translator services including installation of new TV translator, repairing transmission line and antenna system.
  o Completed translator installation and testing work the week of 1/14/2019.

Other Projects and Initiatives
• NET Network Monitoring and Control System (NMCS)
  o Project kickoff conference call with MNC Software Inc. was held on 11/9/2018.
  o Completed NET transmitter sites survey with system integrators in the week of 12/17/2018.
  o Conducted NET on-site project planning with MNC Software Inc. in the week of 1/21/2019.
  o Transmitter sites implementation, a part of Phase one implementation starts next week, 2/11/2019. The implementation work begins at KLNE site following by KPNE and KTNE respectively. Phase one implementation will replace and migrate exiting Monitor & Control functionalities from its existing Maxview system to Mosaic system in three functional areas, transmission, satellite teleport and facilities.

• Video surveillance systems upgrade
  o Completed video camera surveillance system installation at KHNE, KLNE, KPNE, KTNE, KCNE and KRNE sites. Installation work is continuing at the rest of NET transmitter sites.

NET Broadcast Production and Programming
AGM – Broadcast Production and Programming Nancy Finken presented the update:

Nebraska Stories
• NET’s “Nebraska Stories” kicked off season 10 on January 17. It’s wonderful to celebrate this milestone for a program that gets better each year and attracts a significant audience on television and online (web, mobile and social). The “Nebraska Stories” series producers are Kay
Hall and Michele Wolford; Joe Turco is Executive Producer. On the core team are NET News Director Dennis Kellogg and Humanities Producer and radio host Jack Williams. Many other NET staff contribute pieces for the series as do a few independent producers. In January, one of the show’s digital stories won a national award from NETA, the National Educational Telecommunications Association. Watch this 360 tour of an Omaha art collection. Use the arrows in the top left corner to move around the house. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv9BFeffqys&t=26s

• The February 14 edition of “Nebraska Stories” celebrates UNL’s 150 with new and archival stories all about the university.

**Hockey, Wrestling, Swimming & Diving**

• NET Sports completed a 3-game package of Maverick Hockey with two broadcasts in early February live from Baxter Arena; NSAA Wrestling is Saturday, February 16 live from CHI Health Center in Omaha followed by NSAA Swimming and Diving Championships live from the Devaney Center in Lincoln on February 23.

**Hometown Husker**

• In addition to the live game coverage, NET Sports produces numerous player profiles and features each year. You’ll see these “shorts” on social media, on our YouTube channel, on NET television during sports programs, and on “Nebraska Stories.” This one features Husker Volleyball walk-on Hayley Densberger from Malcom, NE. http://netnebraska.org/interactive-multimedia/television/nebraska-stories-hometown-husker-1004

**Unicameral Live**

• Once again, NET is covering the Nebraska Legislature with live gavel-to-gavel broadcasts daily on NET World, online netNebraska.org/capitol, and via the Nebraska Capitol Live app. This is a 90-day session and it began January 9.

**NET News and Radio**

Director of Radio Bill Anderson presented the update:

• We have developed news reporter Allison Mollencamp into a backup announcer on All Things Considered and she is both ready and willing to learn the ropes of Morning Edition which is by far the most challenging announcing shift at NET Radio.

• Veteran Jack Williams is also agreeable to hosting ME when we have short notice that it has to be covered.

• And night time, part-time announcer Jodi Giron is at a point where we can begin training her for the rigors of hosting All Things Considered. Evening part-time host Bruce Williams is also being groomed to host All Things Considered. Robert Goldberg is an experienced All Things Considered host but he remains equally valuable as a classical fill-in host.

• NET News Director, Dennis Kellogg has been selected to participate in a Corporation for Public Broadcasting initiative designed specifically for leaders of newsrooms or collaborative journalism projects. Dennis and others will have their editorial and leadership skills assessed and they’ll use that assessment to set goals for improvement. It is an all-expenses paid 100-day program coordinated through the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University. Dennis will spend some time there but most of his work will take place here at NET.
• Reporter Grant Gerlock has resigned to take a position at Iowa Public Radio. Grant has hosted ME, a podcast and election coverage in addition to his work as a reporter. He’s been a contributor to Harvest Public Media and has radio and television experience in that role.

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

NET recently released a demo version of our N150 collaboration “University Hall.” This is the first head-mounted display (HMD) based VR experience and we built this demo in collaboration with the Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. Also, our 360-video collaboration with Nebraska Stories was recently awarded a NETA Award (a peer-reviewed public media award). This is the first 360-video to earn a NETA award against more traditional content.

Projects in Production include:

• Pop Quiz Nebraska
  o A trivia skill for the Amazon Alexa based on the Nebraska Studies website
  o Anticipated release: February 2019
• Allis-Chalmers Tractor Project
  o Photogrammetry-based interactive web components to enhance the mini-documentary released as a part of Nebraska Stories
  o Anticipated release: March 2019
• Watershed
  o A 360-video series for PBS Digital about living/thinking at watershed scale
  o Anticipated release: March 2019
• Spring Live Nebraska (w.t.)
  o Mini-doc for the national Spring Live production effort by PBS
  o Anticipated release: April 2019
• Small Town Cops (360) (w.t.)
  o 360-video produced in conjunction with NET News doc of the same name
  o Anticipated release: April/May 2019
• Virtual Capitol upgrade
  o Upgrading the existing Virtual Capitol experience for HMDs
  o Anticipated release: May 2019

General Manager’s Report
General Manager Mark Leonard presented the update:

Digital Accelerator Project:
• This is a CPB funded yearlong consultation on how to accelerate the integration of digital tools and methods within our culture. We were among 17 stations chosen from 70 applicants to participate. Within those 17 stations, they are organized into 4 cohort groups with our cohorts being KQED San Francisco, PBS SoCal (recently merged with KCET Los Angeles) and Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting in Denver – a pretty exciting group.
• The work is being led by a company called Q-Catalyst, a company that has done similar consultancy with both for profit and non-profit media companies. An overview of the company and project was provided with the Commission packets.
PBS Trust Survey:
- The 16th year in a row that PBS has conducted this survey. Continues to be a strong validation of trust and value that American’s place of Public Television. The press release was presented in the Commission packets.

PMVG Update:
- We are 1 of 27 stations that have joined this planning group for ATSC 3.0 implementation. The group will be incorporated at a for profit “C Corp” in April that will allow it to enter into contracts and business relationships with potential equipment and software partners on our behalf. We anticipate that there may be revenue opportunities for us and the other participants with the sale of data capacity over our new ATSC 3.0 channels. In particular, the work of the group is currently focused on the feasibility of single frequency networks, something that has particular appeal to NET and the other state licensees in the group. A single frequency network may allow NET to broadcast statewide on one UHF channel number, greatly enhancing the quality and penetration of our signal in areas that currently have marginal service. It will also allow our signal to be receivable in mobile devices and cars, a major breakthrough. Lastly, it will probably result in a reduction of energy costs for transmission.

National Association of Broadcasters Conference in Las Vegas:
- NET AGM for Technology, Ling Ling Sun has been selected as one of 10 honorees for Technology Leadership. She is among some heavyweights within the broadcast and cable industries. It is quite an honor for Ling Ling and NET. The awards ceremony will be held on April 8, 2019 as part of the NAB Annual Convention and show.

Legislative Testimony:
- Will be presenting the NET legislative testimony to the State Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Then next Commission meeting is June 20, 2019.

There being no further business, Meeting #462 was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Leonard