

Minutes of Meeting #231
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center

1800 No. 33rd Street

Lincoln, Nebraska

December 1, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioner Dennis Baack
Commissioner Ken Bird
Commissioner Roger Breed
Commissioner Stan Carpenter
Commissioner Fred Ohles
Commissioner Steve Seline
Commissioner Dick Shoemaker (via conference call)
Commissioner Clay Smith
Commissioner Darlene Starman
Commissioner Dara Troutman

ABSENT: Commissioner Kim Dinsdale

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, NET elevator bulletin board areas 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 Dara Troutman called meeting #431 to order at 9:38 a.m.

Following the call of the roll, it was determined that a duly constituted quorum of Commissioners to be present. Dr. Fred Ohles (President of Wesleyan University) was introduced as a new Commissioner replacing Dr. Phil Dudley representing private college sector.

The Chair next called for public comment. There was none.

Chair Troutman requested approval of the minutes of meeting #430 as held on August 25, 2011. It was moved by Bird and seconded by Carpenter to accept minutes of meeting #430 as presented. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Breed, Carpenter, Ohles, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman and Troutman. Absent: Dinsdale

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the 1st Quarter Budget report for period September 30, 2011 for both Television Radio Divisions. It was moved by Bird and seconded by Carpenter to approve the 1st quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Breed, Carpenter, Ohles, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman and Troutman. Absent: Dinsdale

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen reviewed the agreement between the NET and the NET Foundation for Radio. An agreement was drafted with the assistance of Cline Williams law firm. The intent is to formalize the existing operational relationship between these two entities as it relates to funding, processing and paying payroll for certain Radio Commission, State of Nebraska employees. This should adequately address the State of Nebraska auditors' comment (#2) from their previous audit of the NETC dated March 24, 2009. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Bird to approve the agreement between the NETC and the NET Foundation for Radio and to direct the NETC chairperson to

sign the agreement for the NETC in February 2012. This agreement would be completed following approval of the agreement by the NET Foundation for Radio Board of Directors. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye: Baack, Bird, Breed, Carpenter, Ohles, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman and Troutman. Absent: Dinsdale

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen next presented the BKD LLP Independent Auditors' report for June 30, 2011. BKD performed the audit of the combined statements for the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission Facilities Corporation and the NET Foundation for Radio. The period included in the audit was the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Bird that the Commission accept and place on file the BKD LLP report on the Commission's combined financial statements and related management letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Following discussion, roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting aye:

Baack, Bird, Breed, Carpenter, Ohles, Seline, Shoemaker, Smith, Starman and Troutman. Absent: Dinsdale

Highlights from AGM-Content Development David Feingold's report included QUEST Beyond Local Partnerships, Great Plains: America's Lingered Wild, and *Echoes of War*. A reception will be held in Washington, DC on December 7 to officially turn over tapes from *Echoes of War* to the Library of Congress. Senator Chuck Hagel, Tom Hagel and their families and guests will be present for this occasion.

AGM-Education Gary Targoff presented an Education Services update on Interactive and Educational Media; University Partnership Projects; and; Community Engagement. He reported that the Internship Program continues to be successful with 12 interns from UNL filling internship positions with various NET departments. An assessment of assignments and outcomes is being conducted with NET supervisors and will be followed by an assessment of student experiences.

AGM-Technology Services Stacey Decker indicated the satellite transition to fiber is on schedule to be completed within the six months projected. The satellite lease ends January 31, 2012 and the goal is to have the terrestrial project completed by January 1, 2012 to allow for adequate testing. He and AGM-Media Management Michael Winkle commented on the media management.

NET Foundation Executive Director Jeff Beckman summarized the Inspire Nebraska campaign and the status of the campaign. The East District (Omaha) is the focus of the capital campaign as NET begins the 5th and final year. With \$23 million raised or pledged to date, the progress is on track toward accomplishing the campaign goal of \$25 million. A victory celebration is tentatively planned for June.

Chair Troutman next called on Jim Adams, Assistant General Manager of University of Nebraska-Omaha Television who gave a report on activities at UNO-Television indicating that *Consider This* continues as a viable production.

Secretary Bates reported on the following items: APTS (America's Public Television Stations); the Executive Council retreat; NET's Strategic Plan; and, the Public Media Summit scheduled for February 25-28, 2012 in DC. He also asked that if Commissioners would like additional information regarding any aspect of NET to inform the General Manager's office or the Commission Chair. This can then be included under the Strategic agenda category.

Commissioner Ohles left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Chair Troutman appointed the following Commissioners to serve on the nominating committee which will recommend to the NET Commission a slate of officers for the 2012 calendar year: Commissioner Breed, Chair of the committee, and Commissioners Baack and Dinsdale.

The Chair indicated the following proposed meeting dates for 2012: February 2, May 3, June 21, August 23 and November 29. It was requested that the August meeting be changed to August 30. Commissioners will be polled regarding the best date—August 30 or September 6.

It was moved by Commissioner Bird and seconded by Commissioner Starman that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission go into closed session as authorized by Section 84-1410 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska for the protection of the public interest for the purpose of holding a discussion limited to the following subject: contract negotiation. Motion approved by acclamation.

Commissioners went into closed session at 11:26 a.m.

Executive Session and General Session adjourned at 11:58 am.

Future meetings:

February 2 -- NET

May 3 – Videoconference Meeting

June 21 -- NET

August 30 or September 6 -- NET

November 29 -- NET

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates
Secretary