

Meeting #396  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center  
Videoconference Meeting  
1800 No. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
May 4, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioner Randy Bretz (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Stan Carpenter (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Doug Christensen (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Bill Griffin (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner John Heil (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Dennis Miller (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Ann Pickel (videoconference-Omaha site)  
Commissioner Steve Titus (videoconference-Lincoln site)  
Commissioner Dara Troutman (videoconference-Lincoln site)

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Harbaugh

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 and on the State and NET web sites.

Chairman Griffin called meeting #396 to order at 9:35 a.m.

Dennis Miller and Dr. Steve Titus were welcomed to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. Dennis replaces Paul McIntosh, representing community colleges and Steve replaces Dr. Fred Brown, representing private colleges.

After the call of the roll, the Secretary determined a duly constituted quorum of Commissioners to be present.

It was moved by Heil and seconded by Bretz to approve minutes of Meeting #395 as distributed. Roll call vote for approval of minutes #395 was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Doug Christensen	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- aye
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Dennis Miller	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- aye
Commissioner Steve Titus	- aye
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

The Chairman called for public comment. There was none.

UNO Television Manager Debbi Aliano reported on activities and programs at the UNO Television/Omaha Production Center. She indicated that UNO recently hired a new Academic

Dean, Dr. Gail Baker. Also, Andrea McMaster will replace Carole Schrader as host of *Consider This*.

Assistant General Manager-Content Development David Feingold reviewed activities of Nebraska public radio and television including future production activities. The radio news department recently received thirteen awards at the Nebraska Associated Press dinner in Grand Island. He also indicated that a new relationship involving trading news stories has been established with commercial radio KRVN stations in Lexington, West Point and Scottsbluff. Program sharing has also proceeded between NET radio and KIOS radio in Omaha. The NET productions of *Buffett and Gates Go Back to School* and Joel Sartore's *At Close Range: On Assignment with National Geographic* will be shown on PBS this fall. Live coverage of the David Hergert trial will air on NET 2, beginning May 8<sup>th</sup>.

AGM-Engineering Beach indicated that engineering is assisting the Marketing and Production departments in submitting two different grants. The first is from the USDA through the Rural Utility Service. This is a potential 100% federal grant to assist upgrading of the remaining seven TV translators in preparation for digital service prior to the February 17, 2009 end-of-NTSC date. The second is a matching grant from the CPB to build an HD Radio site. Application will be made to upgrade KUCV in the Lincoln market.

AGM-Engineering Beach and AGM-Content Development Feingold next reviewed the status of digital radio (HD radio). The Corporation for Public Broadcasting recently announced its intent to offer for the last time funding grants to assist NPR stations to migrate to HD radio (IBOC or digital radio). The grants are for 80% of the costs up to \$85,000. Previously NET has not pursued HD radio because of the cost and lack of receivers on the market. Although the deployment is slow, it is anticipated that the number of HD radio listeners will increase over the next few years. Therefore, NET management feels it would be wise to install one transmitter system with KUCV. The 20% match would come from the FY 07 radio capital budget that will be presented to NETC in the future. However, that budget approval will not happen until after the grant application is due. It was moved by Heil and seconded by Bretz that the Commission permit NET management to apply to the CPB for a grant to build out HD Radio capability in Lincoln with the understanding that matching funds will come from the FY 07 radio capital budget. Following discussion, an amendment was made to the motion to indicate that this item is an emergency agenda action item due to timing of application deadline. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Doug Christensen	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- aye
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Dennis Miller	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- aye
Commissioner Steve Titus	- aye
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

It was requested that a plan of financing implications be provided to Commissioners at the next NETC meeting.

AGM-Administration & Finance Randal Hansen reported that according to the Lease-Purchase Agreement between NETC and the NETC Facilities Corporation, the Commission should review

and approve on a periodic basis the acquisitions by the Facilities Corporation of structures, equipment, furnishings and related items for the DTV project. It was moved by Christensen and seconded by Carpenter that the Commission approve the acquisitions of items from January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 related to the DTV project totaling \$745,269. It is further recommended that the Commission approved pending acquisitions related to the DTV project, as represented by the listings of Outstanding Purchase Orders totaling \$223,255 and Outstanding Requisitions totaling \$575,742. Following discussion, roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Doug Christensen	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- aye
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Dennis Miller	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- aye
Commissioner Steve Titus	- aye
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget report for period ending March 31, 2006 for both the Television and Radio Divisions. Following discussion, it was moved by Heil and seconded by Troutman to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Doug Christensen	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- aye
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Dennis Miller	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- aye
Commissioner Steve Titus	- aye
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

Commissioner Bretz reviewed the revisions of the NETC By-laws as submitted to Commissioners by the Policy Subcommittee. It was moved by Bretz and seconded by Heil to approve adoption of the By-laws as presented. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Doug Christensen	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- aye
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Dennis Miller	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- aye
Commissioner Steve Titus	- aye
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

Secretary Bates presented information regarding LB 1208 and its implications to NETC. He next presented the following resolutions that were read by Chair Griffin:

WHEREAS J. Paul McIntosh was appointed to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications by Governor Mike Johanns on March 12, 1999 and reappointed by Governor Johanns for a second term in 2003 representing the Community Colleges and has combined and intensified that relationship for many years, and;

WHEREAS Paul McIntosh has served the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the NET Foundation for Television, NET Foundation for Radio and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications through those years in a variety of significant capacities and roles, and;

WHEREAS He has been a most effective Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commissioner during his term, and;

WHEREAS Paul has so effectively provided leadership to the Commission and the people of Nebraska by serving as Executive Committee Member in 2002, Vice Chairman in 2003 and Chairman in 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:

- Expresses its deepest and most sincere gratitude to J. Paul McIntosh for his continuous service to Nebraska educational and public telecommunications;
- Acknowledges with pride his artful advocacy, his loyal leadership, his personal persistence and his dynamic dedication in furtherance of Nebraska public telecommunications;
- Proudly recognizes his myriad contributions to the quantity and quality of program services now available to Nebraskans of all ages, background and statewide locations, and;
- Wishes both Paul McIntosh and his wife, good health, happy travels and Godspeed in the years ahead.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED in public meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

William T. Griffin  
Chair

Mary Harbaugh  
Vice-Chair

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WHEREAS Fred D. Brown was appointed to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications by Governor E. Benjamin Nelson on February 25, 1998 and reappointed by Governor Johanns for a second term in 2002 representing Private Educational Institutions as President of Doane College, Crete, Nebraska and has combined and intensified that relationship for many years, and;

WHEREAS Dr. Brown has served the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the NET Foundation for Television, NET Foundation for Radio and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications through those years in a variety of significant capacities and roles, and;

WHEREAS He has been a most effective Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commissioner during his term, and;

WHEREAS Dr. Brown has so effectively provided leadership to the Commission and the people of Nebraska by serving as Vice Chairman in 1999 and Chairman in 2000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:

- Expresses its deepest and most sincere gratitude to Fred D. Brown for his continuous service to Nebraska educational and public telecommunications;
- Acknowledges with pride his artful advocacy, his loyal leadership, his personal persistence and his dynamic dedication in furtherance of Nebraska public telecommunications;
- Proudly recognizes his myriad contributions to the quantity and quality of program services now available to Nebraskans of all ages, background and statewide locations, and;
- Wishes both Dr. Brown and his wife, good health, happy travels and Godspeed in the years ahead.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED in public meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

William T. Griffin  
Chair

Mary Harbaugh  
Vice-Chair

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WHEREAS The Nebraska Builders Award is given annually to individuals who have literally been "BUILDERS" of the University of Nebraska and/or the State of Nebraska, and;

WHEREAS Jack McBride was nominated and selected to be the recipient of this prestigious Nebraska Builders Award for 2006, and;

WHEREAS He has built one of the finest educational telecommunication systems in the world that has provided education and entertainment to the people of Nebraska, the Nation and the World, and;

WHEREAS The people throughout the State of Nebraska are indebted to this man for the magnitude of his contributions in "Building Nebraska and Building Our Future";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission hereby:

- Expresses its most heartfelt Congratulations to Jack McBride for his service to the University of Nebraska and the State of Nebraska, and;
- Acknowledges with pride that Jack McBride is a "builder" in every aspect of the word and truly deserves to receive this award and the honor that is bestowed on him. His name now joins the list of 107 people that have received this award since 1946 for being "Builders of Nebraska".

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED in public meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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William T. Griffin  
Chair

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Mary Harbaugh  
Vice-Chair

Commissioners unanimously approved resolutions.

Secretary Bates then introduced Barbara Landes, Chief Financial Officer at PBS. Following introductions of Commissioners, Barbara gave a brief presentation regarding the future of PBS and was then available for a question/answer period.

Commissioner Carpenter left the meeting at 11:25 am and Commissioner Titus at 11:33 am.

Chairman Griffin next called for new business. It was requested that Commissioners be polled regarding the possibility of changing meetings dates for September, November and December.

The Chairman called for old business. There was none.

The next NETC meeting will be a regular meeting to be held June 22, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, meeting #396 adjourned at 12:00, Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates,  
Secretary  
Enclosures