

Meeting #399  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center  
1800 No. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
September 6, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioner Stan Carpenter  
Commissioner Doug Christensen  
Commissioner Bill Griffin  
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh  
Commissioner John Heil  
Commissioner Dennis Miller  
Commissioner Steve Titus  
Commissioner Dara Troutman

ABSENT: Commissioner Randy Bretz  
Commissioner Ann Pickel

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. LB 898 (related to Open Meetings Act) is also posted in the NET Board Room on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and NVCN Conference Room on 4<sup>th</sup> floor at NET.

Chairman Griffin called meeting #399 to order at 9:35 a.m.

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

It was moved by Christensen and seconded by Harbaugh to approve minutes of Meeting #398 dated August 3, 2006. Roll call vote for approval of minutes #398 was recorded as follows:

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

The Chairman called for public comment. There was none.

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen presented a list of older and obsolete capital assets. The list represents capital assets which have not been located during the last two physical inventories and which have been identified by the staff as capital assets that have previously been or should be surplus as of 6/30/06. Discussion followed. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Christensen that the Commission approve the write off capital assets totaling \$2,493,785.83 with

an accumulated depreciation balance of \$2,480,686.46 as of June 30, 2006. This will result in a "Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets" totaling \$13,099.37 in the June 30, 2006 Statement of Operations.

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

AGM-Administration & Finance Hansen next reviewed the Commission's Biennial Budget Requests for FY 2008 & 2009 which is due at the State of Nebraska no later than September 15, 2006. It was moved by Heil and seconded by Harbaugh to approve the following: 1) the FY 2008 & 2009 biennial budget operating request of \$10,212,850 for FY 2008 and \$10,491,218 for FY 2009, including Continuation Requests totaling \$195,620 for FY 2008 and \$147,730 in FY 2009, plus New Requests totaling \$243,467 for FY 2008 and \$374,105 for FY 2009; 2) the FY 2008 & 2009 Biennial Budget Modifications totaling \$917,531 for FY 2008 and \$1,195,899 for FY 2009; 3) the Capital Construction Reaffirmations Request totaling \$7,538,671 for FY 2008 and FY 2009, respectively; 4) the Capital Construction New Project Requests totaling \$7,280,660, which would include new State funding requests of \$1,629,000 for FY 2008 and \$1,115,205 for FY 2009; and 5) submittal to the NITC of the Project Proposal Forms for the following Capital Construction Projects: final DTV Transmitter Conversion Project, Satellite Reconfiguration Project, Public Media at the Capital Project and Public Media Archive and Distribution Project (requests attached to the minutes). Following discussion, roll call vote was recorded as follows:

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

Secretary Rod Bates introduced Jeff Beckman who was recently hired as the Executive Director/NET Foundations. Jeff presented background information regarding his education and previous employment positions. Commissioners welcomed Jeff as a new staff member of NET.

Secretary Bates next indicated that he recently received a resignation from AGM Engineering Michael Beach who has accepted a position at IntelSat in Atlanta, GA. Mike will begin his employment at IntelSat September 29. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mike for the outstanding work that he has done for NET the past 8 ½ years and wished him well in the future.

The Secretary announced that after review and analysis, PBS completed the evaluation for the proposals in response to the Next Generation Interconnection System RFP for the Disaster Recovery Site and has selected Nebraska Educational Telecommunications as the entity that best matched all the requirements established in the RFP.

He also indicated that NETC has been selected to receive a grant of \$294,950 under the USDA Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program administered by the Rural Development Utilities Programs.

UNO's Television Engineering Service Manager Frank Vacek reported on activities of UNO including the progress of the Madagascar document. He also indicated that KVNO has recently received a \$75,000 grant from CPB.

Commissioner Carpenter left the meeting at 10:50 A.M.

Assistant General Manager-Content David Feingold reviewed activities of Nebraska public radio and television. He also indicated that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has awarded NET Radio an \$80,000 matching grant to add digital broadcasting streams to KUCV in Lincoln. In addition, CPB has accepted NET Radio's 2006 Rural Listener Access Incentive Fund Bonus application and awarded them a \$44,600 grant. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has presented a \$1.6 million International Polar Year grant for the production of a new one-hour high definition documentary for NOVA on PBS. The first phase of production has been completed by visiting the international team of scientists in Antarctica last October. In addition to the NOVA production, the NSF grant will fund a major national outreach campaign coordinated by the UNL State Museum and partnered with national 4-H and small museums across the nation. A public affairs documentary series gets underway in October with a new documentary *Nelson vs Ricketts* "Nebraska Senate Race", scheduled for broadcast on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm.

Chairman Griffin called for old business. There was none.

Chairman Griffin next called for new business. Commissioner Miller requested that the Western Nebraska Community College Trustees be invited to have one of their meetings at NET to promote a greater awareness of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications.

The next NETC meeting will be a videoconference meeting to be held on Thursday, October 26.

There being no further business, meeting #399 adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates,  
Secretary

(Attachment)