Ohio | Broadcast Educational Media Commission

Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Minutes
2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221
February 6, 2014

I. Opening

11:17 a.m.; Commission Chair Mark Filippell opened the Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) meeting.

II. Roll Call

11:17 a.m.; Coordinator, Sue Price, conducted roll call.

Members Present: Chairman Mark Filippell; Commissioner Stephen Black, Commissioner Designee John Conley; Commissioner Stephen Freeze; Commissioner Bruce Hawkins; Commissioner John McClelland; and Commissioner Jan Osborn.

Members Absent: Commissioner John Carey; Commissioner E. Gordon Gee; Commissioner Cliff Hite; Commissioner Richard Ross; and Commissioner George Sarantou, Commissioner Skindell; and Commissioner Steiner.

Also present: Executive Director Richard E. May; Broadcast Manager Dave Johnson; Coordinator Sue Price; Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Bondurant; and interested citizens.

Mrs. Price declared a quorum present.

III. Resolution 14-19: Acceptance of January 9, 2014 Minutes

11:18 a.m.; Mr. Hawkins moved and Dr. Osborn seconded to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2014 Commission Meeting.

AYES:	Mr. Filippell, Mr. Black, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Dr. Osborn.
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

IV. Executive Director's Report

1. Mr. May expressed appreciation to the Commission and attendees for their condolences and various flowers received after the recent loss of his father. As well, explained Laura Bryson was not present because she was attending a family funeral.

2. Reminded Commissioners of upcoming 2013 financial disclosure filings and ethics training requirements.

3. Provided a short update on capital funding, closing by encouraging the Commissioners to communicate with legislators in support of BEMC projects.

4. Referencing preliminary policy drafts emailed to Commissioners on February 4th, Mr. May stated monumental progress is being made and expressed hope for submission of a complete set of drafted policies by the March meeting. Ms. Bondurant elaborated that union-related policies shall comply with State of Ohio negotiated policy, as they must, and there is no latitude for change.

5. Provided a short update on multi-media grants funded by the General Assembly and distributed through BEMC on a quarterly basis to affiliates: Applications were sent out two weeks ago. BEMC's deadline for approval evaluations is the end of February, after which funds will be sent out.

6. Reported OSU is unwilling to transfer ownership of the North Star property to BEMC, citing a legacy issue of the property being OSU's original farm and referring to the property as being a "crown jewel" of OSU. Consequently, BEMC is back to renegotiating the lease, pushing for either a cost reduction or provision of additional services.

7. Referencing the budget handout, expressed a need to review the budget with BEMC's OBM financial consultant. Referencing open capital funds on page two, stated that BEMC plans to request available funds be carried over into FY15.

8. Referencing East Central Ohio's ESC Director Michele Carlisle's January 9th video conferencing presentation and after confirming with Ms. Bondurant the legality of proceeding without a commission vote, Mr. May informed the Commission BEMC will join the Ohio Distance Learning Association.

(Mr. Rafeld arrived at 11:25 a.m.)

V. Presentation by Dan Shellenbarger, Director Ohio Government Television (OGT)

Presenting an overview of OGT's operations, staffing level and services, Mr. Shellenbarger delivered a Power-Point presentation (Mr. Shellenbarger's PowerPoint presentation is attached, in lieu of notes in these minutes.)

VI. Presentation by Karen Kasler, Bureau Chief of Statehouse News Bureau

Ms. Kasler presented an overview of Statehouse News Bureau's operations and services, referencing two attached handouts.

VII. Presentation by Sandy Turner, Director of Columbus' VOICE Radio Reading Service

Presenting an overview of VOICE RRS' funding sources and community services provided to reading-impaired Ohio citizens, (Ms. Turner's presentation notes are attached, in lieu of notes in these minutes.)

VIII. Resolution FY14-20: Authorization of $50,000.00 Spending Authority to BEMC Director Richard E. May

(12:41 p.m.; Resolution was temporarily tabled until resolution language could be retrieved.)

(Mr. Rafeld left 12:56 p.m.)

IX. Resolution FY14-21: Contract for John Luff's Services & Request Controlling Board Release of Capital Funds

Referencing a December meeting presentation and proposal to utilize remaining $2.8M capital funds for proceeding with "Central Casting", Mr. May outlined the process for having conducted a candidate search via a State Term Schedule vendor, through which three candidates were identified, in addition to candidate John Luff, who had previously been contracted by our affiliated broadcast stations for two preliminary studies. In reviewing all resumes, BEMC has identified candidate John Luff as the most qualified candidate and recommends hiring Mr. Luff as a consultant for this project. If approved by the conclusion, on Tuesday, February 24th, BEMC will request the release of capital funds in the amount of $70,000.00 for hiring the consultant for a time period of (15) months. Hopefully, BEMC will have an executed contract and purchase order in place for Mr. Luff to start the first or second week of March.

Mr. Luff subsequently spoke to the Commissioners, outlining his plan for implementation of the system upgrade, including visits to affiliate sites and developing workflow plans, and responding to questions from the Commission.

1:01 p.m.; Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Black seconded to contract with Mr. John Luff for services and move onto the Controlling Board for funding.

AYES:	Mr. Filippell, Mr. Black, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Dr. Osborn.
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

X. Resolution FY14-20: The Broadcast Educational Media Commission hereby delegates authority to the Executive Director to: (1) take all steps necessary to conduct the Commission's day-to-day business, including authority for routine transactions necessary for day-to-day operations requiring encumbering documents,

vouchers, purchase orders, or other routine spending documents, (2) distribute subsidies, and (3) execute agreements involving expenditures up to $50,000.00.
Returning to a resolution for spending authority resolution, at 1:02 p.m. Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Black seconded.

AYES: Mr. Filippell, Mr. Black, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Dr. Osborn.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

XI. New Business

Referencing an exciting project shared in a phone call with Mr. Dave Carwile in his role as OETS Administrator, Mr. May asked Mr. Carwile to give a quick summary of a proposal that would involve BEMC and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Starting with a quick review of how a digital TV signal could be split into multiple channels, Mr. Carwile explained that the Ohio Public TV stations had submitted an application to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting early last year to participate in an emergency messaging grant program.

eTech Ohio agency had been listed as participant in the proposal with the role of providing the fiber interconnection between the Ohio EMA headquarters and the individual TV stations. The EMA would provide the emergency messaging as a data stream to the stations through North Star. The stations would then incorporate it into their signals, directed to special media and first responder receivers around the state. As the federal government moves to the distribution of emergency messaging by the internet, the Ohio project would offer a national model for a redundant data path that could not be hacked.

Mr. Carwile explained that the application for $300,000 had not been funded, but he had just been contacted again by CPB about the possibility of additional funding that could revive the proposal. Mr. Carwile indicated he was in the process of contacting all of the participants to determine the viability of the project and would share that information with BEMC leadership.

XII. Resolution FY14-22: Adjournment

1:08 p.m.; Mr. Freeze moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to close the meeting.

AYES: Mr. Filippell, Mr. Black, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Dr. Osborn.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mark Filippell, Chair
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

March 6, 2014
Date