



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission
Commission Meeting via Zoom
November 05, 2020**

I. **Call to Order:** At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Robert Smith opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

A. **Roll Call:** At 10:05 a.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

Members Present:

Chairman Robert Smith
Commissioner Geoffrey Andrews
Commissioner Matt Dole
Commissioner Rex Elsass
Commissioner Stephen Freeze, Esq.
Commissioner Christine Merritt
Commissioner Dr. Charles Osborn
Designee Charles See
Designee Shaun Yoder
Non-Voting State Representative Catherine Ingram

Members Absent:

Commissioner Stephen Black
Non-Voting State Representative Dave Greenspan
Non-Voting State Senator Teresa Fedor
Non-Voting State Senator Michael Rulli

A quorum was declared.

Also Present:

Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;
Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone;
Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Craig Stevenson;
Chief Information Officer Laura Bryson;
Chief Financial Officer Alina Gage;
interested citizens:
David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;
Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;
Mark Brewer, General Manager of WOUB;
Kitty Lensman, President and General Manager of WPTD/WCET/WPTO;
Joseph Soza, Legislative Aide to Senator Teresa Fedor;

Meira Zucker
Noah Blundo, Reporter with Hannah News;
and David Stein, Video Services Manager, Licking Area Computer Association.

B. Commission Action Items:

1. Commissioner Andrew was sworn in at 10:01 a.m. for a new term by Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone.
2. Commissioner Rex Elsass was sworn in at 10:03 by Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone. She clarified that Mr. Elsass met the requirement with the notarized oath returned to BEMC prior to his first meeting.

Resolution 21-12: Motion to Approve September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

10:08 a.m. – Mr. Freeze moved for approval of the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Andrews seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote / thumbs up.

3. Chairman Smith asked the commission to participate in Implicit Bias training. Mr. Andrews shared that the MCOECN spent time on implicit bias training and echoed the emphasis on its importance. Rep. Ingram asked what we do with it after we complete the training. Chairman Smith responded that a debrief at the next meeting should occur.

II. Finance

A. November 2020 Financial Statement

1. Mrs. Gage provided an overview of the November 2, 2020 financial statement. This highlighted the spent and remaining funds. Mrs. Gage said the agency is on track for expected spending.
2. Mrs. Gage explained the FY22-23 operating budget and FY21-22 capital budget remain undecided. BEMC's OBM analyst says that no decision is expected soon, and no further details were offered.
3. OBM allowed for restoration of 50% of the FY21 set-aside funds. This amounted to \$741,381.00 of which \$488,928 was restored to multi-media projects, \$228,464.64 was restored to television and radio, with the remainder, or \$24,188.36 restored to radio reading services. The television, radio, and radio reading service funds have been distributed.
 - a. Mr. Freeze asked how the funds were distributed.
 - b. Mrs. Gage provided details about the amounts given to each subsidy type and how stations were allocated reinstatement funds. Mr. Phillips added the funds were restored according to the allocation formula previously established by the commission.
4. Mr. Phillips informed the commission about the pending Montgomery County land sale and providing a history of how the land came to be owned by the State due to the failure of a TV venture in the Dayton area. BEMC now uses the OARNet fiber

system rendering the need for these parcels and towers obsolete. In 2017, the commission authorized Mr. Phillips to work with DAS to sell the property. DAS is expecting an auction for a Tower site in Marion County to occur in 2021. At the Montgomery County site there is a gas line on the property. BEMC would be paid approximately \$7,600 for a new 15-year easement. Sale of the tower to Greater Dayton Public Television is set for \$1. Chairman Smith verified that the funds would go to a non-GRF fund. Mr. Phillips validated that. Mr. Freeze was formerly a director for Public Media Connect (umbrella structure over Greater Dayton Public Television) but has since completed his term and has no conflict voting of issues related to the sale.

Resolution 21-13: Motion to Authorize Executive Director to Act on Montgomery County Land

10:30 a.m. – Mr. Osborn made a motion to allow the Executive Director to proceed with finalizing the sale of land in Montgomery County by agreeing to the terms of an Easement between Department of Administrative Services and Tait Electric Generating Station, LLC for \$7,600.00 and a real estate purchase agreement between Department of Administrative Services and the Greater Dayton Public Television, Inc. for the purchase of the property for one dollar and make any necessary adjustments after review by the Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Andrews seconded. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

III. Policy and Procedure Update Recommendations

A. Mr. Andrews spoke about the recommended updated to the Equal Employment Opportunity / Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment; Workplace Violence Prevention; Weapon & Alcohol/Drug/Smoke-Free Workplace; and Vehicle Use policies. These updates reflect executive orders from the governor’s office or policy updates from DAS.

1. AAG Ms. Barbone provided details on the policies. EEO was per governor’s executive order 2019-05D expanding class of protected peoples. Workplace Violence was due to governor’s executive order offering guidance to agencies on domestic violence matters. BEMC did not have a policy, so it was added to the Workplace Violence policy. Drug-free policy was updated per DAS HR policy and OSU property rules. Vehicle Use policy updated per DAS policy on distracted driving.

Resolution 21-14: Motion to Approve Policy Updates

10:37 a.m. – Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the Policy & Procedure recommended updates to the four (4) policies in III.A. Mr. Freeze seconded. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

IV. Distance Learning in Midst of COVID-19

A. Adjustments to Distance Learning

1. Ms. Bryson gave an update on distance learning and BEMC adjustments. As of July 1, 2020 BEMC is connecting all K-12 schools via Zoom, which allowed BEMC to turn down the hardware bridges. Elimination of the DAS infrastructure support and vendor licensing resulted in a \$56,000 savings.
2. Mr. Yoder spoke about the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) initiative RemotEDx and how it evolved since the last commission meeting. A slide show was shared showing a map of school districts and the educational delivery model employed. He stated this model is going in the wrong direction due to COVID-19. RemotEDx seeks to enhance, expand, and scale the quality of remote education. It is comprised of members of all aspects involved in remote learning. Mr. Freeze asked how the \$15 million in CARES funds was allocated. Mr. Yoder responded that the CARES funds are specifically devoted to remote education. Mr. Andrews offered that \$50 million provided early in the year went directly to schools. Mr. Yoder resumed with the goals of RemotEDx: support schools, transforming learning to support whole child wellness, and reimagining how education is delivered long-term. The four primary components were shared: Connectivity Champions, The Exchanges, Support squad, and the Learning Network. A public-private partnership was formed to provide a \$5,000,000 grant to schools and districts. Microgrants for whole child support is pending. Another microgrant was created to increase in-demand industry training and certificates and should be ready in December for a RFP. Mr. Freeze asked how "remote" is defined. Mr. Yoder replied that it is any education experience that happens outside of the traditional classroom. Mr. Freeze followed with questions about content and grade-level support. Mr. Yoder responded that RemotEDx does not dictate content and it fully supports K-12.

B. MCOECN Connectivity Champions

1. Mr. Andrews shared a map showing connectivity and device access as of May 2020 which highlighted lack of access. Connectivity Champions are working with schools, districts, and families to find all the students that cannot connect. So far, the team has fielded 1,040 requests and completed 717.

C. Multi-Media Topics for FY21

1. Ms. Bryson shared the topics for Ohio Public Television Stations' FY 21 multi-media projects, which have been approved by ODE. Several stations have chosen social-emotional learning and remote/blended learning. 11 projects including other topics will be created.

V. Staff Reports and Miscellaneous Updates

1. Mr. Stevenson gave a broadcasting update. Michael Johnson started on Oct 12, 2021 and is doing well. Operations has maintained 99.9% accuracy on Ohio Public TV stations receiving services from BEMC's Joint Master Control over the last 3 weeks.

The week prior it was 100%. BEMC was involved with passing through Ohio Election reports from Karen Kasler to PBS Newshour for the presidential election news coverage. Additional interconnections occurred during election night.

2. Mr. Phillips added that the location for the next meeting is undecided. The authority to conduct the meeting virtually expires on 12/31/2020.

VI. **Adjournment:**

Resolution 21-15: Motion for Adjournment

11:21 a.m. - Mr. Andrews moved to adjourn. Mr. Elsass seconded. The adjournment motion passed via hearing no dissension.



Robert C. Smith, Chairman
Broadcast Educational Media Commission



Date