



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

1120 SW Fifth Ave. #1305 • Portland, OR 97204

Phone: (503) 823-5385 • Fax (503) 823-5370

Email: www.mhcrc.org

Serving Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale and Wood Village

MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Portland Community Media, Studio A

April 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes -- **APPROVED**

SUMMARY MINUTES

MINUTES AS APPROVED AT THE MAY 18, 2009 MHCRC MEETING.

Call to Order: 6:30pm

1. Roll Call.

Commissioners present: Norman Thomas (Chair), Rich Goheen, Tim Clark, Sue Dicile, Bill June, John Kilian, Alan Alexander (6:34pm) and Andrea Cano.

Commissioners absent: none.

Staff: David C. Olson, Director; Mary Beth Henry, Deputy Director; Julie S. Omelchuck, Program Manger; Ben Walters, Legal Counsel; Rebecca Gibbons, Program Specialist.

2. Agenda Review: none.

3. Disclosures: Kilian disclosed speaking with Sanford Inouye, Comcast, about Kilian's in informing his patients about Comcast's advertised job opportunities.

4. Public Comment: none.

5. March 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dicile moved to approve the March 16, 2009 meeting minutes. Cano seconded.

DISCUSSION: none.

VOTE: 7-0 passed.

Alexander arrived: 6:34pm

6. Authorize I-Net Fund Expenditure for Edge Devices on I-Net

Omelchuck said, referring to the materials contained in the meeting packet, staff recommends that the Commission approve up to \$500,000 from the I-Net Capital Fund to support capital costs related to provisioning and installing upgraded edge devices at current I-Net user sites.

Omelchuck said the current edge devices are beyond end-of-life; the majority of which were purchased in 2003. Omelchuck said the 2006 I-Net Stakeholder assessment indicated increase bandwidth availability was a high priority of schools and libraries and the economy is pressuring public agencies to provide increased bandwidth at the same or lower costs. Omelchuck said staff, Comcast and ComNet have reached agreement on the technical specifications and the

manner in which the devices will get provisioned and installed at current stakeholder sites. Omelchuck said a summary of the recommendation, prepared by Brian Nordlund of Sparling, was also included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: June moved to approve up to \$500,000 from the I-Net Capital Fund to support capital costs related to provisioning and installing upgraded edge devices at current I-Net user sites. Alexander seconded.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from Kilian regarding equipment life span, Omelchuck said the life expectancy for the old equipment was between 3-5 years. Alexander said the Commission should expect the same for the new equipment.

VOTE: 8-0 passed.

7. Staff Activity Reports

- Verizon Franchise Update: Omelchuck said Deede has reported that Verizon will likely miss the benchmark for Standard Installations 1st Quarter 2009 per the Customer Service Standards. Omelchuck said staff will provide Verizon a non-compliance letter to initiate a cure period.
- Final Order on Verizon Violation: Omelchuck said Order 2009-01 was submitted for discretionary review by the City of Gresham. The City of Gresham discussed the Order and the violation in a work session and decided not to exercise discretionary review.
- Comcast Telephone Answering Statistics: Omelchuck said staff issued a non-compliance letter to Comcast for failure to meet 1st Quarter 2009 telephone answering statistic. Omelchuck said Comcast's response was included in the meeting packet.
- FCC/Legislative Developments: Henry said staff has been working to block HB 2405, the preemptive bill sponsored by Verizon, introduced in the Oregon State Legislative session. Henry thanked Thomas, Brading and McDaniel for their efforts to block the bill. Henry said that instead of going forward to the House floor for vote, the bill was sent back to Committee. Henry said there is a Committee hearing on Wednesday. Henry said the legal advisors to the Legislature were asked to give opinion as to whether the bill would impact franchise fees and whether the bill would impact the ability of local governments to manage the right-of-way and the answer was a resounding 'possible'.
- MHCRC Budget FY09-10: Omelchuck said staff has scheduled the MHCRC's budget on the Council/Board agendas for the east county Jurisdictions.
- Competitive Grant Review Process and Timeline: Omelchuck said staff received 22 grant applications by the deadline. Omelchuck said the panel is in the process of preparing its written comment reports and that staff anticipates getting the review panel comments and grants to Commissioners by about May 8. Omelchuck said the Commission would make its preliminary funding decisions at the May meeting.
- Other: none.

8. Committee Reports

- Finance Committee: Thomas said the Committee is scheduled to meet May 6 and the Commission should expect a recommendation at the May meeting.

- Community Needs Ascertainment Committee: Dicile said an RFP for a Community Technology Needs & Interests Ascertainment consultant was release and applications are due May 7.
- Grant Evaluation Committee: none.
- I-Net Liaison: none.
- PCM Liaison: Dicile said PCM is undergoing significant staffing and organizational change and that she hopes Sylvia McDaniel will highlight these in her report.
- MetroEast Liaison: Clark said MetroEast is in the midst of making difficult budget decisions.

9. New Business; Commissioner Open Comment

Thomas noted the upcoming meeting calendar.

10. Franchisee Activity Report

Comcast: Inouye said Comcast Cares Day is scheduled for April 25. Inouye said six sites have been selected to participate: Greater Hands on Portland; James John Elementary School; Hacienda Community Development Corporation; Bikes for Kids; Marcum Nature Park; Oregon Humane Society; and Hoyt Arboretum. Inouye said he is confident Comcast will exceed the telephone answering standard during the cure period and beyond. Inouye said Comcast continues efforts to migrate all standard service customers to the digital service with the roll out of digital converter boxes. Inouye said Comcast is close to completing zone 4 of 6 zones. Inouye said SW Portland will migrate in mid-May and East Portland will migrate in mid-June. Inouye said customers are receiving 70-days advance notice of the migration.

Verizon: Deede said he met with staff earlier today on the customer service requirements of the franchise. Deede said Verizon has taken steps to improve on its service installation times which have fallen below the standard for a second quarter. Deede said Verizon has seen a recent spike in new service orders. Deede said Verizon is due to submit its 1st quarter customer service report on April 30. Deede said Verizon is running a popular promotion that offers a \$150 Visa gift card to new subscribers and a triple play package for \$99.

Cascade Access: Omelchuck said service has not been activated yet.

11. PEG Provider Activity Report

McDaniel said PCM held a successful Volunteer and Producer Appreciation event. McDaniel said Rivka Sadarangani is leaving PCM to return to her native country, India. McDaniel said PCM's public hours have been reduced to 32 hours/week due to budget cuts. McDaniel said PCM has been able to move forward with some cosmetic updates to the facility. McDaniel said the Alliance Community Media group will be using the Annex for classes during the conference this year.

Brading said MetroEast held a successful Volunteer Appreciation event. Brading thanked his staff for stepping up in a challenging budget year.

In response to a question from Kilian regarding hours open to the public, Brading said MetroEast has not cut back on its hours but has cut back on the number of staff available to the public during certain hours.

12. Public Comment: none.

Adjourn: 7:08pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Gibbons
Program Specialist