



Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hybrid – Zoom and MetroEast

January 26, 2026 REGULAR Meeting Minutes – **APPROVED**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Call to Order 6:30 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Chair DeGraw; Vice Chair Harden; Commissioner Butt; Commissioner Dennerline; Commissioner Thomas; Commissioner Underdahl; Commissioner Wagner

Absent (excused): Commissioner Goodlow

Staff: Seema Kumar, BPS Chief of Community Technology; Andrew Speer, Franchise Utility Program Manager; Rana DeBey, MHCRC Community Grants Manager; Laura Dyer, MHCRC Compliance Analyst; Douglas Imaralu, MHCRC Financial Analyst; Kevin Block, Policy Coordinator; Kathleen Lefebvre, MHCRC Administrative Specialist

- Agenda Review: Chair DeGraw reviews the agenda for the evening.
- Disclosures: None.
- Public Comment (non-agenda items): No public comment on non-agenda items.
- Community Media Center Updates
 - MetroEast – John Lugton, MetroEast’s Director of Production Services, shared updates with the Commission which included a technology update in edit room four, which will be the YouTube studio which is a response to MetroEast’s community needs assessment. John also shared that MetroEast is working with three Gresham Middle Schools assisting with technology upgrades. John shared other program collaborations including Free Geek and Underscore News. On the production side of updates, John shared that MetroEast is working with Quest Integrative, Reynolds School District, and League of Women Voters. David Bram Elkin gave a technology update which included upgrades to Studio B and David noted that MetroEast is embarking on building upgrades which include the HVAC system and the bathrooms.
 - Open Signal – Courtney Rae, Open Signal’s Director of Growth, shared updates with the Commission which included that Community Media activity remains strong shown by Open Signal’s production classes are at capacity with waitlists. Courtney also shared that their Youth Media Program is producing a documentary on the Lloyd Center. Courtney shared that Open Signal continues to host public events that create space for dialogue, learning, and connection among community media makers. Courtney highlights that in January Open Signal hosted a very successful Signal Share event, titled *Strategy-Led Storytelling*. Courtney noted that for their production services





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department, the public and government meetings continue to be the primary focus. Courtney emphasized that Open Signal remains focused on maintaining access, strengthening programs, and aligning internal systems to support the community media ecosystem Open Signal serves.

- Franchisee Activity Report:
Comcast – Tim Goodman reports that Comcast is going through a major reorganization within the Government and Community Affairs division. He notes that the company reorganization will not impact MHCRC. Tim notes that he will include more updates during the agenda item R4.

***CONSENT AGENDA – NO DISCUSSION**

All items listed below may be enacted by one motion and approved as consent agenda items. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately if a member of the Commission so requests.

C1. December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the consent agenda. Chair DeGraw seconded.

VOTE: 7-0 passed

REGULAR AGENDA

R1. MHCRC Dissolution Updates – (information only)

Chair DeGraw notes that Autumn Carter is in attendance for questions and invites Seema Gadh Kumar, Chief of Community Technology, to present. Gadh Kumar shares that the Dissolution Agreement, which formally dissolves the MHCRC on June 30, 2026, is currently under consideration for signature by all jurisdictions. MHCRC staff will share the fully executed Agreement with the Commission once all requisite signatures have been obtained.

Mark Campbell, the financial analyst subcontracted by NEX Strategies to conduct the PEG vs. Franchise Fee analysis, is expected to deliver a draft report to MHCRC staff by late January/early February. MHCRC staff will review the draft and work with Mark Campbell and NEX Strategies to finalize it. Mark Campbell and NEX Strategies will present the report's findings and answer questions during the March 2026 MHCRC Regular Meeting.

Gadh Kumar notes that jurisdictions are still negotiating the terms of a Post-MHCRC IGA. The primary focus is ensuring that community technology grants are managed and outstanding PEG advances through the current fiscal year remain in compliance. Once the Post-MHCRC IGA is finalized, MHCRC staff will keep the Commission informed.

Discussion: Commissioner Butt requests more information on the period analyzed of the PEG Vs. Franchise Fee report, and Gadh Kumar notes that Mark Campbell will be reporting on approximately 10 years of historical PEG vs. Franchise Fee budget analysis. Commissioner Thomas expresses his appreciation for the update.





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***R2. Preliminary Funding Decisions: 2026 Community Technology Grants**

Chair DeGraw notes that five Commissioners participated in the preliminary round of grant reviews and emphasizes that only Commissioners who completed the grant reviews will be able to participate in the grant review discussion. Additionally, those who did not participate in the reviews will need to abstain when voting.

Chair DeGraw reminds everyone that the vote tonight is to move applications forward in the process, this is not a yes or no on funding, as will happen at the March and May Regular Meetings.

Chair DeGraw invites Rana DeBey, Community Technology Grant Manager, to present. Rana DeBey presents to Commissioners the 2026 Community Technology Grants (CTG) preliminary review and the suite selection document, sharing that there are 34 applications with a budget of \$1 million and confirmed that no contingency funds are available. DeBey shares her screen with the scoring and suite selection summary, a document structured to help Commissioners decide on grantee awards. All 34 grant applications met the grant criteria. The Commission will decide on which of the 34 pre-applications they would like to invite to complete a full application for funding, and those invited will come back for funding approval at the March or May Regular Meeting.

Discussion: Chair DeGraw appreciates the scoring document and the ease of digesting all the applicants' scoring.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moves to approve and forward the applications for funding consideration those grantees that scored a 5 on the suite selection document (Outside the Frame; Oregon Rohingya Myanmar Muslim Society; African Youth and Community Society; Portland Community College; 1 World Chorus; Thru and Thru; Curious Comedy Club; All Ages Music dba Friends of Noise; PSU Community Archiving; Loco Por la Aventura; Community for Positive Aging; Polliwog Props; and Open Hearts Open Minds), and the first four grantees on the suite selection document who scored a 4 (ELSO, Inc; Hacienda CDC; KairosPDX; and Lion Speaks) for a total of \$994,033.76. Plus, the alternate grantees will be: Global Works Community Fund, dba Wonderfolk; Lloyd EcoDistrict; Wisdom of the Elders, Inc; Caldera; and CETI. Chair DeGraw seconded.

VOTE: 5 - YES

2 – Abstain (Dennerline, Underdahl)

0 – NO

Passed

***R3. Updates on MHCRC Ceremony of Appreciation**

Chair DeGraw invites Rana DeBey to present. DeBey shares that in acknowledgement of the years of service and community impact of the Commission, staff intends to host a Ceremony of Appreciation for Commissioners in May 2026. The ceremony will be held prior to the May 2026 Regular meeting at MetroEast Community Media. Community members, community media center partners, jurisdictional representatives, staff, and grantees will be invited to attend. The ceremony will include:

- Highlights of the Commission's work
- Appreciations
- Sharing video content produced by grantees with grant-funding





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- Certificate presentation to Commissioners

Staff are requesting up to \$3,000 in Commission funds to be used for catering, items of appreciation for Commissioners, and miscellaneous event supplies such as decorations, name tags, etc. These funds are already included in the Commission budget.

Discussion: Chair DeGraw highlights that Staff have sent an email requesting Commissioners let Staff know who they would like to invite and to please fill out that form. Chair DeGraw emphasizes that this is the Commission's moment to celebrate our work and accomplishments.

MOTION: Commissioner Wagner moves to approve up to \$3000 budget on MHCRC Ceremony of Appreciation event expenses. Vice Chair Harden seconds.

Vote: 7-0 Passed

R4. I-Net End Fund grantmaking update (information only)

Chair DeGraw invites Kristi Manseth from Pacific Research & Evaluation (PRE) and Tim Goodman from Comcast to present. This agenda item is to present the community benefits of the I-NET program.

Tim Goodman gives an overview and the history of I-Net End Fund.

Kristi Manseth, PRE, shared the impact of the I-Net funding in the community, and highlighted that the data show a reduction in digital inequities within East Multnomah County.

Discussion: Vice Chair Harden shares his experience with I-Net Funds and how important this work is in the Communities it serves. Commissioner Thomas notes that this program has exceeded expectations and expressed appreciation for the program. Chair DeGraw expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Staff Activity

- Dissolution Planning Update – Andrew Speer notes that Staff are working together on administrative tasks to dissolve the Commission and will report to the Commission during Staff Activity any updates on this work. Speer also shares that Staff are working with NEX Strategies with communicating the dissolution actions and plans out to constituents.
- Consumer Protection Report – Laura Dyer shares the Consumer Protection Report, details are included in the packet materials.
- Legislative Activity Report – Kevin Block gives an updated legislative activity report. Kevin emailed Commissioners the docket numbers referenced in his report. Currently there are 3 ongoing federal actions that Kevin recommended that Commissioners flag for their jurisdictions:





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- [HR 2289 – Proportional Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act](#) – This bill is currently waiting to be scheduled for a full House vote.
- FCC Docket 25-253 – This docket seeks to preempt local control over the deployment of **wireline** infrastructure
- FCC Docket 25-276 – This docket seeks to preempt local control over the deployment of **wireless** infrastructure

Kevin noted that NATOA is leading advocacy regarding HR 2289 and the League of Oregon Cities is leading advocacy for the FCC dockets.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – none.
- Equity Committee – none.
- Policy Committee – none.
- Open Signal Board Appointee – Chair DeGraw reported on the recent Board meeting.
- MetroEast Board Appointee – Commissioner Dennerline reported on the recent Board meeting.

New Business/Open Comment – none

Public Comment – No public comment on agenda items.

***Denotes a voting item**

Adjourned: 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Lefebvre

