



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION
Annual Planning Retreat
McMenamins Edgefield, Troutdale, OR 97060
February 24, 2018 Retreat Minutes –[APPROVED](#)

SUMMARY MINUTES

MINUTES AS APPROVED AT THE APRIL MHCRC MEETING.

Called to order: 10:00am

- Roll Call
Commissioners Present: Leif Hansen (Chair), Carol Studenmund, Sue Dicile, Mike Bennett, Scott Harden, Rich Goheen

Commissioners Absent: Norm Thomas

Staff in attendance: Ann Goldenberg, Staff Director; Julie Omelchuck, Program Manager; Scott Ellertson, Program Coordinator; Maja Haium, Legal Counsel

Other: Paula Manley, Facilitator; Marc Farrar, Comcast

Retreat Goals:

- Develop a shared understanding of recent developments in the communications technology and policy landscape and their implications for the Commission
- Learn about the TechSmart Initiative School Year 2016-17 Evaluation
- Develop and understand the Commission's 4-year roadmap of key milestones, priorities and resources
- Provide an opportunity for Commissioners and staff to get to know each other and strengthen working relationships
- Revisit the Commission's operating agreements and meeting protocols

Recent Developments in the Communications Technology and Policy Landscape

Commissioners and staff discussed communications technology trend, including convergence of technology and companies; legislative activity at the federal and state levels of legislative; 5G and smaller area coverage devices ("small cells") and related fiber infrastructure; consumer protections in broadband services (net neutrality; web scale companies' privacy issues); local citizen-driven municipal broadband advocacy. In light of the landscape discussion, Dicile stated that the MHCRC and the City of Portland needed to increase their ability to protect the right-of-way and any proposed split of the Portland Office for Community Technology responsibilities and staff based on an old school cable company vs. telecomm model further silos expertise and decreases leverage.

Develop a 4-Year Roadmap

Omelchuck and Manley facilitated discussion about primary work milestones of the MHCRC over four fiscal years through a large visual timeline hung in the meeting room. Work categories included MHCRC grants; I-Net; Community Media; Franchise Management/Franchise Fee Audits; MHCRC Planning.

Commissioners identified potential long and shortterm projects:

TechSmart & Community Technologies

- Community Grants Gantt chart, dashboard, or other means for Commissioners to track big picture status of grants and easily access grantee activity reports if desired.
- Next generation for the TechSmart Initiative.
- Potentially focus Community Technology Grant funds on a particular issue or area of community need.

I-Net

- Pilot projects for next generation I-Net testing and use cases.
- Stakeholder network planning and governance supporting community needs ascertainment.

Community Media Center Grant Renewals (expiration June 30, 2018)

- Explore with Portland possible change in funding model/grant agreement for Open Signal (e.g. MetroEast model of funding) in current renewal discussions
- Grant agreement terms through FY21-22 to coincide with Comcast franchise renewal.

Franchise Management

- Comcast franchise renewal negotiations (expiration December 2021)
- Frontier and Reliance Connects renewal/extension processes (expiration December 2018)
- Century Link extension notice/ Portland Council process under franchise (Notice received March 20, 2017 for extension through 2023)
- Over-the-Top (OTT) services by Century Link and Comcast

Community Needs Ascertainment

- Ascertainment committee RFP planning phase (Ascertainment consultant RFP – Sept 2018)

MHCRC Planning

- OCT re-org: Opportunity for input on models/options once consultant study released
- MHCRC Future Vision Planning (e.g. explore options and models with jurisdictions), following ascertainment and OCT re-org to better inform this

Commissioners and staff discussed priorities and expectations for resources outside of staff:

Work Priorities (nearer term)

1. Frontier/ Reliance Connects/ Century Link renewals/extensions
2. Franchise Fee Audits
3. Pre- work for Community Needs Ascertainment
4. Community media grant agreements renewal

5. OCT re-org; maintenance of public benefit areas; MHCRC future planning (scope and communications with jurisdictions)

Outside Resources

- Community Media organizations as advocacy resource
- Franchise Fee audits
- Comcast negotiations
- Community Needs Ascertainment
- I-Net pilots
- OTT specific legal expertise
- Commission future visioning – options and models

TechSmart Evaluation Presentation

Kristi Manseth and Steven Rider, Pacific Research and Evaluation, presented the School Year 2016-17 TechSmart Evaluation Report about data collection and findings from school district TechSmart Initiative grant projects. Commissioners discussed the report. Rider stated the next evaluation report would provide more evaluation around grant investment impacts on student outcomes as some grants will have three school years of data. Omelchuck stated that PRE and staff continue to work to fine-tune and seek better ways to gain data from the districts and participating teachers. Manseth said as more time elapses, she is able to better identify emerging trends.

Adjourned at 4:30pm.