

# Pitkin County Translator Advisory Board Minutes

**Date:** April 12, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** Basalt Fire Station, 1089 JW Drive, Carbondale, CO

## Agenda Items

John Emerick called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

Board Members Present: Jessica Robison, John Emerick, Buck Field, Kevin Heineken, Buck Field joined the meeting at 6:30 PM

Staff Present: Phylis Mattice, Jeff Krueger, Jeff Pearce, Charlotte Anderson

Guests: Samuel Bernal - Entravision

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

February8,2017, TAB Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved with the request to add Board member names. Jessica made the motion to approve and Kevin seconded. Unanimously approved.

## Changes/Additions to Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

## Public Comment/Items not on Agenda

No public comments.

## Staff Reports

BroadbandUpdate,JeffKrueger

With Kara's help, we received a \$900,000 DOLA grant and Pitkin County is matching for a total \$1.8 million which was approved by the BOCC. This money will be used for infrastructure and must be completed in 18 months. The plan is to complete two sites this year and one next year.

Vendor stakeholder outreach has been accomplished. A model similar to Rio Blanco was adopted. We are also talking to COA in hopes of sharing fiber.

Design plan is to turn North 40 and the Basalt new offices into an internet point of presence which will require some upgrades. Microwave is needed at Crown. North 40 is up and running on microwave already which makes it a great site to install fiber into microwave loop.

An RFP for a network operator to manage the entire infrastructure will be going out soon. The hope is to present to the BOCC by early June. Board members volunteered to be at the meeting when it happens. Board members requested packets at the next meeting with

highlights of what's ahead for broadband.

Senate Bill 152: Snowmass Village plans on opting out this November. Eagle County hasn't and we cannot provide to Eagle County unless they do opt out. Conversations with commissioners continue. Gunnison, Glenwood, Carbondale, Basalt and Aspen passed. Board members asked that a map of who has and who hasn't passed be provided at the next meeting.

Buck is researching requirements of running fiber to property line/ premises / office. He is unable to find anything. Jeff K. explained it is point of presence not premises. Buck would like background on how this decision was made. Staff reminder: the focus is to provide the unserved and underserved.

#### TranslatorReport,JeffPearce

TV translators have been on air for about 3 weeks. Working on improving / tweaking service to viewer. The next set of translators to be turned on are FM translator antennas. These should arrive the end of April.

Jeff Pearce is responding to the Grassroots and Red Brick problems. There are common audio problems and other small problems. Due to the closing of Radio Shack in Glenwood, parts now have to come from Texas which slows the repair process.

Jeff Pearce will also be tracking the recent Library AV / audio problems. Some adjustments were done today which should improve the audio.

Alan Brill of Western Slope Transmitting has the extra station on Jack Rabbit. Phylis hasn't seen a signed donation agreement yet. Phylis is sending anything she receives to FCC attorneys. The question was raised about leasing space as we redevelop. There is a lot of work to be done before we can lease space to someone else. A transfer of license would be required to lease space to a radio station. If Pitkin County completes the application for a license, it is free. A vendor has to pay to complete the application.

#### ConstructionUpdate,JeffKrueger

Williams is complete. Demolition of the old equipment will begin this summer.

Sunlight: A 100 ft. self-supporting tower will replace current overloaded towers. The planning & design phase is complete.

Elephant: We are looking at ways to improve reliability. Installing a battery farm which will lighten the generators load. We are working with Buckley Field AF Reserve to secure a helicopter to lift the shelter on Elephant. This will be a training exercise for them and no cost to us.

RFP's for tower construction at both sites are out. Bids are due April 14th with a plan for a decision on May 1st.

Approval has been received from USFS and FAA for Elephant, but we are waiting for approval at Sunlight. Received FCC approval for both.

Summer 2018: Red Hill provides Ruedi and Thomasville coverage. There are plans to move existing equipment from Thomasville to Red Hill which will be reconditioned. Road improvements are needed to allow access by 4WD vehicles to the site. Translator licenses need to move from Thomasville to Red Hill.

We will be installing microwave dishes at 8 different sites at the end of May / beginning of June. This is made possible by the state and will provide translator streaming and broadband capacity which will be needed as we go forward. We are hoping to secure a network operator and resale provider. This is typically a company that specializes in fiber. They will be responsible for service calls. Microwave will also allow realtime remote monitoring translators which will be a huge help in monitoring and troubleshooting.

Installed a Berk Technology System at Crown and Williams recently. It tested well this past week in getting the site up and running.

### **New Business**

Phylis thanked Samuel Bernal for the coverage he provided during the meeting where the BOCC approved the resolution welcoming immigrants at April 11 and 12 meetings. Samuel provided radio coverage to the Latino community.

What role does TAB want to play in broadband? John Emerick felt the board would be more engaged if they were able to play an active role. John Ely will be invited to the next meeting to advise the TAB about their role.

Jessica made the motion to adjourn and Buck seconded. Adjourned at 7:06 PM.