

## **Pitkin County Telecommunications Advisory Board Minutes July 10, 2019**

John Emerick, Simon T, Kara Silbernagel, Mike Jahn, Kevin Heineken, Joel Rittvo, Jeff Krueger, Michele McClinton, Drew Petersen, Samuel Bernal-Urbina, Harry Sandell, Gabe Chenoweth, Mike Waters

John called meeting to order at 8:05pm

Motion to approve meets, Joel motioned, all approved

No changes to agenda

No public comments

### **Broadband update:**

Joel talked about Rise update with lower costs in Swiss Village. 25mg for \$55-59. Thanks for all the initiation from Pitkin County. Kara said the broadband council pushed the changes.

Kara updated that broadband went live and Visionary and Pathfinders are ISP providers. This is phase 1

This is a learning experience. ISPs are contracted with Mammoth. ISPs cannot require contracts with new customers.

Jeff said we planned only 2 ISPs to not overload the towers.

Question about how Pathfinder has done up Castle Creek. Kara said we have no authority on the fiber they are putting up the valley. They are to donate some fiber to the county and a tower. Most likely used for public safety. City of Aspen is a partner so they are managing some level of service.

Pathfinders is sending out mailers and Facebook ads.

### **Engineer Report:**

Jeff Krueger updated on power line failure at Lower Red site. KSPN only 50 watt translator into Aspen off Jackrabbit. Power line was damaged possibly by a bear. Electric company says line is beyond life span. Now need to go through USFS review for new line replacement. Must get Starwood approval and renew USFS lease (expired in 2018). Grassroots & County Government TV are out because Lower Red is their direct broadcast from Red Brick.

### **FCC TV Repack:**

T Mobile won spectrum of spaces that we have to reallocate by September.

FCC allotted \$150 million for communities affected by this. \$200k our cost.

KUSA 9News: We are working with them to stream to our valley and rebroadcast in Roaring Fork Valley. We need some equipment that is being tested. Hope by next meeting we will report that NBC is here.

### **Site Report:**

Jackrabbit- Delays with permitting. Jeff planning meetings to push Com Dev. Broadband will be offered off this site.

Sunlight- Finally able to drive to site today after tough winter. Need to do some more demo there and install more equipment.

Ruedi- Services upper Frying Pan. Still waiting for USFS approval. Might not get everything approved this summer.

Thomasville- Postponed until next season.

### **New Business:**

KUVO- John Emerick commented about possibility of KUVO (Jazz station from Denver) being added to our system. Jeff said we would have to stream it and put on our microwave system. Drew says there are more legal issues with FCC about broadcasting from out of area. Jeff said staff will check into possibilities.

Drew found FCC rule: In a nutshell, Educational non-profit channels are meant to be designated for RF channels 200-220 (88.1 MHz - 91.9 MHz). Channel 221 through 300 (92.1 MHz to 107.9 MHz) are supposed to be for commercial and for-profit stations. For our purposes, any station applying for the open frequencies (93.1 and 102.7) has to be able to reach the translator over-the-air, or they cannot legally be there. Educational non-profits can be exempt to this rule and can reach the translator station outside of their coverage area but ONLY if that translator frequency is between 200-220. Since neither of the CMC frequencies are in that band, that means ANY station that rebroadcasts on those translators MUST be receivable over-the-air.

### **Applicant Presentations for CMC FM Space:**

John asked station reps present to say a few words about their applications.

Simon T commented that board should table vote until next meeting so board members can review application thoroughly.

Joel said he could review and be back in a week. John says depth of applications are varied.

Jessica wanted to review apps now.

Joel wants to do initial review.

KQHT (Cat Country) – Wants space on Crown. Simon T made comments about his station. Has Exclusive right to broadcast 9News on radio during an emergency on his stations. Other thing is there is agreement with Aspen Public Radio to tell people to listen to them for news. Has an HD signal to broadcast multiple signals. Wants 93.1 to cover up and down valley (hole in mid valley) and currently not on any Pitkin County sites (he has his own translators). Currently there is interference with 93.1 on Crown. Adjustments need to be made even if Simon does not get awarded the space.

KGLN – Rep not here. Same format as KNFO per Harry Sandell. There would be 2 talk stations in Basalt if KGLN is awarded. They want both Aspen and Basalt.

KMTS – Country/Full Service radio-Gabe Chenoweth talked about new coverage in the area, emergency flood warning was broadcast this week, public affairs. During last year's fire KMTS was big local broadcaster when cell towers were overloaded. Talked about multipath. They want Crown site to help with coverage problems in mid valley. Wants 99.5 since he has 99.5 up valley.

KPVW – Spanish talk, news, music Samuel Bernal-Urbina stated there is an underserved population of Spanish speakers. Broadcast information about immigration issues. Helped with Lake Christine fire coverage. Local news in Spanish, usually first source of information for Hispanic community.

KTUN/KQSE – Harry Sandell talked about what they can do for the community. Live studios with live DJs. Listeners can call in anytime and they can cut into programs at any time. Have Facebook live to help get information out. Simulcast station. Coverage now is from Eisenhower Tunnel to Parachute. Don't currently cover Carbondale to Aspen. Extremely important to provide info to Hispanic population for Aspen workers that are commuting from down valley. Offers various lifestyle and family values shows. Biggest hurdle is they are not licensed in Pitkin County. Jessica had questions about last process Harry went through.

KSNO – No rep report, board had questions about the map and short application.

John Emerick went over with the board the flow chart questionnaire that each board member should use to review the applications. Questions about current flow chart and application to stations. Harry Sandell questioned about the old rule of a station having a local studio. Is this important to the board?

Samuel recommended we check both Facebook sites and station. What amount of local content is there? Consider small market for 2 Hispanic stations

Jeff noted that there is 89.3 and 89.7 stations on Williams on 2 frequencies (Aspen Public Radio KCJX & KAJX) for same station. Should be on next agenda.

John asked about having an extra meeting before October. Jessica said members should go home, grade stations on flow charts and return to discuss. July 31<sup>st</sup> 6 pm was agreed upon for special meeting.

Gabe brought up that last year he heard there was 2 allocations on Jackrabbit but Jeff said only one was available (one was donated).

John motioned to adjourn meeting at a few minutes after 8pm.