

TAB Meeting Minutes January 8, 2020

Attendees: Michele McClinton, Jeff Krueger, Drew Petersen, Simon T, Tammy Terwelp, Joel Rittvo, John Emerick, Terry Mathis, Phylis Mattice, Samuel Bernal-Urbina, Kevin Heineken, Jessica Robison, Buck Field (by phone)

John called meeting to order 6:30pm

Approval of 10/9/19 minutes:

Simon T commented about paragraph that said Simon was looking for tower site having a relationship with KPWW. They rent tower space but have no relationship. John said to strike the paragraph in the minutes.

Approved 2nd by Joel.

Public Comments:

Tammy had comments about the county CPR restrictions on news in the valley. It is helping KAJX grow without the competition.

Staff report:

Broadband: about 90 new subscribers since July, 2019

Holy Cross Letter from BOCC to Holy Cross presented. BOCC is supporting Holy Cross's efforts of 70/30% renewables plan from Holy Cross. Need to improve smart grid to go beyond 70%. Phylis talked about Basalt Vista as new plan for Holy Cross and wants to carry on a bigger scale. Kevin had questions about the costs and feasibility of running fiber underground to homes. Jeff said it is a long ways off before Holy Cross figures out the installation piece. Phylis updated that Pitkin County is building a broadband authority with Garfield County in order to apply for grants. Looking at MMC in Rifle. Part of THOR joint authority. Kevin asked what capacity is needed. Castle Creek area wants a gig.

Jeff reviewed the staff report.

John asked about proposed site on McClure Pass. USFS has denied the request because of road less area. Once other sites are built the county will revisit the area in a few years. No public safety radio in the area.

Old Business:

John reviewed the process notes about the past meetings. Simon commented that the EAS process is not voluntary as stated in the process notes. Buck said he wants to make sure EAS is a requirement for stations on the translator. Joel says to enforce rules or not, we must decide. Buck said how certain are we about fact? A competitor presented info on noncompliance to EAS and KQSE could not present evidence that they are complying. Terry made comments about how their EAS is performed and they may have missed the August, 2019 message, he is not sure. The company understands the importance of the program and apologizes for not providing EAS records to the TAB. Terry also clarified that the KQSE studio is in Glenwood, transmitter is in Gypsum.

The August, 2019 test was required by the FCC per Simon. All stations were supposed to run it and submit the log to the FCC. Problems for 5 years were brought up by Simon and John. Simon showed example of August 7th, 2019 test record on paper to prove the simplicity of recording. John asked the board what they would like to do. Kevin says we don't have any way of enforcing EAS compliance. Jessica remembered an engineer in the past that would monitor the stations to see if they were compliant. That engineer is no longer here. Jessica said we need documentation from stations in a concise format so the board does not have to dig through a lot of documents. Samuel commented on the award to KTUN/KQSE in July. KPVW believes that they will be put at risk if another station is put into the competition with a free spot on the County translator (see attached letter from KPVW). Simon commented that his station is the only station not on County translator. Simon suggested putting KSPN on Upper Red since KSPN has had problems covering all of Aspen while broadcasting from Jackrabbit. John clarified that Simon wants on Crown, KGHT 93.1. Kevin wanted to know why KSPN doesn't broadcast 1000 watt from Jackrabbit. Jeff said not enough power at Jackrabbit. Drew said that granting KSPN Upper Red would be temporary if Lower Red opens in a few years. Kevin motioned to give KSPN Upper Red 102.7 and KGHT 93.1 to Crown. Joel 2nd motion.

Vote was unanimous to award KSPN and KGHT the open translator spots.

New business: None

Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm by John, 2nd by Joel.

Translator Advisory Board Members,

During the last Procedure for Evaluating Radio Stations for Allotments on the Pitkin County Translator System, KPVW reached the highest score. Right after that, the board backed down and behind closed doors decided to grant both translators to AMT.

It didn't matter that AMT's KTUN/KQSE are not even part of Pitkin County. It didn't matter that, every time we've gone through this process, they've failed the EAS test for Pitkin County; it didn't matter that KTUN/KQSE has a far longer coverage than KPVW. It didn't matter that we mentioned the economic damage it would cause to our station in a small market like this, covering a minority population. It didn't matter that, since the board is not familiar with the Spanish formats, we did recommend different ways to measure the involvement of KPVW vs KTUN/KQSE within the Latino community (amount of Public Service Announcements supporting local governments and organizations, news awards, community service awards, etc).

It didn't matter that AMT is able to use their own resources to cover Pitkin County area. We welcome competition, when this competition is fair and the private radio station uses their private resources to compete and serve the community they claim to be very worried about.

Entravision has a local journalist dedicated to this community. The way largest coverage of KTUN/KQSE reaches more communities in Colorado than us. How many local Spanish speakers journalists they have?

Now, after AMT failed again with the EAS test, the board wants to give them another chance to be granted. Why do they get so many exceptions? We hope you reconsider your decision and avoid economic damage and unfair competition to a station that has been fully dedicated to the community and county we've been serving for years.

Our community is the priority and it might be easy to think that by granting a translator to AMT you will be providing the Latino population with two choices, but the truth is that you would be putting our station: KPVW, La Tricolor, at risk in order to help another one become even bigger with public resources.

Thank you,

Samuel Bernal
Station Manager
KPVW, La Tricolor