

Northwest PEG-TV

Northwest PEG-TV Board of Directors Meeting

May 16, 2022

Minutes

Present for a quorum: Tim Stetson, Bryce Bachelder, Virginia Holiman, Mike Curtis, Tim Hurlbut, Joe Halko, Joyce Kemp, Wesley Kempton

Administrators/Staff: Paul Snyder, Roger Lindala, Alan Cunningham

Unable to Attend: N/A

Visitors: Dustin Tanner, Dino Patsouris, Angela Bernard

1. Call to Order

Tim Stetson called the meeting to order at 5:03

2. Changes or Adjustments to Agenda – Paul Snyder announced changes to the agenda to reflect the guests' arrival for the meeting.

3. Introduction of Guests – Tim Stetson explained that the three guests joining the board meeting will be potential board member candidates to fill Michel Consejo's seat vacated in December of 2021. Dustin Tanner introduced himself and shared his background of 10 years involved with the organization from intern to videographer to producer. Joyce Kemp asked Dustin Tanner to share his thoughts on a direction NWA-TV could trend to. Dustin Tanner spoke specifically on the sports broadcast aspect and education on what media is to the community. At this time, Dino Patsouris joined the meeting and was given an opportunity to introduce himself and answer questions. Dino Patsouris is the Outreach Coordinator for the Maple Run Unified School District, more specifically the Northwest Career & Technical Center. Dino Patsouris discussed his background in technical media, producing, video production, etc for the district and in his personal time. Dino Patsouris talked about his love for public access and the importance of it. Joyce Kemp asked Dino Patsouris the same question she made to Dustin. Dino Patsouris reiterated that the station is already doing so much to be accessible to the community. Bryce Bachelder asked both candidates if there was anything NWA-TV could be doing that it isn't. Dustin Tanner believes NWA-TV is doing a great job of spreading throughout the county. Dustin Tanner would like to see the schools getting more involved with NWA-TV. Dino Patsouris said NWA-TV has done an incredible job helping the schools during the pandemic and would like to see more school connections/programs as well. Joe Halko made the comment of the importance of having a board member such as Dustin and Dino that are well connected not only with technology but the school systems as well. During this time, Angela Bernard entered the meeting. Angela Bernard described her background in news media throughout New England. Angela Bernard explained that her daughter is enjoying the classes available at NWA-TV and would like to herself get more involved. Bryce Bachelder asked the same question as before. Angela Bernard shared that she loves the streaming and local productions that NWA-TV is covering from concerts to sporting events as well as the outreach and education. Paul Snyder followed up with any questions

that the candidates may have for the board. The questions asked were, how many members are there, what's the time commitment, etc. Tim Stetson talked about the different avenues that NWA-TV has available for the community and respects everyone's views on the board. Bryce Bachelder and Virginia Holiman spoke on the culture and overall health of the board and how they all stay involved to keep the organization growing and moving forward.

4. **Programming Report** – Roger Lindala talked about his Second Saturday Orientation classes and the pent-up demand for media learning. Roger Lindala explained the different events NWA-TV is covering including track meets and concerts and also spoke on the increase in student involvement that NWA-TV has seen. NWA-TV was present at the Maple Festival with the parade and the Youth Talent show, helping stream the event given no audience was allowed to watch in-person.
5. **Technology Report** – Alan Cunningham talked about using and testing new equipment that we have purchased recently going into detail about HDMI wireless transmitters to allow for a roaming camera at events. Alan Cunningham also talked about the increase in multi-camera coverage and the addition of the e-sports program and potential classes. The hope is to draw the students in with video games but simultaneously teach them about television production and broadcast. Alan Cunningham believes this will be a great way to keep the student engaged in local media creation. He would like to target the 13+ age range. Exceptions will certainly be made if interest is there. Roger Lindala reiterated that the skills learned with the e-sports class will help students with their own productions at home. Alan Cunningham explained the idea of a e-gaming café where teams could show up and use/play the games available under the NWA-TV account.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – Mike Curtis started with thanking Roger Lindala for his lessons at the Second Saturday Orientation. Mike Curtis went on to share that NWA-TV support from Comcast is up slightly (2.4%) referring to Paul Snyder's report. Mike Curtis said the Gross Profit is similar to same time last year with most of the increase coming from the state funding. Mike Curtis said our capital expenses are up as approved by the board and contract services are down. Mike Curtis said this will be the last time he talks about the payroll being up from the year before because the staff was provided higher wages, approved by the board. Mike Curtis talked about a strong balance sheet which will help the organization running for years. Mike Curtis purposes that the board reduce the mortgage loan by \$50,000 in June. If NWA-TV keeps paying down the loan as it has the last two years, NWA-TV will be able to pay off the mortgage before maturity to which the organization would virtually have no debt.
Joe Halko made the motion to pay an additional \$50,000 towards the Peoples Trust Company loan in June. Bryce Bachelder seconded. The motion passes 8-0-0.

Wesley Kempton made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Virginia Holiman seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-1. Mike Curtis abstained.

7. **Executive Director's Report** – Paul Snyder went into more detail about the small increase in funding from Comcast including an increase from the former North Country

subscribers. The 990 was also sealed, signed and delivered. Paul Snyder talked about the staff's trip to Montpelier for the Vermont Access Network's annual meeting where Paul was elected as a board member for the statewide VAN board. The event is a great place for the staff to talk face-to-face with their peers across the state and learn about what programming and technology advances we're all making. For property news, the stormwater permit was renewed and our landscaper has begun work on the grass, cedars, and flowers on the property. Paul Snyder talked about a new wireless headset purchase from the Vermont Access Network meeting which will give the staff a much easier time communicating at events and for in-house productions. Paul Snyder mentioned they are in the market for a cheaper solution to the Livestream Laptop Box that is currently being used for multi-camera productions. The minute taker position is still open and Paul Snyder will transcribe the minutes until the position is filled.

8. New Business

- a. **HD Channels** – Paul Snyder asked the board it's feeling on making the switch to HD for Ch. 1079 and 1089. Paul Snyder explained at last check with Comcast representatives, the subscriber percentage for HD vs SD is 80%-20%, respectively. Paul Snyder explained it would not cost the organization to switch over. The board would like to know if the HD vs SD numbers have changed drastically from last year. Paul Snyder will reach out to the Comcast representative for updated numbers. Mike Curtis asked if we do make the switch, will SD subscribers be able to still watch and the answer is no. Mike Curtis would like to see the station continue to move forward with technology.
- b. **ACM National Convention** – Paul Snyder shared the news that NWA-TV has been awarded National Recognition for it's QVC parody "Paul in the Studio" at the Alliance for Community Media Hometown Media Awards. This is a nationwide competition among all access stations. Paul Snyder proposed to the board to send himself, Roger Lindala, Katie Foster, and Alan Cunningham to the national convention in Chicago, IL to accept the award in-person. The board congratulated the staff on it's hard work and award and thought it would be a great opportunity and experience to attend the conference.

Bryce Bachelder made the motion to approve a travel budget of up to \$5,000 to send the four mentioned above to the ACM National Convention. Mike Curtis seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0-0.

9. **Public Comment** – Dustin Tanner asked if a community survey could be created to see if the public is watching on Standard Definition. Dustin Tanner thought NWA-TV should make the switch to HD. Dino Patsouris asked what SD resolution NWA-TV currently broadcast at. Paul Snyder explained it was 480p. Paul Snyder explained that the switch would make it's broadcast more uniform among the channels and social media streams.
10. **COVID-19 Update** – Paul Snyder explained the staff has been hit here and there with COVID-19 and is trying to recover back to full strength.

11. Approval of Minutes – 4/18/2022 minutes were attached. Some grammatical changes were suggested. Paul Snyder will take care of those and send out minutes electronically for board signatures.

Joe Halko made the motion to approve the minutes. Virginia Holiman seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-3. Bryce Bachelder, Wesley Kempton, and Mike Curtis abstained due to their absence during that meeting.

12. Executive Session – the board entered into executive session at 6:50pm. The board came out of executive session at 7:08. Paul Snyder will contact the potential board members regarding what was discussed in Executive Session.

13. Adjourn

Joyce Kemp made the motion to adjourn at 7:09; Bryce Bachelder seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0. Mike Curtis was absent for the adjournment vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Snyder, Executive Director

Joe Halko

Wesley Kempton

Tim Stetson, President

Virginia Holiman, Secretary

Mike Curtis, Treasurer

Tim Hurlbut

Bryce Bachelder, Vice President

Joyce Kemp