

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Universal Service Fund Council

SUMMARY OF JUNE 25, 2015 MEETING

Meeting Date/Time: June 25, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Place: Public Service Commission Building, Pecatonica River Conf. Rm. - Madison, WI

Council Members: (in person) Jean Pauk – USFC Chair (TDS), Jack Cassell (DOA/TRS), Celeste Flynn (Time Warner Cable), Jim Jermain (AT&T), Bob Jones (WISCAP Association), Kathy Schmitt (DATCAP); **(by phone)** Pam Hollick (Level 3), Vanessa Johnson (New Concept Dev. Center)

Commission staff: Jeff Richter (Staff Representative to the USFC), Lisa Farrell.

Others:

Chairperson Pauk called the meeting to order at 10:12 PM, welcomed those in attendance and requested a round-robin of self-introductions. Jeff Richter called role and quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting. He briefed the Council on the purpose of the meeting and the need for quorum to address the one action item. Quorum was reached prior to action on the proposed FY 2016 budget.

Approval of December 11, 2014 meeting minutes was deferred to next meeting due to the lack of a draft to consider.

Pursuant to the discussion at the December 11, 2014 meeting, Chair Pauk reiterated that she would like to reactivate Council Subcommittees and their membership. There were three prior subcommittees: Rules, Low-Income, and TEPP/Disabled. She requested that Council members participate in at least one subcommittee. Staff will circulate a spreadsheet for members to fill in and email back to indicate their subcommittee(s) of choice.

Jeff Richter provided an update on the Lifeline Database Project – On June 3 the Commission approved encumbrance of funding for this project from unused FY 2015 fund in the amount of \$800,000. An order to accomplish this is routing. Work has already begun with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and its contractor for CARES, Deloitte. The Memorandums of Understanding have all been signed by the PSC. The Department of Revenue has signed the two it is signatory on. We await signature on two by DHS. Work is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

The draft legislative packet for the USF Rulemaking in Docket 1-AC-236 will be sent to the USFC members and Telecom Stakeholders tomorrow. A conference call for input will be scheduled in July and input on some good times for such a call were solicited from the meeting attendees. Following the input from this conference call the packet will go the Commissioners' Office for scheduling for a decision by the Commission at an upcoming open meeting whether to send it on to the Legislature.

In federal update the following two active FCC NPRMs were brought up by Jeff Richter and he committed to sending the links to the documents to the USFC members.

The NPRM to make the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program permanent was published in the Federal Register on June 10, 2015 and was accessible through this link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-10/pdf/2015-13718.pdf>. Comments are due July 27, 2015. Reply comments are due August 10, 2015.

The NPRM regarding Lifeline Reform had not been published in the federal Register, but the NPRM could be accessed at this link: http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db0622/FCC-15-71A1.pdf. This NPRM addresses expansion of Lifeline to broadband services, eligibility determinations and various program administration issues.

The memo detailing the 2015 ETC recertification process went out on June 1 and it is posted on the PSC website. Same process will be used as previous years.

The Wisconsin implementation of the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (as iCanConnect Wisconsin) continues to be very successful and was granted an additional \$60,000 this fiscal year which ends June 30. For FY 2016, which starts July 1, the Wisconsin program was awarded another \$172,288. Jeff Richter reported he would travel in the afternoon to tour the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons in Milwaukee. The current plan is to move the Wisconsin NDBEDP off of the Perkins School for the Blind (Perkins) database which costs the program \$5,000 annually to one developed by the CDBP. Further, the program is considering moving from use of Perkins for acquisition of equipment to a vendor based in Wisconsin.

Jeff Richter reported that there were 15 grants approved under the 2015 Nonprofit Grant Program for a total of just under \$500,000. A copy of the order was distributed.

Staff is still moving forward collecting ideas on a more managed and consistent approach to TEPP outreach, assistance, and assessment than the current Nonprofit Grant Program offers. Anticipate putting measures in place to allow reporting on equipment that is actually being purchased under the program. There is not a recommended approach yet. Further updates will be provided at future meetings.

The USFC members reviewed the FY 2015 budget status and the proposed Draft USF Budget for FY 2016. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Commission adoption of the Draft USF Budget for FY 2016. Motion passed 8-0.

The USFC adjourned at 12:35 pm.

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