

WATOA

Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2013

Present: Chris Jaramillo, Jeff Lueders, Dea Drake, Linda Seesz, Jim Demmon, Mike Charboneau, Jon Funfar, Victoria Lincoln, Alice Lawson

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2013

1. **Call to Order.** 2:04pm
2. **Approval of Minute from 5/15/2013.** John motioned to approve. Jim seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Treasurer's Report and Update– Dea Drake

Bank Balance: \$11,394.02 as of end of May 2013

Revenue: \$700 still to be deposited (3 membership checks and check from Brown Paper Tickets from NAB conference.)

Expenses: \$80 (approx.) of outstanding bills to be paid (2-3 conference call charges)

Membership: List to be updated with 2013 renewals and sent out to Board members. Dea to provide Chris with list of members still needing to renew; Chris will make follow-up calls.

4. Legislative Update – Victoria Lincoln

Provided *Crosscut* article as a good overview of current situation in State legislature:

<http://crosscut.com/2013/06/19/olympia-2013/115085/could-extra-320-million-help-around-house-and-sena/>

Reported statewide franchising not an issue this session; hot issue is telecom (SB 5422 Telecommunications Tax Parity).

- Bill passage would repeal the local residential telephone service sales tax exemption, leveling the playing field so all telecommunication providers must charge sales tax. The repeal would be *retroactive with no refunds* for past sales tax collected.
- All telecommunication companies are in agreement on wanting action on this bill this session.
- Comcast is supportive because it would put all types of technology on a level taxation field, which is consistent with Comcast's long stand for tax parity between MVPDs.
- If no action is taken on the bill, and Department of Revenue (DOR) loses court case filed by Verizon, DOR fact sheet projects \$253 million in lost revenue to local governments from 2015-2017.
- Legislators with 'no new tax' philosophy believe SB 5422 is new tax. They are not going to support it unless they get some other sort of government reform in exchange.

There is possibility of future push from industry to revisit Right of Way (ROW) law. Victoria to talk with telecommunication contacts to determine issues they have with current ROW law.

5. Board Vacancies and Recruitment – Chris Jaramillo

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Vacancies exist for Region #3, #7 and #1 (recent resignation of Dal Neitzel). Request made to send recruit ideas to Chris.

6. WATOA Franchise/Legislative Workshop & Joint Conference with ACM – Chris Jaramillo and Jon Funfar

Franchise/Legislative Workshop: Looking at Woodinville City Hall venue during late August; date to be determined by end of month.

WATOA Joint Conference with ACM: This year is exciting joint conference venture, with theme idea of “Regulators and Creators”. Tentative dates set for November 15-16. Deb from ACM Board is working on venues in greater Seattle region. Night of 15th would be targeted for WATOA and ACM Awards event. Project combined event could bring approx. 150 participants and new perspectives from wider community media/community radio group.

7. Summer Newsletter Assignments – Linda Seesz

Articles due by Tuesday, June 25, 2013

- Chris – *From the President* (400-450 words)
- Megan – *Production News*
- Mike – *Production Tip*
- Dea & Mike – *Board Member Intros* (225 words + recent photo)
- Linda – *Save the Date* for upcoming WATOA events
- Chris to find new writer/article to replace legislative update, which is postponed until Fall issue due to extended legislative session possibly running until June 30th.

8. Other Business

Jim Demmon reported City of Vancouver and Clark County recently approved franchise renewal with Comcast.

Mike Charboneau reported Cities of Richland and Pasco recent approval of franchise extension with Charter.

9. Adjournment: 2:57 pm