

Elko Television District

Board Meeting Minutes, August 14th, 2025
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Courthouse

Board Members:

Present: Dale Lotspeich, Kent LeBarts, Raymond Mowrey, Brian Riley, and Misty Atkins

Absent:

Others Present: Lori Gilbert representing Elko Broadcasting Company, Mike Murphy representing Diversified Consulting Services, Brian Duggan representing KUNR/KNCC, Crystal Hoppe representing Koppe Co., Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless Services, Ken Wiley as employee of Elko TV District, and Marisa Reeves representing McMullen, McPhee & Co., LLC

Proceedings

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dale Lotspeich.

Public Comment: None

Comments From the Chairman

The September meeting will be moved to September 4th, 2025.

Approval of the Minutes July 10th, 2025 Meeting

Misty Atkins moved to accept the minutes from the July 10th, 2025 meeting. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Marisa noted that there will be a transfer of \$300,000 into the Raymond James account. Kent LeBarts moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Ray Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval & Ratification of Outstanding Bills for payment

Kent LeBarts read aloud the outstanding and ratified bills. Raymond Mowrey moved to accept the outstanding and ratified bills as read. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Repair Service Report and Site Updates

Ken Wiley read his monthly service report. There were a few outages. He had a meeting last Friday with PBS regarding some of the changes that will affect KUNR or NPR Radio. Raymond, Brian, and Ken met on Monday to score the RFP's. Ken asked Nancy Porter about using Premier Wireless Services to do road repair. She noted that the prevailing wage would need to be used. Nancy, Dale, and Ken will have a Zoom meeting tomorrow.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Request for Proposals of Professional Engineering Services

Raymond noted DCS came out way ahead in the scoring. DCS also has a local presence. Raymond Mowrey moved to hire the DCS engineering firm. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; Kent LeBarts abstained because he used to work there; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Approval of Committee Members

Kent LeBarts moved to approve Kent LeBarts and Raymond Mowery on the Infrastructure Committee members with Kent as Chairman, Misty Atkins and Kent LeBarts on the Budget Committee with Misty as Chairman, and Brian Riley and Dale Lotspeich on the Translator Committee with Brian as Chairman. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee – Cenni is having a difficult time finding a crane with availability. Paden said the current camera system is TV District property, just housed at Eagle Communications.

Translator/Programming Committee – Brian, Dale, Lori Gilber, and Gina Holmberg met together. Gina wants to get involved with free TV. With federal cuts, KNCC lost all its funding. Lori isn't sure if KNCC will be able to operate on the air. They will present us with information about potential financial assistance at the next meeting.

KENV wants to be a full broadcast Class 1 station. 25,000 watts is way too much for any of the TV District sites. The TV District would not go forward with a lease if that is what they want to do.

The committee also discussed starting a local TV channel, but is pursuing other options such as contacting a Class 1 station and do inserts. There is potential for advertising through YouTube or KNCC.

Budget Committee – Nothing new to report.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Mission Statement & Objectives for the Elko Television District

Raymond suggested striking out "built by" and changing it to "with preference given to" on the bullet point "Purchase equipment and software built by companies in the USA or from NATO alliance countries. Kent LeBarts moved to approve the Mission Statement for the Elko Television District with the change noted by Raymond. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Elko Television District Name Change

Kent LeBarts moved to move forward with the name change from Elko Television District to Elko County Communications District. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. Dale will work with Marisa and Ken to send a letter to the county commissioner and county manager.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Tenants Located on Grindstone Site for Removal of Old Tower Structure Onto New Existing 4-Legged Tower and Estimated Cost Involved

Ken had Cenni and the Elko Amateur Radio Club meet at the site to see what it would take to move their equipment onto an established TV District tower. The club will provide new or used antennas. The club asked if they could have the small tower as a donation and use it on another site. Ken recommends approving that. Raymond Mowery moved to approve the quote to move the equipment and to donate the small tower to the Elko Amateur Radio Club. Brian Riley seconded the motion; Misty Atkins and Kent LeBarts abstained as they are members of the club; the vote was unanimous.

Cenni said that the equipment will be installed on the old tower that is already over capacity. Kent said if it won't cause any issues with the tower, Cenni may proceed with the equipment move before the Verizon Wireless equipment is removed.

Discussion and Possible Approval of New Servers and Equipment to Operate and Store Data for Site Access and Site Video at Fiber Building from Eagle Communications

Paden noted the equipment will retain the video for a minimum of 60 days. The quote includes the installation of a rack to house the TV District servers, relocation of current equipment, licensing for the cameras, and a 5-year maintenance agreement for service software. Kent LeBarts moved to approve the quote for the new servers and equipment. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Review of Statement for District Sites to Operate as Low Power Radio Frequency Sites and Task the Infrastructure Committee for What ERP (Effective Radiated Power) at Antennas. This will be Based on Current Users and Implement Policy Based on Recommendations Moving Into the Future

Ken noted that when Elko Broadcasting Company and Ken Sutherland installed their equipment, they were capped at 250-watt power. It is necessary to limit it because they are all low to medium-power sites. Ken is working with Paden and Cenni. Verizon is about 200 watts. Lessee's will be required to test the power. Ken is leaning towards 500 watts ERP at the sites. There could be special circumstances, but that would be the general rule. He will discuss this further with the infrastructure committee. Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding AT&T Equipment Upgrades and Lease Modifications

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Verizon Grindstone and Lamoille Equipment Upgrades and Lease Modifications

Verizon has provided updated drawings. They are asking if they can move forward to the next stage, which is contract amendment. They will be moving everything off the old tower. They will decommission all the lines on the old tower. They might not take down the ice bridge. When they did the structural analysis, they did not include the waveguide ladder. It would be minimal; no need to redo the test. Raymond Mowery moved to approve the Verizon engineering design on the new tower and move forward with the contract amendment requested. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Maggie Creek Road Repair

Ken will start the engineering process with DCS. Once there is a legal update, a special meeting can be held to move things along. Cenni noted that in the canyon between the horse trough and the second culvert, it is extremely slippery. There is no catch room. He asked if something could be done so water wouldn't get in there. Mike stated it's best to authorize the chairman to start a task order, and then DCS doesn't do anything until they are given a task to do. 10% of the cost of a project is usually a standard for the cost of engineering. Kent moved to proceed with the engineering of the Maggie Creek road repair with a \$25,000 cost cap and authorized the chairman to create the task orders. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Approval of KENV Equipment Relocation and Upgrades on Grindstone

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Amendment

Paden sent NDOT the numbers and is waiting for a response.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Elko County Public Safety Services

Dale is still working on the language for the agreement. He is waiting on input from the Fire District.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Building a New Tower on Grindstone and Contractor Updates

Cenni is waiting for a crane to become available.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Gifting Spare Generator to the Elko County Fire Protection District

Dale noted it was an old generator that was removed from Grindstone. It is a 35KUW and has been sitting in storage. It was removed from Grindstone due to damage to the control board from a lightning strike. Kent moved to donate the generator to the County Fire District. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Purchasing Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Backups for Various Sites

This was approved by Dale to purchase. The old UPS was 6 years old and is dead. The backup time is approximately 10 hours, but it is expandable. The new UPSs lasts over 10 years. This item can be removed from future agendas until Ken & Paden come up with a plan.

Discussion and Possible Approval of New Fiber Routes

Remove from the agenda.

Updates Regarding a New Site and Getting Power at Snowbowl

Remove from the agenda.

New Business: Dale wants Paden to work with Technalogix to get an online demonstration of what the equipment can do. Paden noted the primary channel on every license has to be bold-style video. The primary must be an MPG 2 stream.

Old Business: Dale asked Ken to find tables for the board members to use at the meetings.

The board is still having problems with the county emails. Ken asked Paden to look at getting email accounts that would be available with the website. It needs to hold an archive for several years.

Dale asked to agendize costs for KNCC and for the budget committee to get with Lori once received.

Everest sent a letter trying to re-negotiate their contract.

Public Comment: None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 4th, 2025.