

Elko Television District

Board Meeting Minutes, September 4th, 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: Mike Murphy representing Diversified Consulting Services, Lori Gilbert and Brian Duggan representing KUNR/KNCC, Gail Rappa representing herself, 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

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Maggie Creek Road Repair

Mike met with the ranch and met with someone they would like to work with. They will possibly do the work this fall, rather than next spring. Nancy ruled that this would be a prevailing wage job. If the ranch did it, then the TV District wouldn't have to put it out to bid. There are also cost savings on the road materials. Ken has a Zoom call on September 9th with Nancy. Most likely an agreement will be ready for signature at the October meeting. Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Right of Way Access on Access Road to Grindstone from the Upper Gate to Base of Landing

Mike found out after 30 years, the BLM right-of-way grant expired on August 14, 2025. 8/14/25, It was originally signed by Stan Zunino in 1995. He talked with the BLM field manager. Since it's a public road, it's not a high priority, but it is good to get the paperwork in. She is not worried about re-grading the road as long as they follow general practices. Mike will talk to BLM, but he needs to be an agent. He did notice a lot of contact information needs to be updated. Misty Atkins moved to authorize Mike Murphy and Ken Wiley to act on behalf of the Elko Television District to undertake, execute, and affix their signatures to any and all documentation, applications, agreements, and forms required in the course of conducting Right of Way operations on the access road to Grindstone involving the Bureau of Land Management. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Comments From the Chairman

Ken and Dale met with Lee Cabinis and Matt Peterson to work on getting the final draft language for the interlocal agreement. They should get that information by tomorrow and then will take it to Nancy for review.

Approval of the Minutes August 14th, 2025 Meeting

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the August 14th, 2025 meeting. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

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

Repair Service Report and Site Updates

Ken relayed his report regarding the KNCC financial assistance, a meeting with Nancy porter, and discussions with Mike Murphy regarding the right-of-way access on Grindstone. He also discussed a few outages. Marisa is working on getting tablets. Eagle Communications will install the software. Brian Riley moved to accept the Monthly Service Report. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee – Nothing new to report.

Translator/Programming Committee – Nothing new to report.

Budget Committee – Misty noted two issues regarding providing financial assistance to KNCC, the salary of Lori Gilbert and the movement of the equipment. The Budget Committee recommends that it's not feasible to move forward. The TV District isn't in the business of subsidizing other entities. Ken asked for coverage, and it isn't as big as they would like. No matter where the equipment is moved, there are places that lose signal. Only a signal at 1,000 watts touches the edge of Wells. It is not worth the \$29,000 to move the equipment as signal would be lost. KNCC originally requested a \$75,000 grant, but is now \$87,000. Ken suggested looking at taking the audio and run the signal on all the TV District sites on a secondary line. This could be done for about \$10,000. Misty doesn't mind allowing them to borrow equipment if they have equipment failures.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Financial Assistance to KNCC and All Other Matters Related Thereto

Brian Duggan stated that public media has had a dramatic cut in funding. KNCC wanted the money to buy them time to find long-term grant funding for Lori's position. He likes the idea of putting the radio audio as a secondary line. Lori Gilbert started work for KNCC in October 2023. The goal was to engage with the TV District about enhancing the signal and reach. KNCC is the only Elko public radio in the region, they are also non-profit. Elko County and Rural Nevada have become a news desert. A news desert is rural area with limited access to credible news. They want to enhance news coverage. Lori suggests scholarships at the schools. She just wants to support local journalism.

When Dale first heard that local news could go away, he thought about putting together a local TV station. If we help one local news outlet, that might keep us one step closer to our goal of providing local news. There are several choices: not to support the funding, support the streaming service, or partially support them. Dale leans towards streaming on the sub-channels and a one-time partial grant. Ray feels it is this board's job to support the market, but not create it and prop it up. Brian Riley supports local news, and he finds streaming a very good idea. Kent stated it's an awkward situation because we want the news, but the TV District has some projects that would need the funding. He

would be in favor of the streaming idea. Misty agrees with streaming. She hates losing a local entity, but the TV District isn't in the business of subsidizing other businesses. But she might be in favor of a one-time grant.

Paden is still working on details for streaming. On a technological basis, we would take an IP audio stream or an analog audio stream and inject it as a black carrier, no video, just audio. Most likely, we could add another channel to PBS. The equipment would be located at the fiber hut. It might be possible to stream in Eureka as well. There could be a possibility of other radio stations asking us to stream their service as well. Brian Duggan said you can currently hear KNCC on the internet. They make money by member donations; they receive about \$10,000 from direct donations. They have about 3,500 donors, which is about half their budget. They are allowed to broadcast 15-second messages from sponsors. They cannot do commercials. They currently do not have any underwriting clients. A streaming service could expand awareness that Lori is providing local news.

Kent LeBarts moved to deny the request from KNCC for direct support for Lori Gilbert's reporting in the amount of \$87,000. If additional funding becomes available, the TV District can revisit this item. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; Dale Lotspeich voted against, the rest voted in favor.

Kent LeBarts moved to deny the request from KNCC to support the move of equipment from Elko to Lamoille. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Kent LeBarts moved to explore the possibility of streaming the audio of the radio on a subchannel of a TV station. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Lori would like to incorporate amateur radio in the radio broadcasts. Misty does hope that they find funding.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Elko Television District Name Change

This item is to be removed from the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Creating Emails Using the Same Domain as the TV District Website

McMullen McPhee currently uses ShareFile to store files. That service will eventually go away. Ken suggests looking at getting the TV District its own network server that will back up emails and documents. Paden noted the domain currently has emails available. He is working with the host provider to make sure there is enough backup for three years. Most of it would work; if any large files are shared, it could go over capacity. For a file server, he advised Ken it would be better to keep the emails with the provider instead of getting our own service. It would cost about a couple of hundred bucks a month. A built-in server would be a time server cost. It would have a firewall installed with an annual subscription, which would end up being more expensive. Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ken Wiley, Infrastructure/Communications Coordinator, Interaction with Board Members Directly via Informational Emails During or Otherwise to Help Keep the Board Informed Prior to Board Meetings. The Concern is Serial Discussion and Email that May Create.

Dale stated the board voted to designate the chairman as Ken's primary supervisor. We don't want to get to the point of adding a third or fourth board member that could potentially become a meeting. We

also have to beware of polling. Dale feels it's best to use the Secretary as the mediator. No motion needed.

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 has the information from Cenni. He will get with Ray and Kent to go over these and report back next month.

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
Dale signed the form Verizon was requesting for Lamoille summit. Cenni has been in contact with them regarding the underground conduit and to subdivide each one of those conduits and insert an innerduct. He has some spares and could fit 5 of them in one conduit. Kent and Cenni will get together. Verizon will need one whole conduit to move over.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Letter from Everest Asking to Adjust their Lease Contract.
Cenni hasn't heard anything further from Everest after his email and phone call.

Discussion and Possible Approval of KENV Equipment Relocation and Upgrades on Grindstone
Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Amendment
The original contact at NDOT is no longer there. Paden has resent the contract to the new representative.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Elko County Public Safety Services
Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Building a New Tower on Grindstone and Contractor Updates
The tower has been stacked. Cenni got 60 feet of the waveguide ladder installed. Everything else is assembled and on the ground. It should be completed in about a week,

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 Action Regarding Technalogix Equipment Demonstration
Technalogix has offered to do a Zoom demonstration at the next meeting. Dale would like the demonstration scheduled for 6:15pm. The board will try to get through the preliminary items before

then. They would prefer the demonstration to be no more than an hour. Paden noted that the Technalogix amplifiers are very good.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Costs of ATSC 3.0 Transition that Could Force Many Stations Out of Business

Realistically, what they point out in the article is very accurate. The cost of replacing the equipment with ATSC 3.0 is very expensive. There is only one manufacturer putting ATSC 3.0 into TVs. This is a good basis to delay the TV Districts transfer to ATSC 3.0. Paden thinks the District should hold off on the licensing if equipment is purchased. Only two stations from Salt Lake, one we broadcast, are using ATSC 3.0. Out of three stations in Reno, we rebroadcast 2 of those. Unless it's forced, Paden recommends sticking with 1.0 until the FCC forces the transition. Once enforced, people would have to buy a different TV to receive the channels. This is being pushed by the NFL so they can keep control of the signal. Paden suggests purchasing ATSC 3.0-capable equipment, but not enabling it.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ken noted DSC will be looking at the Ruby Vista Building to see what would be involved to install water and sewer.

Misty asked how much the inter-local agreement will cost. Dale said the TV District will focus on the stuff they know how to deal with, and the other departments will have the employees. Ken will send out a summary of how the interlocal agreement will work and the benefits for the taxpayers.

Public Comment: None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 9th, 2025.