



Board Meeting MINUTES

Date: March 11, 2021
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Note: Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions – this meeting was held online only.

Board Members Attending:

Bob Potts - King County, Donna Gaw - City of Kirkland, Chelo Picardal - City of Bellevue, Noah Pitzer - University of Washington, Lora Ueland – Valley Com 911, Mehdi Sadri - City of Renton, David Travis - City of Auburn, Tom Howley - Renton School District, Thomas Fichtner - City of Federal Way

Others Attending:

Doug Mah-NW Gigapop, Darryl Hunt-KCIT, Mark Strand-UW, Ian Hardgrave-City of Renton, Hope Bourne – Valley Com 911, Paul Dunn – DunnCo

AGENDA

Introductions/Call to Order

Chairperson Chelo Picardal called the meeting to order at 11:02.

UW member David Morton is retiring, and UW has named Noah Pitzer as their C3 representative.

Ian Hardgrave was introduced as Renton’s Network Systems Specialist, replacing Ron Hansen who recently retired.

1. Establish Quorum – Approve Minutes

- Quorum was established.
- Approve Minutes from December 10, 2020 Board Meeting
Motion: *Move to approve December 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes*
Moved By: Bob Potts
- Seconded: Mehdi Sadri
Approved: Yes

2. Guest Presentation – Russ Elliott – Director, Washington State Broadband Office

Russ was scheduled to speak on Washington State’s work to deliver Internet Access to rural and underserved communities. He was unavoidably detained, and his presentation will be rescheduled to the May Board meeting.

3. Fiscal Report

Chelo provided the 2021 Year to Date Report as of end of February 2021. End of year balance is \$254,476.77 as more members paid their 2020 dues than expected and expenditures were not spent as planned. In 2021 only Renton School District and UW will be billed for dues as they opted for approved dues forgiveness in 2020.

Q1 2021 report through end of February shows expenses were \$382.50, continuing the pattern of low expenditures. The 2022 budget will come before the general membership for approval at the May meeting. Consensus is we should stay the course to align with past budgeting practice and re-visit in May.

4. Ring Activity/Operations Committee Report

Dennis Cook provided an update on the activity since the last Board meeting. There were 4 unplanned and 3 planned incidents. One unplanned was an issue with Comcast that may have been caused by a pinched fiber during maintenance, but it did happen outside their stated window. Summary of fiber segments - Kent/Tukwila is still problematic, mostly believe it is due to Comcast. 1 unplanned event so far in last month, again on Comcast and will be reviewed at next week's Operations meeting. It was a long incident at 5 hours. No service orders in last 3 months. Only in-flight is OTDR monitoring project. No change in Optical Wave Assignment. Still have plenty of slot capacity left. No turnups on the 1Gbps.

5. Project Agreement 77 - ADVA OTDR Monitoring for C3 Ring Fiber Faults

Dennis provided an update on the project. ADVA has received PO and equip expected to ship on 3/16. Development of the change request are underway as well as crafting a plan of events. Work will likely happen over two nights and no outages are expected related to the work. The process will test every segment to ensure the ring wraps properly. The target timeframe for completion is end of April.

6. EasTrail (Eastside Rail Corridor) Progress Report

Darryl Hunt provided an update on the EasTrail project. Several milestones reached including the consultant completing outreach work to EasTrail owners and easement holders. In mid-Feb the completed draft of RFP was sent to the three categories of entities: EasTrail owners, easement holders (Sound Transit, PSE) and right-of-way permit authorities (Bellevue and Renton). They are receiving comments and feedbacks from the groups and King County Council. Critical next steps are associated with creation of a MOU of property rights between all parties who have a stake in EasTrail to make sure easement rights are senior to any rights provided a construction vendor to build. 2nd document is a lease instrument - once parties agree that easements will remain intact, working to build infrastructure that parties can sign with construction vendor. Also developing an MOU between EasTrail owners & easement owners that talk about distribution of fiber and distribution of any revenue that results. Expect the only parties that will receive fiber access are the 3 categories of entities: owners, easement, and right-of-way permit authorities. Others will likely need to work with one of those 3 entities to gain access. Chelo clarified the C3 members who are owners are Kirkland, Redmond, and King County. Bellevue and Renton have some influence as right-of-way permit authorities.

Between now and Oct a lot of legal work and building out of RFP. The schedule for now is anticipating mid-October to advertise RFP with 40 days on the street, that will come back and analysis completed in 21 days. KC has requirement to complete report and send to Council, who is interested in reviewing the top bids and they have 30 days to review. Then notify bidders, do best and final offers and award the contract and complete negotiations in early Q1 2022. Vendors are being advised of all pending projects and being asked to integrate their schedule with them to exercise a "dig only once" policy. All owners will need time to vet the agreements in their own agency and time is being allotted in the schedule for that to happen.

During discussions that surfaced from Darryl's report, several possible retreat items were identified, including how C3 could benefit/leverage projects such as this, hub expansion to reach more people/entities which would also open up opportunities for more C3 members, improving networks, common strategic interests (digital equity & access), and opportunities for federal funding.

7. Good of The Order

Paul briefed the Board on South Sound 911 building construction on behalf of Tim Hannah. The data center is in final stages of construction. Occupancy scheduled for mid-June.

Mehdi asked about HB1336 which would expand ability for PUDs, Counties and Cities to offer retail broadband service. The bill has made its way through the House and is going through Senate committees. Sno County PUD is seeking a feasibility study related to this. King County's study estimated \$120mil was needed to provide "fiber to the premise" service to unserved portion of King County, including the Skykomish area. Broadband study may be useful when federal funds become available as it may serve as a justification resource.

Tom Howley reported on Renton School District's actions to provide connectivity to their students. They are using a grant from OSPI to pay for Comcast internet Essential through June. RSD created a website to help inform and guide families seeking assistance; in some cases cable internet is most useful or hotspots are needed. Had to recall all hotspots earlier and re-issue in unlimited mode. Comcast recently did upgrade to 50 mg which is helpful but doesn't address all family situations. Kinders are back to in-person instruction with other grades being phased in over time. Do have agreements with labor.

David Travis asked if anyone has built plans for retrieving equipment issued during the pandemic as entities return to working from work. King County is likely keeping the work from home model and have given up significant physical space.

Bob Potts spoke of the King County E911 Program Office work towards implementing a new call handling platform for all PSAPs in King County. An RFP was issued, and scoring has occurred. Selection will be forthcoming. The new platform project will be complete in 2022.

Lora Ueland briefed the Board on development of a web-based Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD Lite) developed by Snohomish 911. VCC911 Sno911 did a pilot test in February where non-emergent calls to VCC911 were routed to Snohomish for a 30-minute period. Calls for service were entered by Sno911 personnel in CAD Lite, retrieved by VCC personnel at Valley Com and entered in VCC's CAD for dispatch. The test was successful and is a step towards non-traditional PSAP call handling including potential work from home for 911.

Darryl Hunt advised on King County's federal funds grant distribution of \$2.2mil to further digital equity. Recipients included assisting "road map schools" (south end Seattle area, Federal Way, Renton) in acquisition of laptops & accessories and to translate some of the learning management systems to other languages, granted funds to 18 community-based orgs to get technology equipment & training to disadvantaged communities, to King County library systems to enhance wireless in the buildings when they reopen. Funded grant to UW for innovation pilots such as using cellular frequency to stand up community networks.

Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm

Minutes submitted by,

Lora Ueland
Board Secretary