

# Colorado Channel Authority Board

November 4, 2009: Meeting Minutes

10:00-12:00 HCR 0111

## Board Members:

*Present:* Representative Benefield, Representative Nikkel, John Montgomery, Luisa Collins, Laura Hoepfner, Carol Haller, Senator Steadman arrived late.

*Absent:* Senator Cadman & Ken Fellman

*Quorum present?* Yes

*Others Present:* Scott Nachtrieb (Legislative Council), Wayne Brennigan (private engineer contractor), Suzanne Keim (Legislative Council), Zack Wimberly (Legislative Council), Speaker Romanoff, Tony Shawcross (Open Media Foundation), Deb Lastowka (Open Media Foundation), Laura Graves (Open Media Foundation), Karen Goldman (Senate Secretary), Marilyn Eddins (House Chief Clerk), Ed Krisor (private lawyer), Bart Miller (Legislative Legal Services)

## Proceedings:

· Meeting called to order at 10:15 p.m. by Representative Benefield

### Address by Speaker Romanoff:

Proud to see vision through, and he shared future vision of what the channel could do. What a great tool, unimaginable to people before, in helping to bring civics to the people.

Rep. Benefield asked Romanoff what the thought was on setting policy around who goes first broadcasting- he said that the original thought/hope was that there would be two separate channels to broadcast both chambers. He now suggested it depends on the bills and second readings are more interesting, but would ask the tv expertise at the table. He thinks trying to secure a second channel is where the channel should be headed. (report from comcast states a 4million worth/cost of each channel)

Rep. Benefield also asked about funding for the channel. He felt as though this effort was very important: to keep transparency in government- and hoped that the legislature would continue to help fund it. He also said the foundation dollars they gathered were easier to get when it wasn't for continued operation, but for the upfront equipment purchases. He said it would also be easier to get money if the channel brought in & worked closer with kids/students.

### · Project Director's Report:

- Scott Nachtrieb was invited to report about the past accomplishments of the Channel. He began by introducing Karen & Marilyn as people that already have established a relationship with the Control Room Operators, and the other people present that do the tech support of the channel: Bart, Suzanne, Zack, Tony, Deb, Laura.

- Scott reported on the other 23 states that televise the legislature, and he talked with 9 of them regarding their budgets & how they get their money; and asked how they decide which chamber gets broadcasted live/first. Scott will complete a report on his findings to submit to the group with some suggested options & items to consider.

- Bart Miller was invited to the table to talk about the actual legislation that created the Authority Board, HB09-1307. Explained why the Board was created: 1.) Legislature needed expertise in how to run a channel without over-taxing current staff; and 2.) TABOR that limits governmental spending: yet the amount of money needed to expand the channel might exceed these restrictions, therefore creating this independent entity will allow for equipment upgrades.

- The Bill does give the Executive Committee of the Leg council the authority to coordinate the coverage with the Board, as the House/Senate floor rules trump any other rules.

- The CCAB is a separate entity from the government, although closely tied to it. Gov. entities must have a budget & post it, as well as the meetings, and must have legal council (Ed Krisor).

- Ed Krisor invited to the table to report on the legal necessities of creating bylaws and election of officers. Board must do the following immediately:

1.) Must designate a place to publicly post meetings. It was decided to post on the website in two places, as well as physically in the Capitol building, on the bulletin boards outside of the elevators on each floor. It will also be run as a slide on the actual channel. Laura Graves will do all of this.

2.) Must solidify contracts before January- in December- with Open Media Foundation and Granicus.

3.) Nominations & Election of Chair & Vice Chair of CCAB:

\* Representative Benefield was nominated & elected Chair

\* John Montgomery was nominated & elected Vice Chair

\* Secretary & Treasurer positions:

In referring to the legislation, it was decided that the Secretary & Treasurer needed to be a person, but not necessarily a Board member. It was suggested that the Contractor running the channel could be elected into these positions. With no one else wanting to step into these roles, Tony Shawcross, Executive Director of the Open Media Foundation, who has been running the Colorado Channel for the last two years, as well as the two full-time Control Room Operators (Director & Producer, Deb Lastowka & Laura Graves) were invited to the table. They were nominated & elected to take on these roles: Deb as Treasurer and Laura as Secretary.

-Official Motion for Ed Krisor be elected as legal council for the Board, it was agreed.

-Mr. Krisor also reported on:

- Contracts: modify current contracts & replace "City & County of Denver" with "Open Media Foundation" and the "State" with "Colorado Channel Authority Board" and the same with the Granicus contract. Ed will have these drawn up as drafts for approval at the next meeting.

- How to write checks- this concern needs to be addressed within the Bylaws. Ed will report at the next meeting on setting up the 501c3, the bank account and the bylaws for the official organization.

· *Other business:*

- Wayne Brennigan was introduced as the original engineer that installed equipment. After adjournment, everyone will proceed up to the Control Room to see the actual set up.

· Assessment of the Meeting/Setting future date:

- It was requested to keep meetings to a two-hour limit, and it was agreed that meeting during the day, at the Capitol was an acceptable arrangement. The next meeting date was set for 10AM on Monday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 2009. Room TBA.

· Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

· Minutes submitted by Secretary, Laura Graves