

**MINUTES**  
**RAINIER COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

President Derek Young called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The meeting was conducted on a Zoom virtual video conference.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>
DuPont	Andy Takata	Not Present
Fife	Lisa McClellan	Present
Orting	Scott Larson	Present
Pierce County	Derek Young	Present
Pierce County	Libby Catalinich	Present
Puyallup	Ned Witting	Present
Ruston	Deb Kristovich	Present
Sumner	Patrick Reed	Present
Tacoma*	Jeff Lueders	Present
University Place	Steve Worthington	Present
University Place (alt)	Linda Seesz	Present

City Attorneys:

Puyallup*	Daniel Kenny	Present
Sumner*	Jeff Steffens	Present
RCC*	Ken Fellman	Present
DuPont*	Gordan Karg	Present

\* Nonvoting member

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from January 20, 2021 were approved.

**4. Old Business**

- a) Updates from each jurisdiction on the internal progress of their Comcast franchise  
Megan Hutton noted that at the previous meeting, the model cable franchise agreement with Comcast was approved. She asked those present to give an update on where each jurisdiction was in their process.

Ned Witting stated that it was discussed at the Puyallup council meeting and turned over to staff. Patrick Reed explained that Sumner will be looking at negotiations in 2022. Ken Fellman reported that DuPont is actively working on it to begin negotiations. Steve Worthington said that University Place staff have yet to schedule it to come before the council but probably within the next few months. Derek Young conveyed that Pierce County will need to make some changes to meet their rural needs, but that the model gives them a head start. Scott Larson

commented that Orting will discuss it in their study session that evening. Lisa McClellan explained that Fife has discussed it and she will check on the status. Megan Hutton interjected that she spoke with Deb Kristovich with Ruston and their attorney is reviewing it.

- b) Rewrite Committee to combine RCC Interlocal and PCTV participation agreement  
Derek Young stated that this has changed course a little and noted that Pierce County needed to look at their needs first. He asked that this be kept at the Pierce County level for now, with advice from counsel. Then other jurisdictions will be brought in as part of the committee to continue the process.
- c) FCC 621 Order update – Cable Appeal oral arguments  
Ken Fellman spoke to this item and explained that this motion is in abeyance for 120 days due to the change in the leadership at the FCC. He gave a brief history of the 5% cap on cable fees and the in-kind services that could count against that. This would include cable service to public buildings and transport lines.

## **5. New Business**

### **a) RCC Membership**

Megan Hutton reported that the City of Edgewood is considering RCC membership in 2022 and has asked for cost estimates for budget purposes. They have expressed interest in video production. She will continue to pursue this.

## **6. PCTV Update**

### **a) Biennial Budget 2022-23**

Megan Hutton mentioned that at the next meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> she will be presenting the preliminary budget. She gave the outline of the budget timeline and process for both operations and capital, which would include revenues and expenses. She will send out materials ahead of time for review.

Derek Young further explained the timeline for adoption of the RCC Budget before the PC Council. He noted that changes can be made during the budgeting process through July.

### **b) Captioning**

Megan Hutton gave information about steps towards captioning on the channel and web. She detailed that the process is underway with staff researching equipment and meeting with vendors. It may require two different solutions. Artificial Intelligence (AI) captioning equipment and integration with live meeting streaming will be considered. She gave initial cost estimates/ongoing costs and said that this will be a part of the budgeting process.

A discussion followed regarding what other PEG stations are doing, different virtual streaming platforms, accessibility requirements, options within the current system, automated captioning quality and accuracy, cost comparisons and the value of providing captioning service.

Megan Hutton asked that jurisdictions reach out to her about what they may need or want specifically in terms of captioning.

**7. Public Comment**

None.

**8. Commissioner Comments**

Jeff Lueders asked that everyone put a place holder for the WATOA conference coming up on October 28-29 in Chelan.

A discussion took place between Jeff Lueders and Derek Young on PUD partnerships for broadband buildout, TPU/City Net and Rainier Connect services.

**9. Adjourned** – at 9:05 am

Next meeting: – May 19, 2021

2021 Meetings:

May 19 | July 21 | September 15 | November 17