

Universal Service Fund Council Meeting Minutes

Open Meeting Agenda for Monday, December 14, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order 11:05 AM, Jim Jermain

Council members present: Jim Jermain, AT&T, Council Chairperson; Ted Hankins, CenturyLink, Council Vice Chairperson; Michele Ahlman, Clear Sounds; Shar Bruner, Access to Independence; Pam Holmes, Ultratec; David Mortimer, Hospital Sisters Health System; Michelle Reinen, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; Jerry Schneier, Marquette Adams Telephone Cooperative; Janet Zander, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) David Byers, NEIT; Vanessa Johnson, New Concept Self Development Center; Nicole Mauritz, TDS Telecom.

Council members absent: Brad Paul, WisCAP; Adam Raschka, Charter; Scott Bolher, Frontier Communication

Commission Staff: Holly O'Higgins, Billy Mauldin, Tara Kiley, Alyssa Kenney, Jenna Schmidt, Rita Hardgrove, Kara Koonce

2. **Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2020** motion by Ted Hankins to approve the minutes and a second by Michelle Reinen – minutes approved
3. **Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2020** motion by Ted Hankins to approve the minutes and a second by Nicole Mauritz – minutes approved
4. Council membership
 - Upcoming term completions: Ted Hankins, Michele Ahlman, and Jerry Schneider
Ted and Michele have agreed to continue serving on the Council.
Jerry has indicated that he will be retiring from the Council. The Chair expressed gratitude for Jerry's many years of service to the Council and the telecommunications industry in Wisconsin.
5. USF Assessments, Jenna Schmidt
 - Jenna reviewed the USF Assessments with the Council. The gross intrastate assessable revenue has declined for several years.
6. 1-AC-251
 - Jim Jermain provided an overview of the work and recommendations of the Rule Sub-committee
 - A motion was made by Ted Hankins to accept the Sub-committee recommendations and send them to the Commissioners. David Byers seconded the motion. The motion carried.
7. TEPP Report, Billy Mauldin
 - Billy presented information on the new TEPP vendor protocols and the approved TEPP equipment distribution list.
 - Billy discussed the one time extension of time for TEPP Outreach grants in order to align future grant rounds to the calendar year.
8. USF Director Report, Holly O'Higgins
 - Lifeline

- Nonprofit Access Grants
- USF Administrator RFP
- Holly shared information with the Council on the trends in the Lifeline program, including impacts related to the Lifeline Modernization Act and to COVID related waivers.
- Holly shared information regarding the Nonprofit Access Program Grants applications and awards.

9. Adjourn

David Mortimer made a motion to adjourn, Pam Holmes provided a second, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.