

Minutes

California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) Administrative Committee Meeting

California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco – Room 5100

10:00 am to 12:15 pm, June 19, 2015

Members present: Sean McLaughlin (Vice-Chairperson), Jeff Mondon, Calvin Chang, Linda Crowe, Jarrid Keller, Casey McFall

Staff present: Helen Mickiewicz (Legal Division) (for part of the meeting); Kim Hua, Karo Serle, Lauren Saine, Faline Fua, Jonathan Lakritz (Communications Division)

1) Introductions

Richard Matthews sent his best wishes and hopes to be back at the next meeting. Calvin Chang recommended that staff offer Richard the opportunity to participate via teleconference.

2) Public comments – There were no public comments.

3) Approval of minutes – The minutes of the March 13, 2015 meeting were approved.

4) Update on CTF Rulemaking (R.13-01-010)

Sean McLaughlin stated that Phase III will be very important for the Committee and requested a report on the Phase I/II Decision at the next meeting. He has invited Commissioner Peterman's advisor to attend a Committee meeting.

5) Discussion of Committee vacancies

Fay Fua identified where the Committee has vacancies and asked the committee to nominate candidates to fill them. Calvin Chang reminded the Committee that those working for public agencies cannot get reimbursed for attending meetings. He will reach out to CTN CTO Dan Kurywachak for nominees. Sean said he would work with Calvin and will contact Eric Brown, CTN CEO. He suggested inviting the Indian Health Services to submit a nominee.

Linda Crowe stated she would like the Committee to revisit community college representation, and Jarrid Keller suggested Patrick Perry. Sean McLaughlin will put this item on the agenda after the Rulemaking update and suggested that changes to the AC Charter to add community college representation could be part of Phase III. He will work

with staff to make sure an invitation for a community college representative to attend the next meeting is made in a timely manner.

Calvin Chang recommended that the committee be prepared with questions on how the CTF uses funds now, what percentage goes to community colleges, and what entities and what services are supported, especially satellite sites.

6) Staff reports

Claims:

Kim Hua presented the Claims report. Sean McLaughlin stated that, in order to prepare the FY16-17 budget, the committee needs staff's draft budget, the committee's FY15-16 budget, and a fund status report.

Applications:

Karo Serle presented the Applications report.

Jeff Mondon said he had specifically asked for claims and updates reports. Karo said the report breaks out schools and libraries per Jeff's request.

Casey McFall asked about CBO rejections, since it looked like more than half of CBO applications were rejected. Karo explained that part of that has to do with outreach, and part has to do with applications from nonprofits that are not CBOs. Casey noted that she has always felt that CBOs addressing the digital divide have their own digital divide and are not necessarily as computer literate or have the best equipment. Some might need guidelines and technical assistance in completing the application. Some CBO staff with limited English may need translation services. Smaller CBOs should put computer services into their budget.

Calvin Chang asked what kind of schools are applying. Karo responded that most public schools have already applied, so now it is mostly private schools applying. Sean McLaughlin said the takeaway is that libraries and schools are a more consistent way to provide methodology for CBOs to follow. The current methodology is not getting traction in getting a diverse, wide range of CBOs. Linda Crowe noted that there are 183 public library jurisdictions, and about 1100 libraries.

Update on AB 1503

Lauren Saine reported that AB 1503, concerning the addition of California State University Auxiliaries as CTF-eligible entities, had been "held under submission" in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and not moved to the floor for a vote.

7) Preparation of FY 2016-17 budget recommendation

Linda Crowe said the 41 of 183 libraries who are in CalRen are already in the CTF. Many libraries didn't apply because of misconceptions about federal website blocking rules; they thought they had to get E-rate in order to be eligible for the CTF.

Sean McLaughlin said the committee should look at the revenue side to see the relationship of the budget recommendation to revenue collection. Jonathan Lakritz said that is not the purview of the committee.

Sean McLaughlin raised the question of the value-add that the committee can provide and how to encourage or discourage marketing and outreach. He stated the committee needs more and better data; getting a response from carriers or from staff is too burdensome. The solution is to get better data more often -- this reflects the committee's requests over time. Staff needs a better system for gathering data and information about the program. Sean expressed his desire to promote better data gathering, reporting and access. Calvin Chang questioned whether the committee should add budget line items for this purpose.

Sean reminded the committee that Ana Montes had requested field hearings, and that would mean travel costs. He called for a vote. Calvin Change moved to request field hearings, and Casey McFall seconded. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor and one recusal.

8) Next meeting date

The next meeting date will be set via email after the Phase III Scoping Memo is issued. Agenda items will include: community college representation, an update on the new rules, and a working session on the Annual Report.