

Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission
Anoka City Hall – Council Chambers

August 15, 2013, 10:00 AM

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Administrative Reports**
 - 4.1. Secretary
 - 4.1.1. Approval of meeting minutes from June 20, 2013.
 - 4.2. Treasurer
 - 4.2.1. May/June Financial Report
 - 4.3. Executive Director
- 5. General Business**
 - 5.1. Franchise Renewal Notification
 - 5.2. Comcast Presentation
 - 5.3. Liability Waiver
 - 5.4. Monthly Statistical Report
 - 5.5. Programming Reports
- 6. Adjourn**

QCCCC Agenda Item

4.1.1 Minutes 6/20/13

August 5, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: Minutes Approval

Attached are the minutes for the June 20 Commission meeting.

Action Requested: Approval of minutes from the June 20 meeting.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF June 20, 2013

CALL TO ORDER – 1

Chair Heitkamp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL– 2

Commissioners present were: Eric Johnson – Champlin, Carl Anderson - Anoka, Chair Bret Heitkamp – Champlin. Tim Cruikshank – Anoka (arrived at 10:30 a.m.), Julie Trude – Andover, Jim Dickinson – Andover.

Commissioners absent: Kurt Ulrich – Ramsey, John LeTourneau – Ramsey. Excused – League of Minnesota Cities

Others present included Karen George – Executive Director, Bob Vose – Kennedy & Graven, Sharon Klumpp – Springsted and Associates.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – 3

Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Dickinson to approve the agenda as presented.

8 eyes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – 4

4.1 Secretary

4.1.1. Approval of meeting minutes from May 16, 2013

Motion was made by Commissioner Trude and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the May 16, 2013 minutes as presented.

8 eyes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

4.2 Treasurer

4.2.1. April Financial Report

Ms. George presented the April financial reports.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trude and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the April Financial Report.

8 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

4.3 Executive Director's Report

Ms. George stated the Leadership Academy wraps up this afternoon.

She indicated the work continued on the strategic plan with the Commissioner's input.

She stated legal counsel and staff had completed the renewal resolution for commission approval and member city approval.

She noted QCTV picked up two awards from the Alliance for Community media at the conference in San Francisco.

GENERAL BUSINESS – 5

5.1 Franchise Renewal Resolution

Ms. George stated Cable Television Franchisee Comcast of Minnesota submitted notification of the franchise renewal process and its intent to renew the franchise with Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission member cities. The resolution responds to this notification, as required by law, and further affirms the Commission's authority on behalf of the member cities. The resolution will be forwarded to each member city's council for adoption and forwarded to Comcast of Minnesota, Inc.

She recommended the Commissioners approve the resolution and authorize the Executive Director to work with member cities for resolution adoption and communication with Comcast.

Bob Vose, attorney for the Commission, stated the resolution related to the renewal on behalf of the joint powers agreement. They are now faced that Comcast wanted to renew its agreements. He stated renewal of cable franchises was a unique situation because they do not just sit down and negotiate the agreements as in other contracts because there is a Federal Statute that outlines how franchise agreements are supposed to be negotiated.

He stated if the parties could not reach an agreement, there was a provision that a Federal Judge would get involved. The resolution only acknowledges the commission intends to negotiate with Comcast. He stated that was important to do as the four cities actually enter into their own contract with Comcast. He states as they started the renewal process they wanted the commission's endorsement and support.

Commissioner Dickinson asked if on the third Whereas cause was the Commission's name accurate. Ms. George replied that was an oversight and it would be changed to insert the word cable.

Commissioner Dickinson asked on the last Whereas clause what was the difference between a corporation and a commission. Ms. George stated there used to be two organizations that Commissioners had oversight of, but she believed the corporation was dissolved in 2007 or 2008.

Mr. Vose stated that was his oversight and there used to be two organizations with the corporation begin dissolved, so any subsequent references to corporation would be removed.

Commissioner Trude inquired about the timeline. Mr. Vose stated if the company wanted to maintain protections, the company was required to give written notice to the cities, which had already been received by the cities. He noted the franchising authority would open a proceeding to consider the company's past performance and the communities' future needs for cable, so this was a way to memorialize the opening of the proceeding. He stated by the Commissioners discussing this today as well as in the past, the Commissioners probably already had taken all of the necessary steps.

Commissioner Trude asked if the action being recommended met the legal requirement. Mr. Vose responded it did. He stated this was never a contested issue, but it was wise to ensure it did not become an issue.

Commissioner Trude commented on the Resolution the cities would be adopting as supplied in the meeting packet. Attorney Vose reviewed the timeline and process for the commissioners, noting it was beneficial for four cities to work together on the franchise renewal

Commissioner Trude stated the Ramsey Commissioners were absent due to a previous obligation at a conference they had already paid for.

Motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Anderson to accept the Resolution.

Karly Werner, Director of Government Affairs Comcast, stated she did a lot of managing and overseeing the franchise renewals. She indicated she would come back to next month's meeting with a presentation for the Commission to show the new products and services as well as new things coming in the future. She stated she looked forward to the upcoming franchise discussions.

Chair Heitkamp thanked Ms. Werner for coming and the Board looked forward to her presentation.

8 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

5.2 Strategic Plan Adoption

Ms. George noted the Commission had approved the mission, vision and value statements for the strategic plan. The Commission has created organization strategies and strategic objectives in the four areas of the balanced scorecard. The consultant and staff had worked to finalize the language for the commission approval. She recommended the Commissioners approve the organization strategies and strategic objectives.

She introduced the consultant Sharon Klumpp.

Ms. Klumpp thanked the Commissioners for inviting her to the meeting today to discuss the Strategic Plan. She stated she saw the strategic plan as giving the Commissioners a cohesive direction. She asked the Commissioners if they had any questions.

Commissioner Trude stated she was surprised at the scope and breadth of the document and it would give all of them some anticipation of the things to come. She stated she was excited to look ahead for the action steps to bring each of the goals forward.

Ms. George stated this has been a fun project to work on. She thanked both the Commissioners and staff for their work on this.

Commissioner Trude asked if they would have the opportunity to "tweak" a few words along the way. Ms. George responded that was possible and that this was a working document.

Chair Heitkamp stated he was excited about the direction this was taking the Board and the implementation would be the fun part.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson and seconded by Commissioner Trude to approve the organization strategies and strategic objectives as presented.

8 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Organizational Assessment Phase 2

Ms. George stated this started with an RFP and this was picking up phase 2 of the organizational assessment project. She stated this was a recommendation to work with Holly Hansen Consulting Services for phase 2 of the project. She noted the overall objective and price stayed the same.

Commissioner Trude stated she did not have a problem with moving in this direction.

Commissioner Dickinson stated he was happy the scope was very specific. Ms. George stated she would keep tabs on the project.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the consulting agreement for the phase 2 work with Holly Hansen Consulting Services.

8 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Ms. George presented the online dashboard for the strategic plan.

5.3 Alliance for Community Media Awards Presentation

Ms. George stated QCTV was recently recognized by a jury of their peers as providing excellent programming. She noted QCTV had won two categories from The Alliance for Community Media (ACM), which were the Web Based Program awards, and the Website for Access Centers award. She recommended the Commissioners accept the awards.

Scott Flynn, Head Technician, presented his crew. He showed the awards received from Alliance for Community Media. Mr. Flynn stated at the conference, they decided to “bring the audience along to the event”, so they recorded pieces, which were sent back to the department daily and from the video sent a short video clip would show on the channel and website.

Ms. George stated it is great to work with these individuals every day.

Commissioner Cruikshank arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Heitkamp stated it was the Commissioners job to set the course and guidelines as well as set the resources and throughout the strategic plan process, they have identified a commitment to technology to allow staff to

continue to be leaders in the field they are in and the awards are a direct reflection of this. He stated on behalf of the Board he thanked them.

Commissioner Trude stated she loved the Tech News staff prepared and there was a lot on the website with a lot of useful information and it was laid out nice and was user friendly. She thanked them for getting more into social media and getting more customers by doing that. She stated she would like to see more of this and she hoped they came back with a lot of new ideas at the conference.

5.4 Monthly Statistical Report

Ms. George presented the Monthly Statistical Report.

5.5 Programming Report

Ms. George presented the May Programming Reports.

Chair Heitkamp thanked staff for the help in implementing the Champlin council chamber upgrades. He stated the upgrades have been a huge success.

ADJOURN – 6

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn the meeting.

6 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed for approval,

Kathy Altman
Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Karen George
Executive Director

QCCCC Agenda Item

4.2.1 Financial Report

August 9, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: May and June Financial Report

Attached are the May and June financial reports for your review:

Action Requested: Accept the financial report.

Quad Cities Communications Commission
Balance Sheet Summary
As of June 30, 2013

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	765,758.76
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Other current assets	0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 765,758.76
Fixed Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 765,758.76
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	11,428.96
Other Current Liabilities	-0.22
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 11,428.74
Total Liabilities	\$ 11,428.74
Equity	754,330.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 765,758.76

Monday, Aug 12, 2013 02:25:48 PM PDT GMT-5 - Accrual Basis

QCTV Bank Reconciliation
June 2013

Beginning Balance - 4M Statement	846,596.08
Less: Cleared Checks/Withdrawals	(75,794.81)
Plus: 4M Fund Interest	10.71
Plus: Bank Deposits	900.45
Bank Balance	\$771,712.43
Book Balance	771,712.43
Adjusted Book Balance	771,712.43
Difference:	\$0.00

Completed by: MK

Quad Cities Communications Commission Reconcile Report for

*This is a static report. Any changes to transactions since the reconcile date are not reflected here.
Report created on 07/18/2013.*

Account: Quad Cities Commission
Statement Date: 06/30/2013
Reconcile Date: 07/18/2013

Summary

Opening Balance	846,596.08
Cleared Transactions	<u>-74,883.65</u>
Ending Balance of Statement	771,712.43
Uncleared Transactions as of Statement Date	<u>-12,333.49</u>
Register Balance as of Statement Date	759,378.94
Uncleared Transactions after Statement Date	<u>-15,371.93</u>
Register Balance as of Reconcile Date	744,007.01

Cleared Transactions

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cleared Checks and Payments				
04/01/2013	Bill Payment	9880	MAGC	135.00
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9954	Laura E. Houle	360.00
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9953	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	122.60
05/31/2013	Journal	05C - 2013MK		179.25
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9952	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	455.92
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9950	Century Link	253.94
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9955	Preferred One Insurance Co.	3,361.43
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9951	City of Andover	280.00
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9962	Orkin Pest Control	94.43
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9960	Market Place Plus	424.90
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9957	ACE Solid Waste, Inc.	107.70
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9966	Xcel Energy	1,289.11
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9959	Holiday Station	260.70
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9961	Office Depot	21.90
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9963	Timesavers	160.95
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9965	Verified Credentials	25.00
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9956	A+ Cleaning Service, Inc.	407.65
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9958	Comcast Cable	601.05
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9964	U.S. Bank Corporate	713.36
06/14/2013	Journal	06A - 2013MK		186.00
06/14/2013	Journal	06A - 2013MK		22,500.04
06/14/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	825.00
06/14/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,661.85
06/14/2013	Journal	06A - 2013MK		6,954.87
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9970	City of Champlin	68.70
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9968	CenterPoint Energy	75.64
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9969	City of Andover	975.79
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9973	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	397.45
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9972	Huebsch	55.60
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9975	Presto Graphics	48.20

Reconcile Session Report

06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9974	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	475.00
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	825.00
06/28/2013	Journal	06B - 2013MK		19,619.01
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,524.97
06/28/2013	Journal	06B - 2013MK		6,306.85
06/30/2013	Check	W/D	Bank Fees	39.95
				Subtotal: 75,794.81

Cleared Deposits and Other Credits

06/05/2013	Deposit		Richard & Mary DeVinney	59.00
06/05/2013	Deposit		Terry O'Connell	673.85
06/12/2013	Deposit		Paul Perkal	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		Miscellaneous Customer	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		William Branchaud	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		Keith Birosh	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		William Bombardo	15.00
06/25/2013	Deposit		Tom Richards	75.10
06/25/2013	Deposit		Virginia Wallace	17.50
06/30/2013	Journal	06C - 2013MK		10.71
				Subtotal: 911.16

Total Cleared Transactions -74,883.65

Uncleared Transactions as of 06/30/2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Uncleared Checks and Payments				
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9916	John Letourneau	100.00
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9967	Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce	480.00
06/21/2013	Bill Payment	9971	Economically Correct, Inc.	2,871.48
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9977	B&H Photo-Video	119.95
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9981	Edward Wilberg	360.00
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9980	CWC Inc.	1,300.00
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9982	G & B Environmental, Inc	115.21
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9986	Thad Goff	300.00
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9985	Preferred One Insurance Co.	3,361.43
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9987	The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.	479.80
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9978	Century Link	252.29
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9988	Verizon Wireless	55.08
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9976	Amazon	142.65
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9979	Comcast Cable	220.70
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9984	Market Place Plus	424.90
06/28/2013	Bill Payment	9983	Lynda.com, Inc.	1,750.00
				Subtotal: 12,333.49

Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits

Subtotal: 0.00

Total Uncleared Transactions as of 06/30/2013 -12,333.49

Uncleared Transactions from 06/30/2013 to 07/18/2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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Uncleared Checks and Payments

07/12/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,463.04
07/12/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	1,325.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9998	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	743.56
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10009	Xcel Energy	1,495.05
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10001	Multichannel News	184.99
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10002	Orkin Pest Control	94.43
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9995	FanFare Promotions	182.20
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10004	Thad Goff	150.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9992	Cintas Corporation #470	64.37
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9996	Holiday Station	133.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10003	Springsted Inc.	3,960.74
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9994	David Brown	225.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9993	Comcast Cable	416.97
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9991	CenterPoint Energy	37.82
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10006	U.S. Bank Corporate	2,272.83
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10008	Video Blocks	89.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10000	Laura E. Houle	200.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9999	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	555.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10005	Timesavers	129.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9997	Holly Hansen Consulting	500.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	10007	Verified Credentials	45.00
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9989	A+ Cleaning Service, Inc.	407.65
07/15/2013	Bill Payment	9990	ACE Solid Waste, Inc.	108.00
07/16/2013	Bill Payment	10010	City of Anoka	125.00
07/16/2013	Bill Payment	10011	Stephanie L. Adams	95.00
				Subtotal: 17,002.65

Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits

07/03/2013	Deposit		Terry O'Connell	66.87
07/03/2013	Deposit		Terry O'Connell	673.85
07/10/2013	Deposit		David Pineda	700.00
07/10/2013	Deposit		Roland Oyou	15.00
07/10/2013	Deposit		Louis Carington	15.00
07/10/2013	Deposit		Jean Stauffer	10.00
07/17/2013	Deposit		Kimberlee Zopfi	75.00
07/17/2013	Deposit		Brian Larson	75.00
				Subtotal: 1,630.72

Subtotal: 06/30/2013

-15,371.93

Quad Cities Communications Commission
Balance Sheet Summary
As of May 31, 2013

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	847,245.22
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Other current assets	0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 847,245.22
Fixed Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 847,245.22
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	7,015.98
Other Current Liabilities	-0.14
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 7,015.84
Total Liabilities	\$ 7,015.84
Equity	840,229.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 847,245.22

Monday, Aug 12, 2013 02:23:49 PM PDT GMT-5 - Accrual Basis

QCTV Bank Reconciliation
May 2013

Beginning Balance - 4M Statement	971,085.93
Less: Cleared Checks/Withdrawals	(128,530.95)
Plus: 4M Fund Interest	11.96
Plus: Bank Deposits	4,029.14
Bank Balance	\$846,596.08
Book Balance	846,596.08
Adjusted Book Balance	846,596.08
Difference:	\$0.00

Completed by: MK

Quad Cities Communications Commission Reconcile Report for

*This is a static report. Any changes to transactions since the reconcile date are not reflected here.
Report created on 06/14/2013.*

Account: Quad Cities Commission
Statement Date: 05/31/2013
Reconcile Date: 06/14/2013

Summary

Opening Balance	971,085.93
Cleared Transactions	<u>-124,489.85</u>
Ending Balance of Statement	846,596.08
Uncleared Transactions as of Statement Date	<u>-5,248.14</u>
Register Balance as of Statement Date	841,347.94
Uncleared Transactions after Statement Date	<u>-3,298.90</u>
Register Balance as of Reconcile Date	838,049.04

Cleared Transactions

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cleared Checks and Payments				
04/15/2013	Bill Payment	9901	Ron Cadwell	360.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9912	CWC Inc.	2,600.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9920	Preferred One Insurance Co.	3,361.43
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9918	Kurtis G. Ulrich	40.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9917	Julie Trude	120.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9915	James Dickinson	100.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9913	Eric Johnson	60.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9908	Bret Heitkamp	120.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9909	Carl E. Anderson	120.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9921	The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.	479.80
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9911	City of Andover	1,349.31
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9905	Alliance for Community Media	575.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9914	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	168.75
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9907	B&H Photo-Video	199.90
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9906	Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce	15.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9919	LogMeln	428.90
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9910	Cintas Corporation #470	126.42
05/03/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,246.02
05/03/2013	Journal	05A - 2013MK		5,852.37
05/03/2013	Journal	05A - 2013MK		163.50
05/03/2013	Journal	05A - 2013MK		18,093.27
05/03/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	825.00
05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9927	Verizon Wireless	50.08
05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9922	Century Link	259.51
05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9926	Verified Credentials	20.00
05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9923	Comcast Cable	172.46
05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9925	Market Place Plus	424.90

05/10/2013	Bill Payment	9924	Laura E. Houle	720.00
05/17/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	825.00
05/17/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,522.50
05/17/2013	Journal	05B - 2013MK		19,634.64
05/17/2013	Journal	05B - 2013MK		6,314.17
05/17/2013	Journal	05B - 2013MK		377.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9932	Cintas Corporation #470	106.04
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9933	City of Andover	1,204.37
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9946	U.S. Bank Corporate	3,266.39
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9944	Timesavers	171.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9937	HLB Tautges Redpath, LTD.	15,700.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9928	A+ Cleaning Service, Inc.	407.65
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9945	Trans Alarm	128.28
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9948	Verizon Wireless	50.08
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9942	Star Tribune	260.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9947	Uline	238.66
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9941	Orkin Pest Control	85.85
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9938	Huebsch	239.24
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9936	Comcast Cable	403.36
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9929	ACE Solid Waste, Inc.	106.30
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9934	City of Anoka	88.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9940	NATOA	675.00
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9935	City of Champlin	68.70
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9949	Xcel Energy	1,342.70
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9939	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	406.25
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9931	CenterPoint Energy	205.25
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9943	The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.	479.80
05/22/2013	Bill Payment	9930	Amazon	1,741.09
05/31/2013	Journal	05C - 2013MK		6,318.61
05/31/2013	Journal	05C - 2013MK		19,649.51
05/31/2013	Check	w/d	Bank Fees	74.95
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	PERA	3,563.94
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	W/D	CitiStreetMN	825.00
				Subtotal: 128,530.95

Cleared Deposits and Other Credits

05/03/2013	Deposit		Roger Kruse DBA JR Enterprises	435.00
05/03/2013	Deposit		Terry O'Connell	673.85
05/17/2013	Deposit		Street Factory Media, Inc.	60.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		A2F Pictures LLC	80.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Robert & Beth Langley	241.38
05/17/2013	Deposit		Stephen & Patricia Halsey	35.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Gary & Joann Hill	25.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Hassan Area Historical Society	430.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Carla Biederman	75.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Cross Roads West	20.00
05/17/2013	Deposit		Vickie Stordahl	26.85
05/28/2013	Deposit		EI Eweit	15.00
05/28/2013	Deposit		Janice McGhee	48.28
05/28/2013	Deposit		CRHS Spirit Booster Club	180.00
05/28/2013	Deposit		Andover HS Girls Basketball Booster Club	750.96

05/28/2013	Deposit		MSHSL	565.00
05/28/2013	Deposit		Simonson's Salon & Spa	150.00
05/28/2013	Deposit		Video Maker	217.82
05/31/2013	Journal	05D - 2013MK		11.96
				Subtotal: 4,041.10

Total Cleared Transactions **-124,489.85**

Uncleared Transactions as of 05/31/2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Uncleared Checks and Payments				
04/01/2013	Bill Payment	9880	MAGC	135.00
04/30/2013	Bill Payment	9916	John Letourneau	100.00
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9953	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	122.60
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9954	Laura E. Houle	360.00
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9951	City of Andover	280.00
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9955	Preferred One Insurance Co.	3,361.43
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9950	Century Link	253.94
05/31/2013	Bill Payment	9952	Image Lawncare Services, Inc.	455.92
05/31/2013	Journal	05C - 2013MK		179.25
				Subtotal: 5,248.14

Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits Subtotal: 0.00

Total Uncleared Transactions as of 05/31/2013 **-5,248.14**

Uncleared Transactions from 05/31/2013 to 06/14/2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Uncleared Checks and Payments				
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9964	U.S. Bank Corporate	713.36
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9961	Office Depot	21.90
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9966	Xcel Energy	1,289.11
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9957	ACE Solid Waste, Inc.	107.70
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9960	Market Place Plus	424.90
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9958	Comcast Cable	601.05
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9956	A+ Cleaning Service, Inc.	407.65
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9962	Orkin Pest Control	94.43
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9959	Holiday Station	260.70
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9963	Timesavers	160.95
06/12/2013	Bill Payment	9965	Verified Credentials	25.00
				Subtotal: 4,106.75

Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits

06/05/2013	Deposit		Terry O'Connell	673.85
06/05/2013	Deposit		Richard & Mary DeVinney	59.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		William Branchaud	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit		Keith Birosh	15.00

06/12/2013	Deposit	Paul Perkal	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit	Miscellaneous Customer	15.00
06/12/2013	Deposit	William Bombardo	15.00
Subtotal: 05/31/2013			-3,298.90
Subtotal: 807.85			

Quad Cities Communications Commission
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2013 - FY13 P&L
 January - May, 2013

	May 2013				YTD			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Income								
Duplication Revenue	2,693.79	208.00	2,485.79	1295.09%	4,958.29	1,040.00	3,918.29	476.76%
Equipment Grant		4,218.00	(4,218.00)	0.00%	0.00	21,090.00	(21,090.00)	0.00%
Franchise Fees		74,340.00	(74,340.00)	0.00%	236,657.68	371,700.00	(135,042.32)	63.67%
Interest Income	11.96	8.00	3.96	149.50%	46.35	40.00	6.35	115.88%
Miscellaneous Income	725.00	2,500.00	(1,775.00)	29.00%	2,190.09	12,500.00	(10,309.91)	17.52%
PEG Fee		37,170.00	(37,170.00)	0.00%	118,328.70	185,850.00	(67,521.30)	63.67%
Total Income	3,430.75	118,444.00	(115,013.25)	2.90%	362,181.11	592,220.00	(230,038.89)	61.16%
Expenses								
Accounting / HR Services	1,206.32	1,500.00	(293.68)	80.42%	6,874.36	7,500.00	(625.64)	91.66%
Ads/Promos/Sponsorships	280.00	737.00	(457.00)	37.99%	1,445.00	3,685.00	(2,240.00)	39.21%
Andover Capital Equipment	98.78		98.78		1,047.24	0.00	1,047.24	
Announcers Fees	360.00	1,371.00	(1,011.00)	26.26%	6,145.00	6,855.00	(710.00)	89.64%
Anoka Capital Equipment	98.78		98.78		481.78	0.00	481.78	
Audit		1,308.00	(1,308.00)	0.00%	15,740.00	6,540.00	9,200.00	240.67%
AV Equip / Repair / Supply / Software	1,027.93	8,623.00	(7,595.07)	11.92%	2,415.56	43,115.00	(40,699.44)	5.60%
Bank Fees / CC Fees	74.95	41.00	33.95	182.80%	234.75	205.00	29.75	114.51%
Brand Apparel		208.00	(208.00)	0.00%	0.00	1,040.00	(1,040.00)	0.00%
Building - Cleaning	407.65	526.00	(118.35)	77.50%	1,668.96	2,630.00	(961.04)	63.46%
Building - Insurance		241.00	(241.00)	0.00%	1,929.00	1,205.00	724.00	160.08%
Building - Maintenance	374.13	583.00	(208.87)	64.17%	2,191.36	2,915.00	(723.64)	75.18%
Building - Supplies	345.28	250.00	95.28	138.11%	774.06	1,250.00	(475.94)	61.92%
Car Allowance	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.00%	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00	100.00%
Cell Phone - Allowance	210.00	75.00	135.00	280.00%	1,060.00	375.00	685.00	282.67%
Cell Phone - Reimbursement		166.00	(166.00)	0.00%	0.00	830.00	(830.00)	0.00%
Champlin Capital Equipment	365.15		365.15		743.15	0.00	743.15	
City Sewer & Water	68.70	375.00	(306.30)	18.32%	332.28	1,875.00	(1,542.72)	17.72%
Commission Expense		291.00	(291.00)	0.00%	1,101.98	1,455.00	(353.02)	75.74%
Computer Equip / Repair / Supply / Software	994.22	3,125.00	(2,130.78)	31.82%	1,981.36	15,625.00	(13,643.64)	12.68%
Consulting Services		2,708.00	(2,708.00)	0.00%	0.00	13,540.00	(13,540.00)	0.00%
Contingency Fund		2,166.00	(2,166.00)	0.00%	0.00	10,830.00	(10,830.00)	0.00%
Duplication Expenses	238.66	466.00	(227.34)	51.21%	1,096.90	2,330.00	(1,233.10)	47.08%
Electric Service	1,289.11	1,166.00	123.11	110.56%	6,410.68	5,830.00	580.68	109.96%
Emp / Comm Appreciation	88.00	208.00	(120.00)	42.31%	88.00	1,040.00	(952.00)	8.46%
Federal Unempl Expense	149.10		149.10		1,022.33	0.00	1,022.33	
Health Insurance	2,687.58	2,600.00	87.58	103.37%	15,914.38	13,000.00	2,914.38	122.42%

Quad Cities Communications Commission
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2013 - FY13 P&L
 January - May, 2013

	May 2013				YTD			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Health Insurance - Opt Out	400.00	400.00	0.00	100.00%	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Insurance - Deductibles		41.00	(41.00)	0.00%	0.00	205.00	(205.00)	0.00%
Insurance - Liability / Bonds		635.00	(635.00)	0.00%	5,087.00	3,175.00	1,912.00	160.22%
Lawn Service	455.92	291.00	164.92	156.67%	455.92	1,455.00	(999.08)	31.33%
Legal Fees		833.00	(833.00)	0.00%	914.73	4,165.00	(3,250.27)	21.96%
Legislative Lobbying		83.00	(83.00)	0.00%	1,660.00	415.00	1,245.00	400.00%
Licenses and Permits		83.00	(83.00)	0.00%	0.00	415.00	(415.00)	0.00%
Meals		83.00	(83.00)	0.00%	7.69	415.00	(407.31)	1.85%
Memberships - NATOA / Others		456.00	(456.00)	0.00%	3,465.00	2,280.00	1,185.00	151.97%
Mileage	419.33	1,000.00	(580.67)	41.93%	1,824.84	5,000.00	(3,175.16)	36.50%
Miscellaneous Expenses	25.00	375.00	(350.00)	6.67%	157.79	1,875.00	(1,717.21)	8.42%
Natural Gas	205.25	166.00	39.25	123.64%	1,577.17	830.00	747.17	190.02%
Office Supplies / Equipment	214.99	1,258.00	(1,043.01)	17.09%	2,036.59	6,290.00	(4,253.41)	32.38%
Operating Transfer Out		1,666.00	(1,666.00)	0.00%	0.00	8,330.00	(8,330.00)	0.00%
Parking Lot Maintenance		416.00	(416.00)	0.00%	0.00	2,080.00	(2,080.00)	0.00%
Payroll Expenses (ADP)	719.75	433.00	286.75	166.22%	2,883.50	2,165.00	718.50	133.19%
PERA	5,548.77	4,281.00	1,267.77	129.61%	19,324.82	21,405.00	(2,080.18)	90.28%
Postage	52.49	83.00	(30.51)	63.24%	255.26	415.00	(159.74)	61.51%
Printing / Copy Services		208.00	(208.00)	0.00%	0.00	1,040.00	(1,040.00)	0.00%
Professional Development	675.00	1,425.00	(750.00)	47.37%	4,863.47	7,125.00	(2,261.53)	68.26%
Publications	42.18	59.00	(16.82)	71.49%	42.18	295.00	(252.82)	14.30%
Ramsey Capital Equipment	113.73		113.73		501.73	0.00	501.73	
Sales Tax		41.00	(41.00)	0.00%	1,311.15	205.00	1,106.15	639.59%
Secretary Services	160.95	150.00	10.95	107.30%	589.95	750.00	(160.05)	78.66%
Snow Plowing Service		208.00	(208.00)	0.00%	2,826.25	1,040.00	1,786.25	271.75%
SS/Medicare Expense	5,712.01	4,518.00	1,194.01	126.43%	20,329.73	22,590.00	(2,260.27)	89.99%
STD / LTD / Life Insurance	479.80	387.00	92.80	123.98%	2,467.20	1,935.00	532.20	127.50%
Studio Sets		341.00	(341.00)	0.00%	0.00	1,705.00	(1,705.00)	0.00%
Subscription Services		815.00	(815.00)	0.00%	428.90	4,075.00	(3,646.10)	10.53%
Vehicle - Equipment / Repair		2,091.00	(2,091.00)	0.00%	85.53	10,455.00	(10,369.47)	0.82%
Vehicle - Insurance		250.00	(250.00)	0.00%	1,940.00	1,250.00	690.00	155.20%
Vehicle - Maintenance / Gas	260.70	833.00	(572.30)	31.30%	2,098.92	4,165.00	(2,066.08)	50.39%
Wages - Full-time	38,839.20	28,367.00	10,472.20	136.92%	134,581.74	141,835.00	(7,253.26)	94.89%
Wages - PT - Comm Prog	5,854.86	4,071.00	1,783.86	143.82%	20,722.62	20,355.00	367.62	101.81%
Wages - PT - Gov't Prog	11,458.55	8,203.00	3,255.55	139.69%	42,693.33	41,015.00	1,678.33	104.09%
Wages - PT - Office Support	3,482.04	2,479.00	1,003.04	140.46%	12,460.34	12,395.00	65.34	100.53%

Quad Cities Communications Commission
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2013 - FY13 P&L
 January - May, 2013

May 2013

YTD

	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Wages - PT - Sports Prog	6,026.20	7,054.00	(1,027.80)	85.43%	26,179.43	35,270.00	(9,090.57)	74.23%
Wages - PT - Tech Support	10,265.00	8,882.00	1,383.00	115.57%	34,898.91	44,410.00	(9,511.09)	78.58%
Waste Removal	106.30	106.00	0.30	100.28%	536.59	530.00	6.59	101.24%
Web / VOD / Int / CaTV / Phone	924.89	1,970.00	(1,045.11)	46.95%	4,619.74	9,850.00	(5,230.26)	46.90%
Work Comp Insurance		225.00	(225.00)	0.00%	1,947.00	1,125.00	822.00	173.07%
Total Expenses	103,057.25	114,250.00	(11,192.75)	90.20%	429,723.15	571,250.00	(141,526.85)	75.23%
Net Operating Income	(99,626.50)	4,194.00	(103,820.50)	-2375.45%	(67,542.04)	20,970.00	(88,512.04)	-322.09%
Net Income	(99,626.50)	4,194.00	(103,820.50)	-2375.45%	(67,542.04)	20,970.00	(88,512.04)	-322.09%

Monday, Jun 17, 2013 08:59:21 AM PDT GMT-5 - Accrual Basis

QCCCC Agenda Item

4.3 Executive Director's Report

August 12, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Quad Cities Community Television is the destination for community programming and it is exciting to be a part of the team delivering live, video-on-demand and cablecast stories of what's happening in Andover, Anoka, Champlin, and Ramsey.

Here are a few highlights:

- Q2 Comcast payments received
- CIP payments to member cities in process
- Employee picnic was a success
- Capital budget process kicks off in August
- Operational budget process kicks off in September
- Executed an agreement for the 2013 audit with HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.
- Staffing changes – three resignations and one retirement, reassigning duties for two, posting for council meeting technician
- Leadership Academy completed
- NATOA conference attendance scheduled for September

Franchise renewal

The renewal resolution has been approved by each member city. A packet including a letter, copies of the resolutions, and an agreement, has been sent to Comcast. See agenda item 5.1.

Organizational Assessment Project

Holly Hansen Consulting has completed research including review of relevant documents, individual and group interviews with staff, and draft of preliminary recommendations. A written summary report with recommendations is on target for an early September delivery and review by the commission. A date for a work session will be scheduled. The project is within budget.

Inventory complete

For the first time, QCTV has an inventory of assets. Thanks to staff for completing the comprehensive listing and bar coding of all assets. Inventory information will be

forwarded to the insurance provider and the auditor. Staff will upgrade the inventory to track values, lifespan, and disposal.

Technical audit and recommended actions

Staff completed a technical audit and is moving forward with recommendations in three main areas:

- Email services – researching new email provider
- Active Directory – moving to an active directory of computer files for security, improved access, and back up
- Back up services – researching options for data back up and redundancy plan

Sales Tax exemption does not apply to Joint Powers Agreements

The League of Minnesota Cities continues to seek clarification on a new sales tax exemption law. According to recent information from the Department of Revenue (DOR), purchases made through joint powers agreements and joint powers entities will not be exempt. The DOR materials state that in order to receive the exemption, the purchase must be made directly by the respective city, county, or town. To claim this exemption, the local government must provide a fully completed Form ST3, Certificate of Exemption, to the seller. Exactly how the new law applies to purchases through joint powers agreements and entities remains unclear, and the League will continue to work with the DOR to clarify the tax status of such purchases. This would have a significant capital budget impact as QCTV upgrades equipment in the coming years.

Staff training day

August 14 will be the first staff training day. There will be training on the subjects of editing, lighting, audio, camera, and the Tightrope system. The training is a result of awards judging sheet comments of how we can improve our programs.

FCC nominations for Chair and Commissioner

The White House has nominated Republican congressional communications policy adviser Michael P. O'Rielly to be the next Republican commissioner of the FCC. O'Rielly is policy adviser to Senate minority whip John Cornwyn (R-Tex.), and was a top tech/telecom policy adviser to former Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.) and former Rep. Tom Bliley (R-Va.). Action on O'Rielly's nomination isn't expected until later this summer or fall.

Earlier this summer, President Barack Obama named Tom Wheeler, a venture capitalist and former leader of cable and wireless trade groups, to head the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, where he may focus on nurturing mobile technology. Wheeler, managing director at Core Capital Partners LP in Washington, succeeds Chairman Julius Genachowski, a Democrat who has pushed to expand access to high-speed Internet service. The nominee is awaiting confirmation.

Action Requested: None.

QCCCC Agenda Item

5.1 Franchise Renewal

August 9, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: Franchise Renewal Notification to Comcast

Cable Television Franchisee Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. submitted notification of the franchise renewal process and its intent to renew the franchise with Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission member cities. Each member city passed a resolution which responds to this notification, as required by law, and further affirms the Commission's authority on behalf of the member cities. A letter and copies of the resolutions have been forwarded to Comcast of Minnesota, Inc.

Action Requested: None.



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St. Cloud

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Robert J. Vose
Attorney at Law
Direct Dial (612) 337-9275
Email: rvose@kennedy-graven.com

August 9, 2013

Karly Werner
Senior Manager of Government Affairs
Comcast Twin Cities
10 River Park Plaza
St. Paul, MN 55107

**Re: Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (Commission);
Franchise Renewal**

Dear Karly:

This responds to your letters of March 28, 2013 to the Commission's member cities invoking the formal franchise renewal procedures under Section 626 of the Cable Act.

As you know, the Commission was organized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59 and established by a joint and cooperative agreement among the member cities of Anoka, Andover, Champlin and Ramsey. Under the agreement, the Commission is responsible for handling initial franchising and franchise renewal requests for its members. The Commission's member cities, however, retain final authority to approve and enact any initial or renewal franchise.

In order to further clarify how Comcast's renewal request will be handled, the member cities have adopted resolutions reaffirming the Commission's authority to process the renewal in accordance with applicable law and conduct franchise renewal proceedings and negotiations on their behalf. Copies of the resolutions are enclosed. In addition, as you know, the Commission has initiated proceedings to begin considering Comcast's renewal request.

Your letter indicates that Comcast would prefer informal renewal negotiations. The Commission will agree to proceed in the informal renewal process in lieu of the formal process. An appropriate standstill agreement is also enclosed. Please have the appropriate Comcast officials sign and return a copy. In turn, I will make sure you receive a fully executed copy.

I anticipate that the Commission may retain certain consultants to assist with a review of Comcast's system and prior performance under the franchise, and to complete a needs ascertainment. We will keep you updated as those plans are developed.

Karly Werner
August 9, 2013
Page 2

Feel free to contact me with questions. I look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. V. Vose", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert J. V. Vose

RJV:jms

Enclosures

cc: Karen George
Member City Administrators

Councilmember Backous introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #13-07-121

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMMENCEMENT OF RENEWAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FEDERAL CABLE ACT

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey, Minnesota (“City”) enacted an ordinance granting a cable television franchise (collectively, the “Franchise”) effective on or about March 6, 2001, authorizing the provision of cable television service within the territorial limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several transfers of the Franchise, Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. (“Comcast”) currently holds the Franchise; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (“Commission”), a municipal joint powers entity organized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, as amended, pursuant to an agreement among the member cities (the “Joint Powers Agreement); and;

WHEREAS, the Commission administers and enforces the cable franchises issued by Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey, and provides community programming and certain other services on behalf of these member cities, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for processing initial cable franchising requests and franchise renewal requests on behalf of the member cities, and for making recommendations to the member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s member cities, including the City, retain final authority to approve and enact any initial or renewal franchise(s), and;

WHEREAS, the Franchise is scheduled to expire on or about March 6, 2016, unless sooner terminated or extended, and;

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 28, 2013 from Comcast to the City, Comcast invoked the franchise renewal procedures set forth in applicable federal law, and;

WHEREAS, Section 626(a)(1) of the Cable Commissions Policy Act of 1984, as amended (the “Cable Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 546(A)(1), provides that if a written renewal request is submitted by a cable operator during the 6-month period from 36 to 30 months before franchise expiration, the franchising authority shall, within six months of such request, commence a proceeding to identify the future cable-related community needs and interests, and to review the performance of the cable operator during the franchise term; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to comply with the Cable Act and commence the required renewal proceedings while permitting the Commission to pursue the informal renewal process contemplated by Section 656(h) of the Cable Act, 47 U.S.C. § 546(H), and;

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement authorizes the Commission to conduct renewal proceedings and any negotiations with Comcast on the City's behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to reaffirm the Commission's authority to process renewal of the Franchise in accordance with the Cable Act, Minnesota law and the Franchise, and manage and conduct franchise renewal proceedings and negotiations on its behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that, in conducting renewal proceedings, the Commission may collect and analyze information from Comcast, the City, and the public and other interested parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

Section 1. That the City reaffirms the Commission's authority under the Joint Powers Agreement to commence franchise renewal ascertainment and past performance proceedings in accordance with the Cable Act.

Section 2. That the Commission is authorized to utilize, at its discretion, the formal or informal renewal processes and the Commission may initiate either process without further action or approval by the City.

Section 3. That the Commission may provide the public an opportunity to participate in the Franchise renewal proceedings.

Section 4. That the Commission is authorized to gather such information as may be deemed appropriate, and to take such further steps as may be needed or desired to ensure that identified cable-related needs and interests of the City, Commission, and the public are satisfied in any renewal franchise as provided by applicable law. The Commission may require that Comcast submit such information as may be deemed appropriate in connection with the renewal process to the maximum extent permitted by the Franchise and applicable laws and regulations.

Section 5. That the City reserves all of its rights, remedies and defenses with respect to determining whether or not to renew the Franchise. The Mayor, City Council members and City employees shall avoid stating a position on the renewal of the Franchise or Franchise renewal-related issues until the Commission makes formal written recommendation to the City.

Section 6. That the Commission shall keep the City fully apprised of the status and progress of the formal and informal renewal processes, as appropriate.

Section 7. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 23rd day of July, 2013.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Kuzma and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mayor Strommen
Councilmember Backous
Councilmember Kuzma
Councilmember LeTourneau
Councilmember Riley
Councilmember Tossey

and the following voted against the same:

None

and the following abstained:

None

and the following were absent:

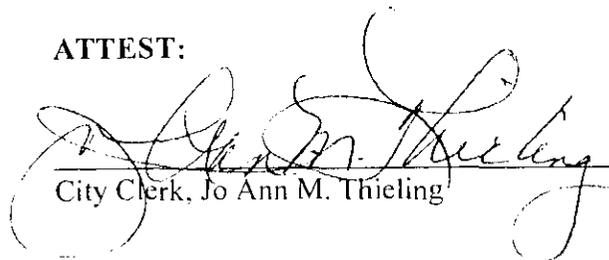
None

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 23rd day of July, 2013.



Mayor Sarah Strommen

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Jo Ann M. Thieling

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

CITY OF CHAMPLIN)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Champlin, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached and foregoing copy of

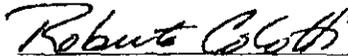
the minutes regarding

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 42

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMMENCEMENT OF RENEWAL
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FEDERAL CABLE ACT**

with the original resolution thereof on file in my office and the same is a full, true and complete transcript thereof.

Witness my hand such City Clerk and the corporate seal of the City of Champlin, **this 9th**
day of July 2013.



Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)

Councilmember Miller introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**CITY OF CHAMPLIN
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 42**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMMENCEMENT OF RENEWAL
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FEDERAL CABLE ACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Champlin, Minnesota (“City”) enacted an ordinance granting a cable television franchise (collectively, the “Franchise”) effective on or about March 6, 2001, authorizing the provision of cable television service within the territorial limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several transfers of the Franchise, Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. (“Comcast”) currently holds the Franchise; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (“Commission”), a municipal joint powers entity organized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, as amended, pursuant to an agreement among the member cities (the “Joint Powers Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Commission administers and enforces the cable franchises issued by Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey, and provides community programming and certain other services on behalf of these member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for processing initial cable franchising requests and franchise renewal requests on behalf of the member cities, and for making recommendations to the member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s member cities, including the City, retain final authority to approve and enact any initial or renewal franchise(s); and

WHEREAS, the Franchise is scheduled to expire on or about March 6, 2016, unless sooner terminated or extended; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 28, 2013 from Comcast to the City, Comcast invoked the franchise renewal procedures set forth in applicable federal law; and

WHEREAS, Section 626(a)(1) of the Cable Commissions Policy Act of 1984, as amended (the “Cable Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 546(A)(1), provides that if a written renewal request is submitted by a cable operator during the 6-month period from 36 to 30 months before franchise expiration, the franchising authority shall, within six months of such request, commence a proceeding to identify the future cable-related community needs and interests, and to review the performance of the cable operator during the franchise term; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to comply with the Cable Act and commence the required renewal proceedings while permitting the Commission to pursue the informal renewal process contemplated by Section 656(h) of the Cable Act, 47 U.S.C. § 546(H), and;

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement authorizes the Commission to conduct renewal proceedings and any negotiations with Comcast on the City's behalf; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to reaffirm the Commission's authority to process renewal of the Franchise in accordance with the Cable Act, Minnesota law and the Franchise, and manage and conduct franchise renewal proceedings and negotiations on its behalf; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that, in conducting renewal proceedings, the Commission may collect and analyze information from Comcast, the City, and the public and other interested parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPLIN, MINNESOTA, THAT:

Section 1. The City reaffirms the Commission's authority under the Joint Powers Agreement to commence franchise renewal ascertainment and past performance proceedings in accordance with the Cable Act.

Section 2. The Commission is authorized to utilize, at its discretion, the formal or informal renewal processes and the Commission may initiate either process without further action or approval by the City.

Section 3. The Commission may provide the public an opportunity to participate in the Franchise renewal proceedings.

Section 4. The Commission is authorized to gather such information as may be deemed appropriate, and to take such further steps as may be needed or desired to ensure that identified cable-related needs and interests of the City, Commission, and the public are satisfied in any renewal franchise as provided by applicable law. The Commission may require that Comcast submit such information as may be deemed appropriate in connection with the renewal process to the maximum extent permitted by the Franchise and applicable laws and regulations.

Section 5. The City reserves all of its rights, remedies and defenses with respect to determining whether or not to renew the Franchise. The Mayor, City Council members and City employees shall avoid stating a position on the renewal of the Franchise or Franchise renewal-related issues until the Commission makes formal written recommendation to the City.

Section 6. The Commission shall keep the City fully apprised of the status and progress of the formal and informal renewal processes, as appropriate.

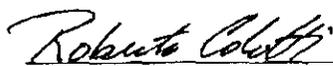
Section 7. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Terry and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Karasek, Miller, Johnson and Terry, and the following voted against the same: none, whereupon said resolution was passed this 8th day of July, 2013.



ArMand Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk



2015 First Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303
Phone: (763) 576-2700 Website: www.ci.anoka.mn.us

**CITY OF ANOKA, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION**

RES-2013-66

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE
COMMENCEMENT OF RENEWAL PROCEEDINGS
UNDER THE FEDERAL CABLE ACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Anoka, Minnesota ("City") enacted an ordinance (#ORD-2000-1096) granting a cable television franchise (collectively, the "Franchise") which became effective on or about March 6, 2001, authorizing the provision of cable television service within the territorial limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several transfers of the Franchise, Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. ("Comcast") currently holds the Franchise; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission ("Commission"), a municipal joint powers entity organized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, as amended, pursuant to an agreement among the member cities (the "Joint Powers Agreement"); and;

WHEREAS, the Commission administers and enforces the cable franchises issued by Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey, and provides community programming and certain other services on behalf of these member cities, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for processing initial cable franchising requests and franchise renewal requests on behalf of the member cities, and for making recommendations to the member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's member cities, including the City, retain final authority to approve and enact any initial or renewal franchise(s), and;

WHEREAS, the Franchise is scheduled to expire on or about March 6, 2016, unless sooner terminated or extended, and;

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 28, 2013 from Comcast to the City, Comcast invoked the franchise renewal procedures set forth in applicable federal law, and;

WHEREAS, Section 626(a)(1) of the Cable Commissions Policy Act of 1984, as amended (the "Cable Act"), 47 U.S.C. § 546(A)(1), provides that if a written renewal request is submitted by a cable operator during the 6-month period from 36 to 30 months before franchise expiration, the

franchising authority shall, within six months of such request, commence a proceeding to identify the future cable-related community needs and interests, and to review the performance of the cable operator during the franchise term; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to comply with the Cable Act and commence the required renewal proceedings while permitting the Commission to pursue the informal renewal process contemplated by Section 656(h) of the Cable Act, 47 U.S.C. § 546(H), and;

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement authorizes the Commission to conduct renewal proceedings and any negotiations with Comcast on the City's behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to reaffirm the Commission's authority to process renewal of the Franchise in accordance with the Cable Act, Minnesota law and the Franchise, and manage and conduct franchise renewal proceedings and negotiations on its behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that, in conducting renewal proceedings, the Commission may collect and analyze information from Comcast, the City, and the public and other interested parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANOKA, MINNESOTA, THAT:

Section 1. The City reaffirms the Commission's authority under the Joint Powers Agreement to commence franchise renewal ascertainment and past performance proceedings in accordance with the Cable Act.

Section 2. The Commission is authorized to utilize, at its discretion, the formal or informal renewal processes and the Commission may initiate either process without further action or approval by the City.

Section 3. The Commission may provide the public an opportunity to participate in the Franchise renewal proceedings.

Section 4. The Commission is authorized to gather such information as may be deemed appropriate, and to take such further steps as may be needed or desired to ensure that identified cable-related needs and interests of the City, Commission, and the public are satisfied in any renewal franchise as provided by applicable law. The Commission may require that Comcast submit such information as may be deemed appropriate in connection with the renewal process to the maximum extent permitted by the Franchise and applicable laws and regulations.

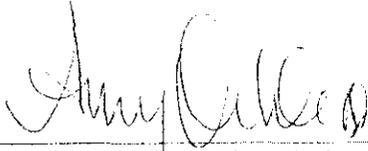
Section 5. The City reserves all of its rights, remedies and defenses with respect to determining whether or not to renew the Franchise. The Mayor, City Council members and City employees shall avoid stating a position on the renewal of the Franchise or Franchise renewal-related issues until the Commission makes formal written recommendation to the City.

Section 6. - The Commission shall keep the City fully appraised of the status and progress of the formal and informal renewal processes, as appropriate.

Section 7. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Anoka City Council this the 1st day of July 2013.

ATTEST:



Amy T. Ochlers, City Clerk



Phil Rice, Mayor

CITY OF ANDOVER)

COUNTY OF ANOKA) ss

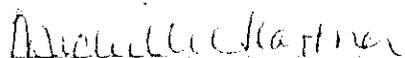
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Deputy City Clerk of the City of Andover, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached Resolution Number R060-13, _____ with the original record thereof preserved in my office and have found the same to be a true and correct transcript of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand this 17th day of July, 2013.

CITY OF ANDOVER

(Seal)


Michelle Hartner - Deputy City Clerk

**CITY OF ANDOVER
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. R060-13**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMMENCEMENT OF RENEWAL
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FEDERAL CABLE ACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Andover, Minnesota ("City") enacted an ordinance granting a cable television franchise (collectively, the "Franchise") effective on or about March 6, 2001, authorizing the provision of cable television service within the territorial limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several transfers of the Franchise, Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. ("Comcast") currently holds the Franchise; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission ("Commission"), a municipal joint powers entity organized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, as amended, pursuant to an agreement among the member cities (the "Joint Powers Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission administers and enforces the cable franchises issued by Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey, and provides community programming and certain other services on behalf of these member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for processing initial cable franchising requests and franchise renewal requests on behalf of the member cities, and for making recommendations to the member cities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's member cities, including the City, retain final authority to approve and enact any initial or renewal franchise(s); and

WHEREAS, the Franchise is scheduled to expire on or about March 6, 2016, unless sooner terminated or extended; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 28, 2013 from Comcast to the City, Comcast invoked the franchise renewal procedures set forth in applicable federal law; and

WHEREAS, Section 626(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended (the "Cable Act"), 47 U.S.C. § 536(A)(1), provides that if a written renewal request is submitted by a cable operator during the 6-month period from 36 to 30 months before franchise expiration, the franchising authority shall, within six months of such request, commence a proceeding to identify the future cable-related community needs and interests, and to review the performance of the cable operator during the franchise term; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to comply with the Cable Act and commence the required renewal proceedings while permitting the Commission to pursue the informal renewal process contemplated by Section 656(h) of the Cable Act, 47 U.S.C. § 546(h), and;

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement authorizes the Commission to conduct renewal proceedings and any negotiations with Comcast on the City's behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to reaffirm the Commission's authority to process renewal of the Franchise in accordance with the Cable Act, Minnesota Law and the Franchise, and manage and conduct franchise renewal proceedings and negotiations on its behalf, and;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that in conducting renewal proceedings, the Commission may collect and analyze information from Comcast, the City, and the public and other interested parties

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANDOVER, MINNESOTA, THAT:

Section 1. The City reaffirms the Commission's authority under the Joint Powers Agreement to commence franchise renewal, ascertainment and post performance proceedings in accordance with the Cable Act.

Section 2. The Commission is authorized to utilize, at its discretion, the formal or informal renewal processes and the Commission may initiate either process without further action or approval by the City.

Section 3. The Commission may provide the public an opportunity to participate in the Franchise renewal proceedings.

Section 4. The Commission is authorized to gather such information as may be deemed appropriate, and to take such further steps as may be needed or desired to ensure that identified cable-related needs and interests of the City, Commission, and the public are satisfied in any renewal franchise as provided by applicable law. The Commission may require that Comcast submit such information as may be deemed appropriate in connection with the renewal process to the maximum extent permitted by the Franchise and applicable laws and regulations.

Section 5. The City reserves all of its rights, remedies and defenses with respect to determining whether or not to renew the Franchise. The Mayor, City Council members and City employees shall avoid stating a position on the renewal of the Franchise or Franchise renewal-related issues until the Commission makes formal written recommendation to the City.

Section 6. The Commission shall keep the City fully apprised of the status and progress of the formal and informal renewal processes, as appropriate.

Section 7. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**STANDSTILL AGREEMENT TO PURSUE
INFORMAL FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

THIS AGREEMENT is made as of the ___ day of August, 2013, by and between the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission ("Commission") and Comcast of Minnesota, Inc. ("Comcast").

WHEREAS, the Commission was established by a joint and cooperative agreement entered pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59 by and between the cities of Anoka, Andover, Champlin and Ramsey ("Member Cities");

WHEREAS, the Member Cities granted, by ordinance, franchises to MediaOne North Central Communications Corporation d/b/a AT&T Broadband (together "Franchises") authorizing construction, maintenance and operation of a cable system or systems in the Member Cities;

WHEREAS, the Commission administers and enforces the Franchises on behalf of the Member Cities and is authorized to conduct renewal proceedings on their behalf;

WHEREAS, the Franchises expire in March, 2016;

WHEREAS, by letters dated March 28, 2013, Comcast requested that the Member Cities commence renewal proceedings pursuant to Section 626 of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended by the Cable Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 ("Cable Act");

WHEREAS, subsequent to receipt of Comcast's renewal request, the Member Cities have reaffirmed the Commission's authority to conduct renewal proceedings on their behalf and the Commission has commenced such proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Comcast agree that use of the informal renewal process, including direct negotiation of franchise terms, will be mutually beneficial and preferable to the formal renewal procedures and timelines set out in the Cable Act.

NOW THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and representations contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The formal procedures and procedural timelines for renewal set out in Section 626 of the Cable Act are hereby tolled. The parties intend to proceed informally with negotiations and other appropriate processes in order to seek agreement upon appropriate Franchise terms.
2. Either party may reinstate the formal renewal procedures under the Cable Act upon written notification to the other party. In the event of written notice by either party reinstating the formal renewal process, the procedural timelines imposed by Section 626 of the Cable Act shall recommence at that time.

3. Neither party waives any rights under the Cable Act. Nothing herein shall be deemed to extend the term of the Franchises beyond their natural expiration, or to waive any claim of a prior, current or future violation or breach of the Franchises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have entered into this Agreement as of this ____ day of ____, 2013.

QUAD CITIES CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Date: _____, ____ 2013

By: _____

Its: Executive Director

By: _____

Its: Chair

COMCAST OF MINNESOTA, INC.

Date: _____, ____ 2013

By: _____

Its: _____

QCCCC Agenda Item

5.3 Liability Coverage Waiver

August 5, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: Liability Coverage Waiver

QCCCC obtains liability coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. The governing board must take action on a decision to waive or not waive monetary limits on tort liability. Upon the advice of QCCCC's financial services provider City of Andover, it is recommended QCCCC not waive the monetary limits.

Action Requested: Approval designating QCCCC does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.

SECTION I: LIABILITY COVERAGE WAIVER FORM

Cities obtaining liability coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust must decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision to waive or not to waive the statutory limits has the following effects:

- *If the city does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000. on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether or not the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage.
- *If the city waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$1,500,000. on a single occurrence. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$1,500,000., regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the city waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

This decision must be made by the city council. **Cities purchasing coverage must complete and return this form to LMCIT before the effective date of the coverage.** For further information, contact LMCIT. You may also wish to discuss these issues with your city attorney.

_____ accepts liability coverage limits of \$_____ from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT).

Check one:

- The city **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.
- The city **WAIVES** the monetary limits on tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04, to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of city council meeting _____

Signature _____ Position _____

Return this completed form to LMCIT, 145 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN. 55103-2044

QCCCC Agenda Item
5.4 Monthly Stats Report

August 5, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: June and July Statistical Reports

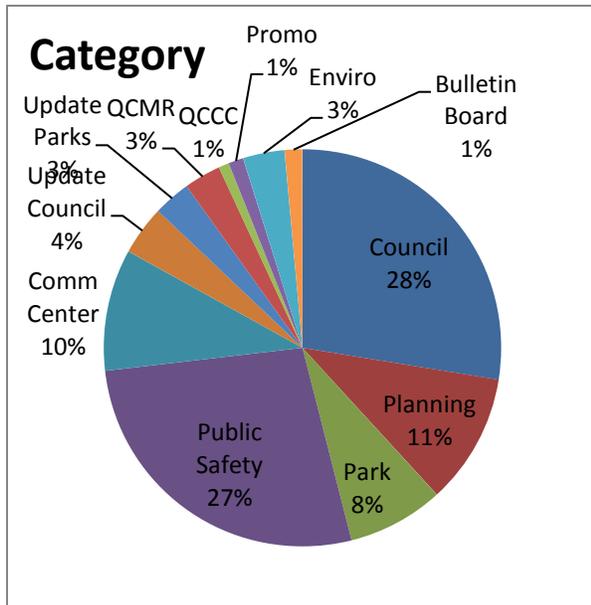
Attached you will find the June and July program statistical reports.

Action Requested: None.

Andover Channel & Web Statistics

June 2013

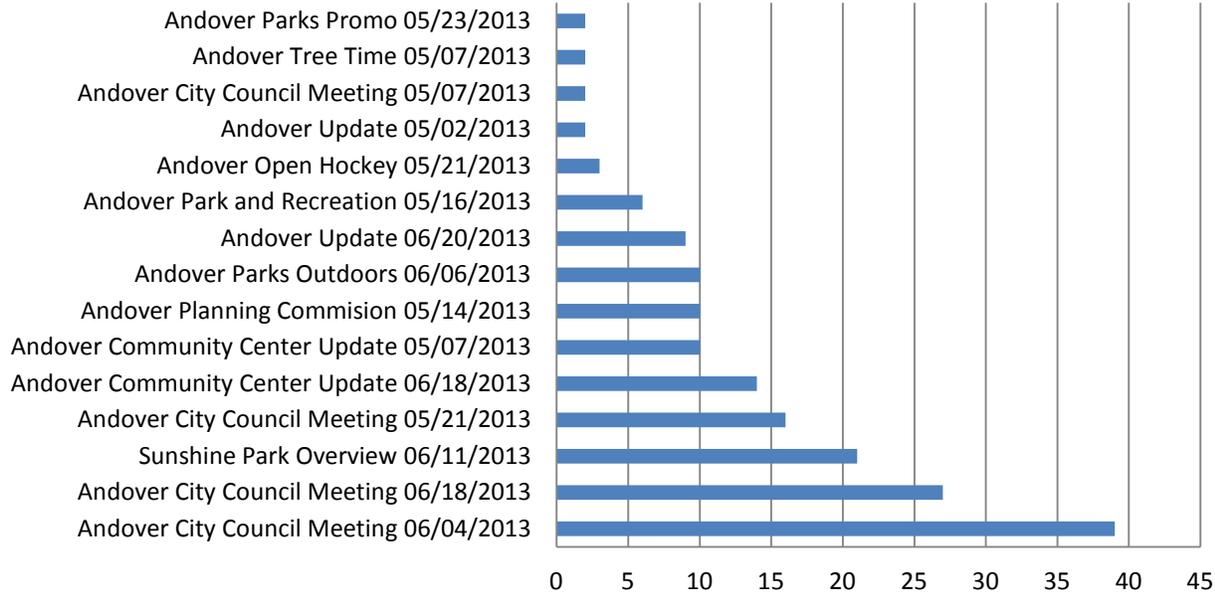
Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:		Web Hits:	
Total Runs:	5491	New Shows:	13	Total Hours:	10:22	Total Hits:	173
Total Time:	709:39	New Time:	3:20	Saturation:	1.44%		
Saturation:	98.56%	All Shows:	31				
		All Time:	12:04				



Channel Up Time 92.53%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	0%	0
Other:	7.47%	7:29

Shared With Multiple Cities		
Date	Show	Minutes
6/5/2013	Sheriff Show	0:17:16
5/15/2013	Peace Officer Mem	0:43:03
5/13/2013	Honorary Deputy	0:16:42
5/1/2013	Sheriff Show	0:22:45
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/13/2013	QCMR	0:13:01
5/23/2013	QCMR	0:13:18
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26
5/16/2013	QCCC	0:13:55

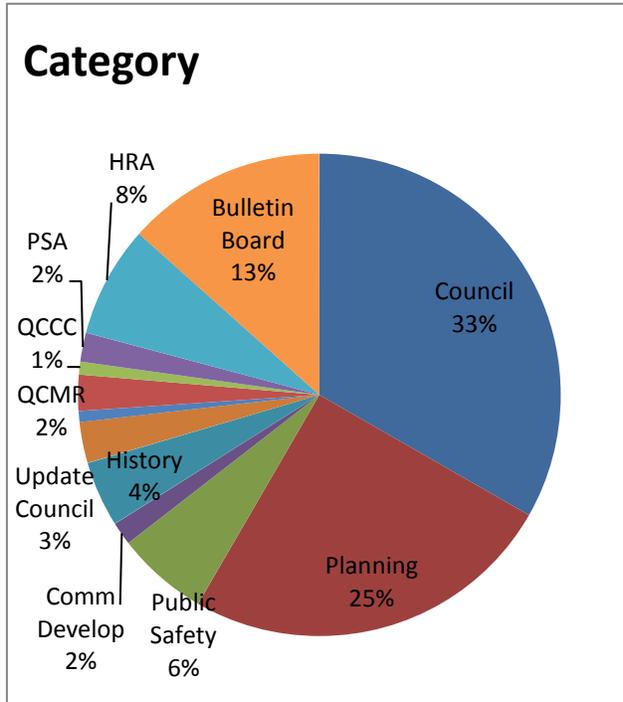
Web Hits



Anoka Channel & Web Statistics

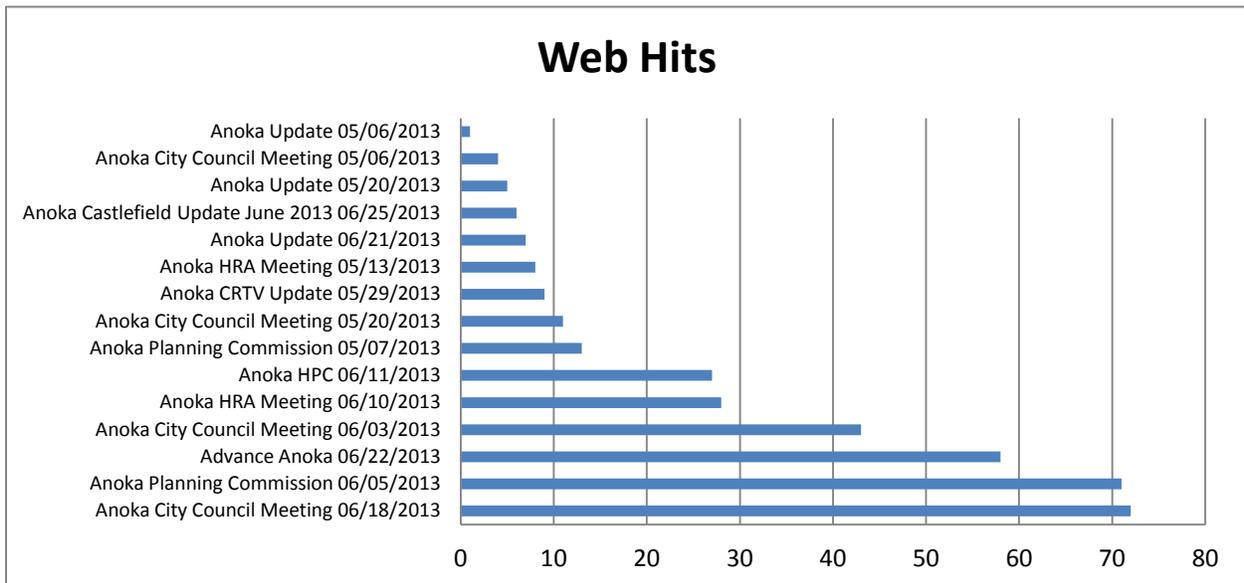
June 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:		Web Hits:	
Total Runs:	854	New Shows:	13	Total Hours:	96:28	Total Hits:	363
Total Time:	623:31	New Time:	13:45	Saturation:	13.4%		
Saturation:	86.6 %	All Shows:	29				
		All Time:	19:44				



Channel Up Time: 92.53%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling:	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	0%	0
Other:	7.47%	7:29

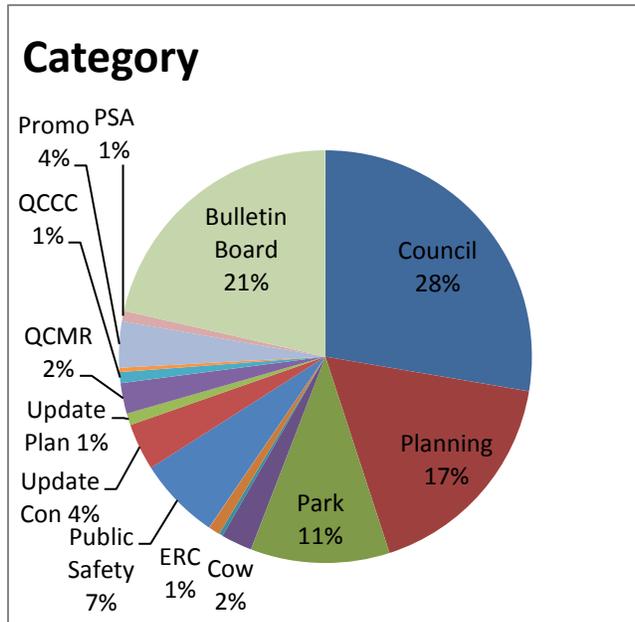
Shared With Multiple Cities		
Date	Show	Minutes
6/3/2013	Sheriff Show	0:17:16
5/15/2013	Fallen Officer	0:43:03
5/13/2013	Honor Deputy	0:16:42
5/1/2013	Sheriff Show	0:22:45
4/30/2013	Aquatic Inv Spec	0:01:00
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/13/2013	QCMR	0:13:01
5/23/2013	QCMR	0:13:18
6/20/2013	QCC	0:36:26
5/16/2013	QCC	0:13:55



Champlin Channel & Web Statistics

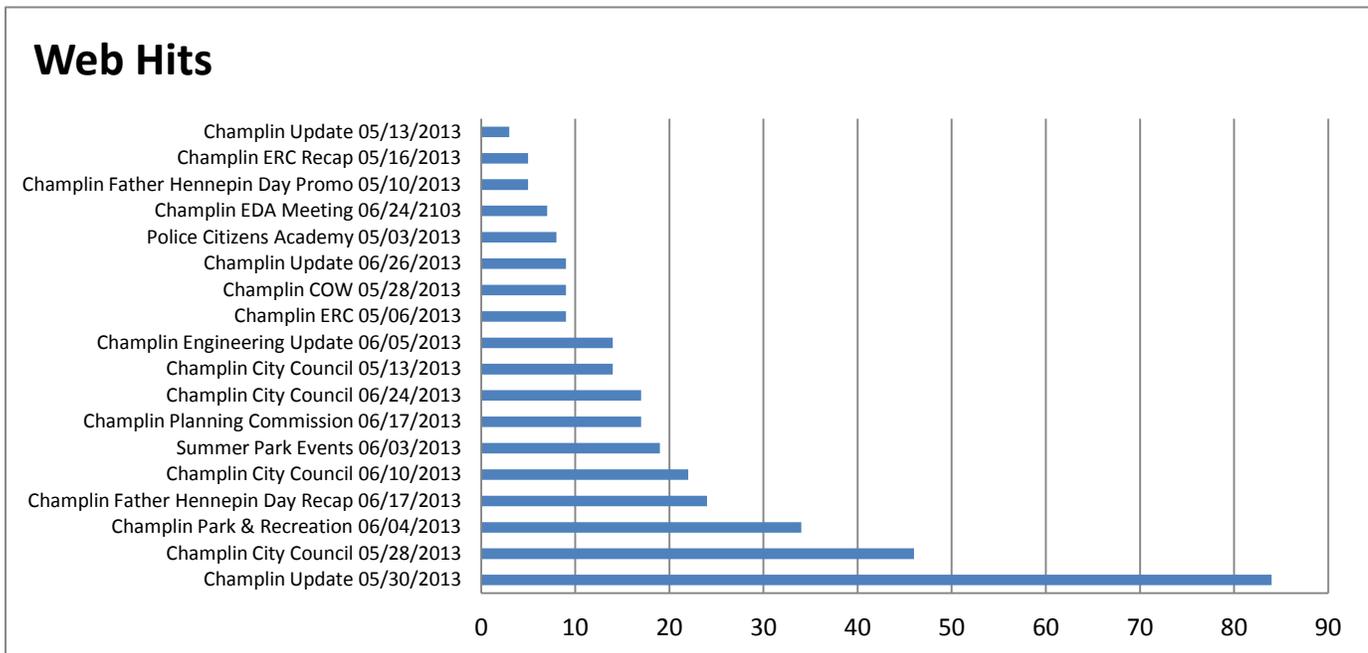
June 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:		Web Hits:	
Total Runs:	1260	New Shows:	23	Total Hours:	115:22	Total Hits:	346
Total Time:	565:38	New Time:	10:07	Saturation:	21.4%		
Saturation:	78.6%	All Shows:	25				
		All Time:	10:22				



Channel Uptime 92.53%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	0%	0
Other:	7.47%	7:29

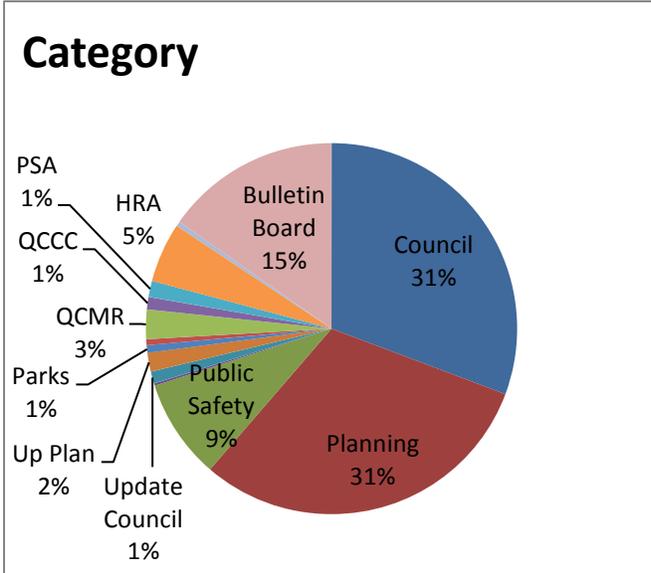
Shared With Multiple Cities		
Date	Show	Minutes
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/13/2013	QCMR	0:13:01
5/23/2013	QCMR	0:13:18
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26
5/16/2013	QCCC	0:13:55
5/16/2013	Aquatic Spec	0:24:44



Ramsey Channel & Web Statistics

June 2013

Playback:	Shows:	Bulletin Board:	Web Hits:
Total Runs: 928	New Shows: 18	Total Hours: 109:49	Total Hits: 241
Total Time: 610:11	New Time: 10:23	Saturation: 15.3%	
Saturation: 84.7%	All Shows: 31		
	All Time: 18:27		

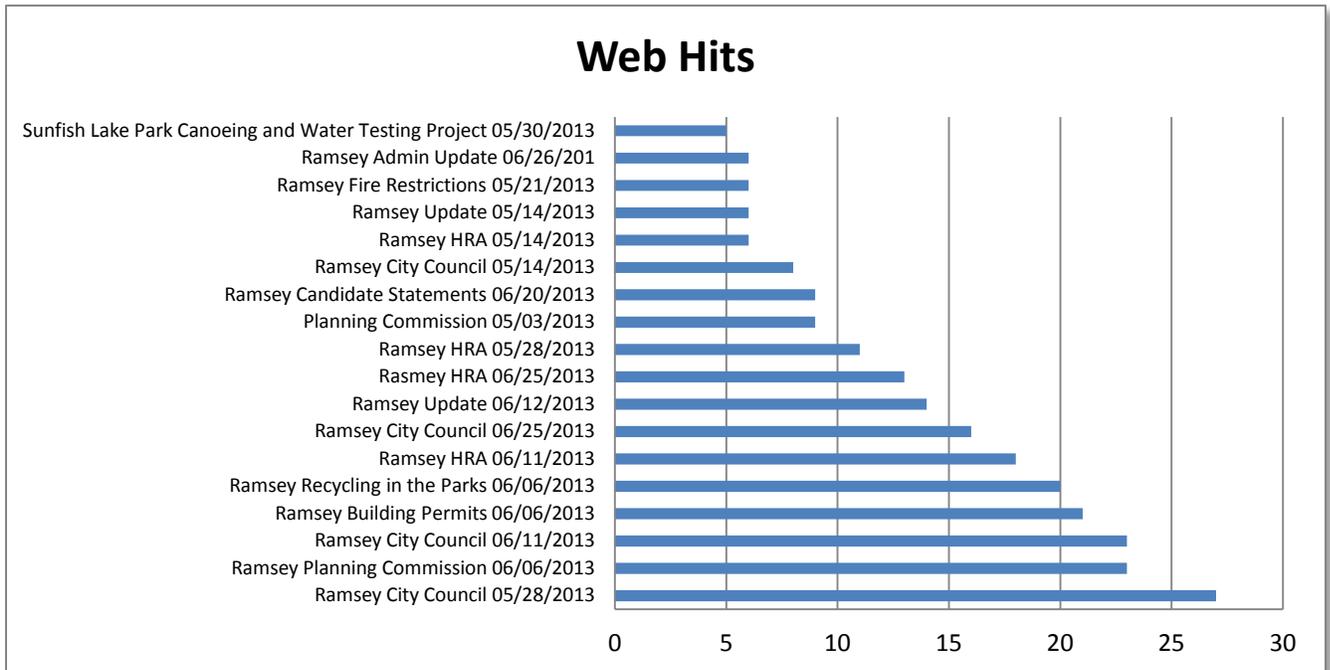


Channel Uptime 90.7%

Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	7.46%	53:48
Other:	1.8%	13:46

Shared with Multiple Cities

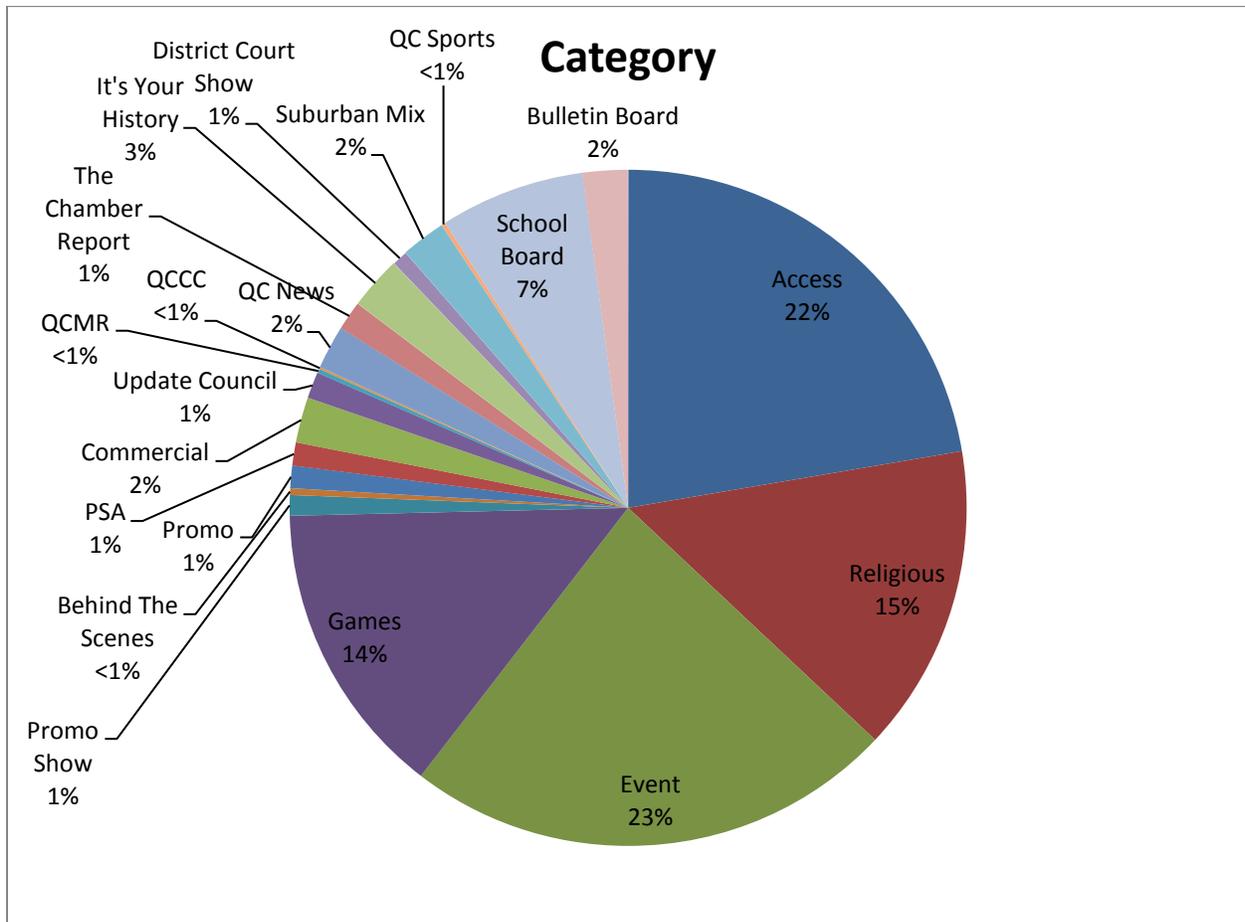
Date	Show	Minutes
5/16/2013	Honorary Deputy	0:16:42
5/15/2013	Fallen Peace Officer	0:43:03
5/1/2013	Sheriff Show	0:22:45
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/13/2013	QCMR	0:13:01
5/23/2013	QCMR	0:13:18
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26
5/16/2013	QCCC	0:13:55



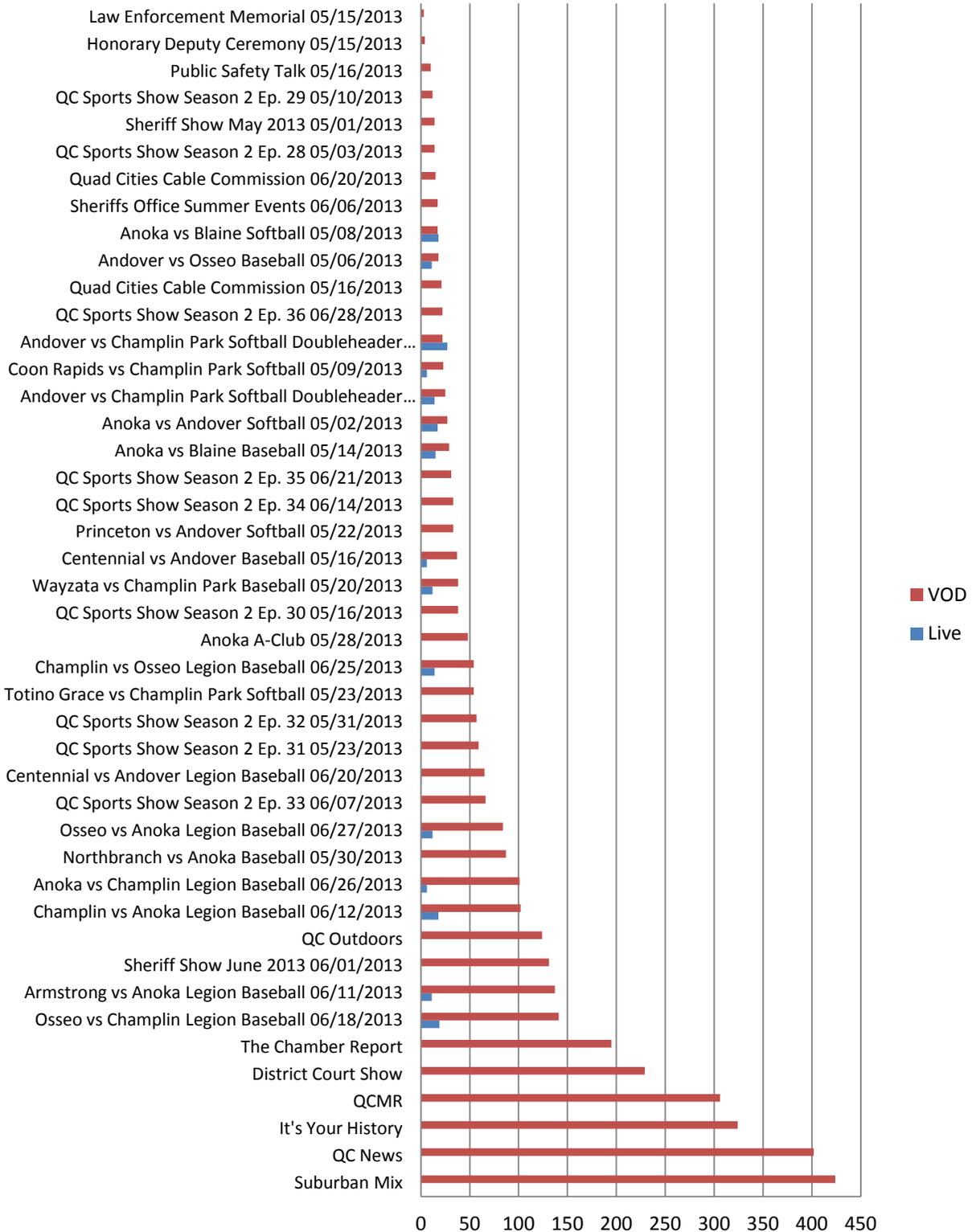
Community Channel 15 June 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:		Web Hits:	
Total Runs:	1656	New Shows:	95	Total Hours:	15:32	Total VOD Hits:	3693
Total Time:	704:28	New Time:	69:53	Saturation:	2.2%	Total Live:	207
Saturation:	97.8%	All Shows:	173				
		All Time:	118:44				

Channel Uptime 98.13%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0%	0
File:	0%	0
Server:	0%	0
Other:	1.87%	00:13:29



Web Hits

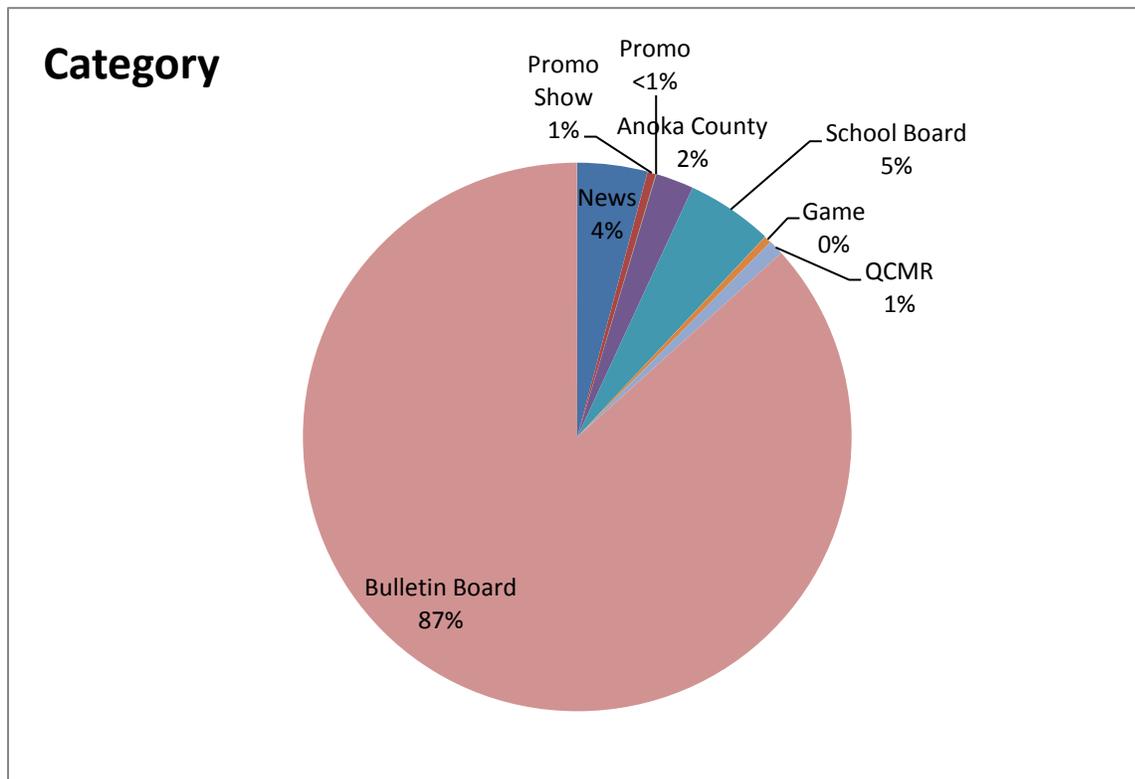


Community Channel 19

June 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:	
Total Runs:	191	New Shows:	13	Total Hours:	624:12
Total Time:	95:48	New Time:	8:43	Saturation:	86.7%
Saturation:	13.3 %	All Shows:	19		
		All Time:	13:31		

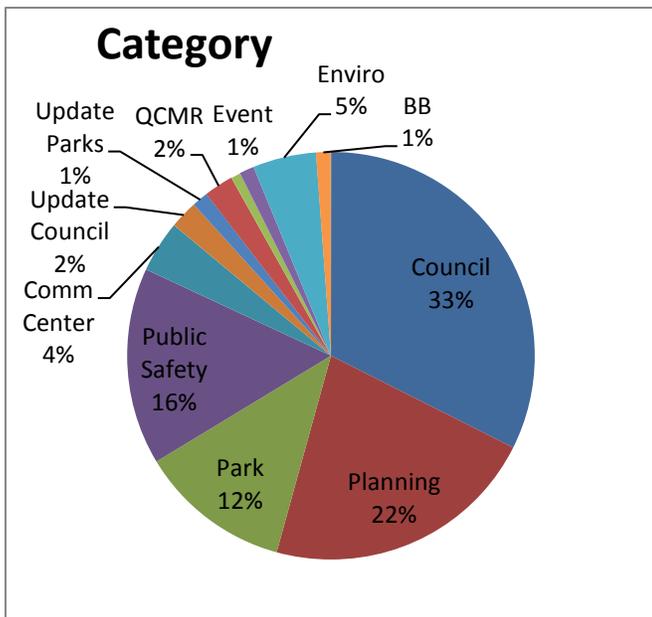
Channel Uptime 98.13%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	0	0
Other:	1.87%	00:13:29



Andover Channel & Web Statistics

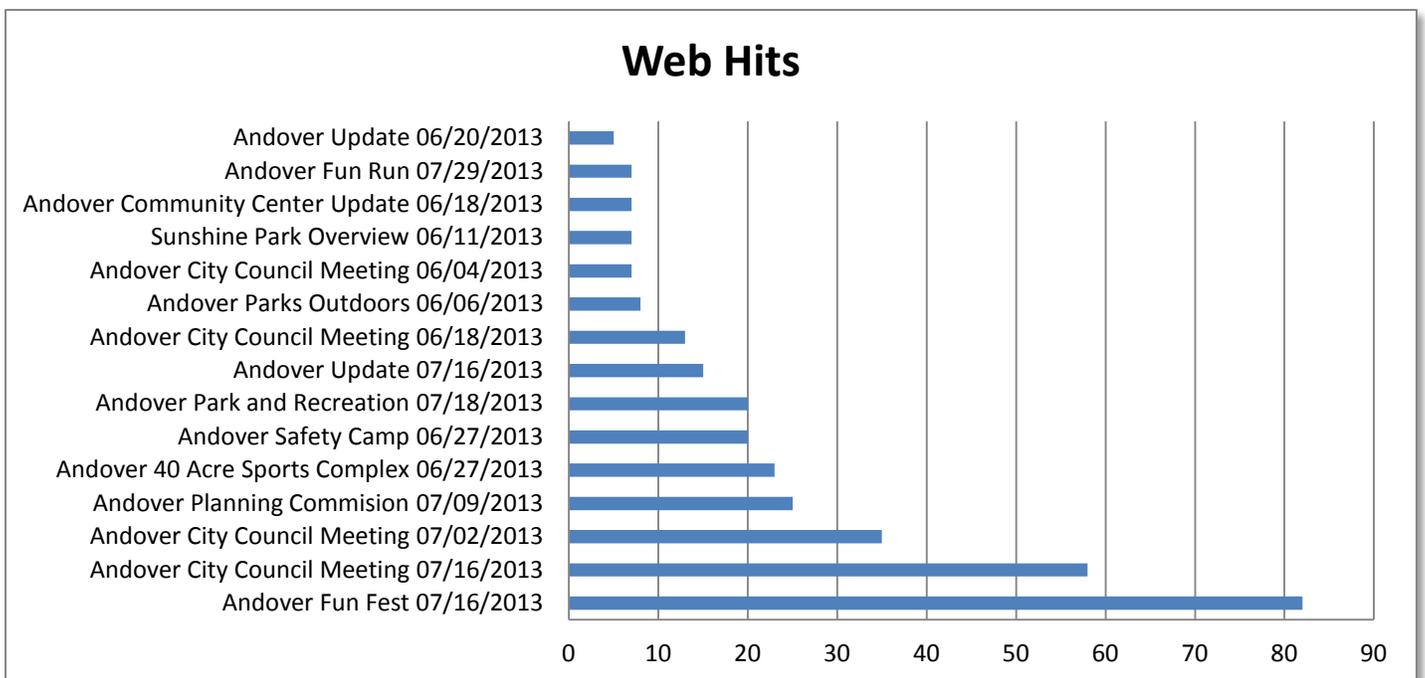
July 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:		Web Hits:	
Total Runs:	3477	New Shows:	10	Total Hours:	8:30	Total Hits:	332
Total Time:	711:30	New Time:	6:55	Saturation:	1.2%		
Saturation:	98.8%	All Shows:	26				
		All Time:	10:09				



Channel Up Time 97%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	3%	24:00
Other:	0	0

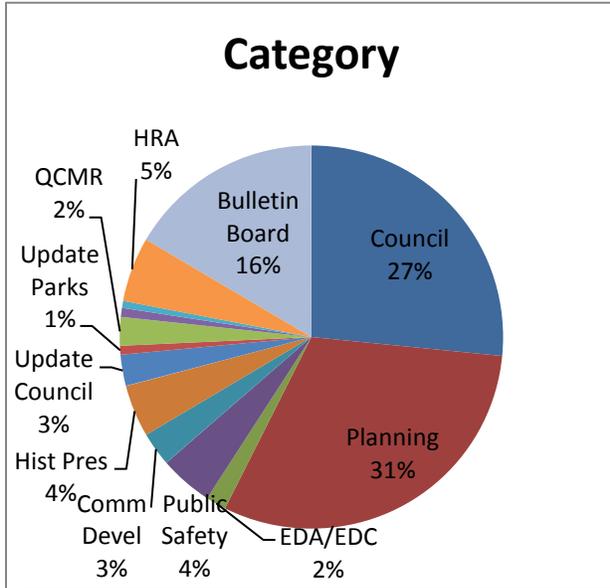
Shared With Multiple Cities		
7/2/2013	Sheriff Show	0:10:50
6/6/2013	Summer Events	0:02:54
6/5/2013	Sheriff Show	0:17:16
7/26/2013	QCMR	0:16:52
7/11/2013	QCMR	0:12:08
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26



Anoka Channel & Web Statistics

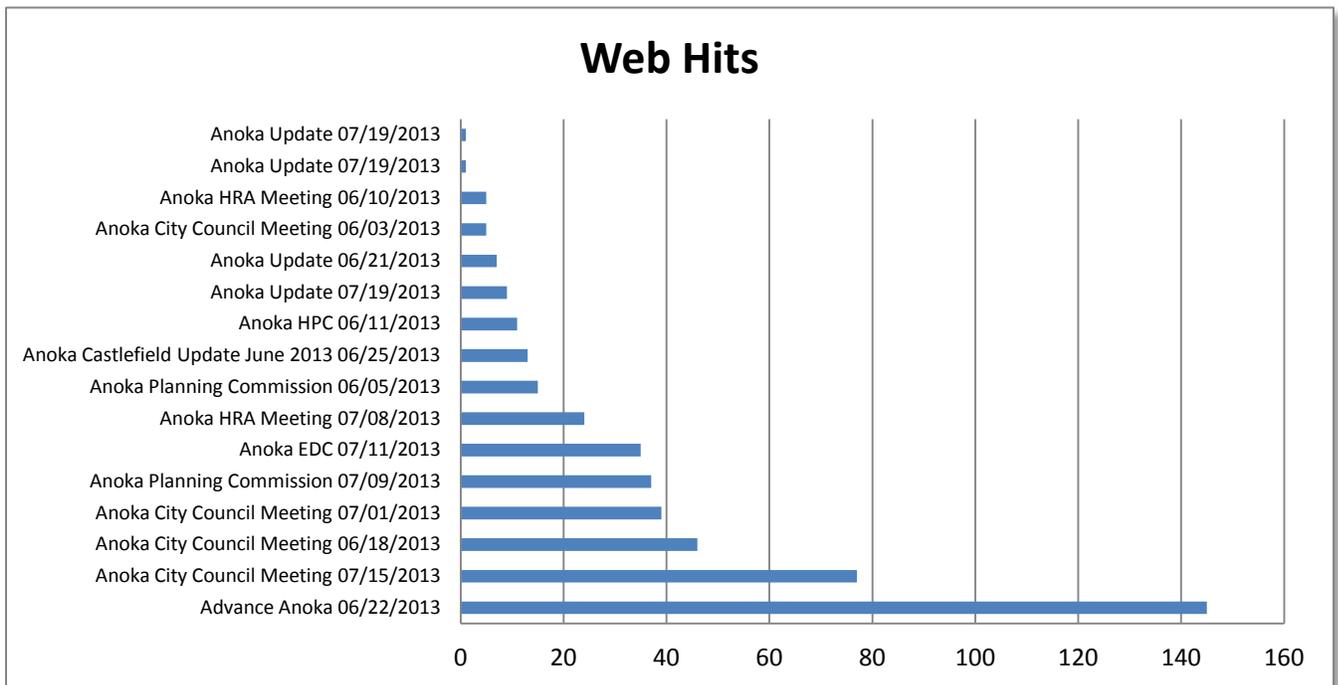
July 2013

Playback:	Shows:	Bulletin Board:	Web Hits:
Total Runs: 826	New Shows: 10	Total Hours: 118:52	Total Hits: 470
Total Time: 601:07	New Time: 13:26	Saturation: 16.5%	
Saturation: 83.49%	All Shows: 24		
	All Time: 21:13		



Channel Up Time: 96.86%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling:	.14%	1:03
File:	0	0
Server:	3%	24:00
Other:	0	0

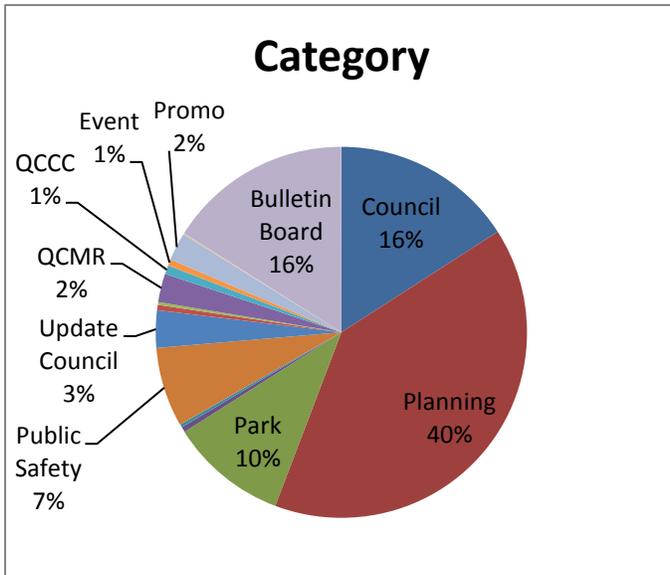
Shared With Multiple Cities		
7/17/2013	Anoka Champlin Fireboard	1:09:22
7/2/2013	Sheriff Show	0:10:50
6/6/2013	Summer Events-Sheriffs Off	0:02:54
6/3/2013	Sheriff Show	0:17:16
5/16/2013	Public Safety Talk	0:32:05
4/30/2013	Aquatic Invasive Species	0:01:00
7/26/2013	QCMR	0:18:52
7/11/2013	QCMR	0:12:08
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26



Champlin Channel & Web Statistics

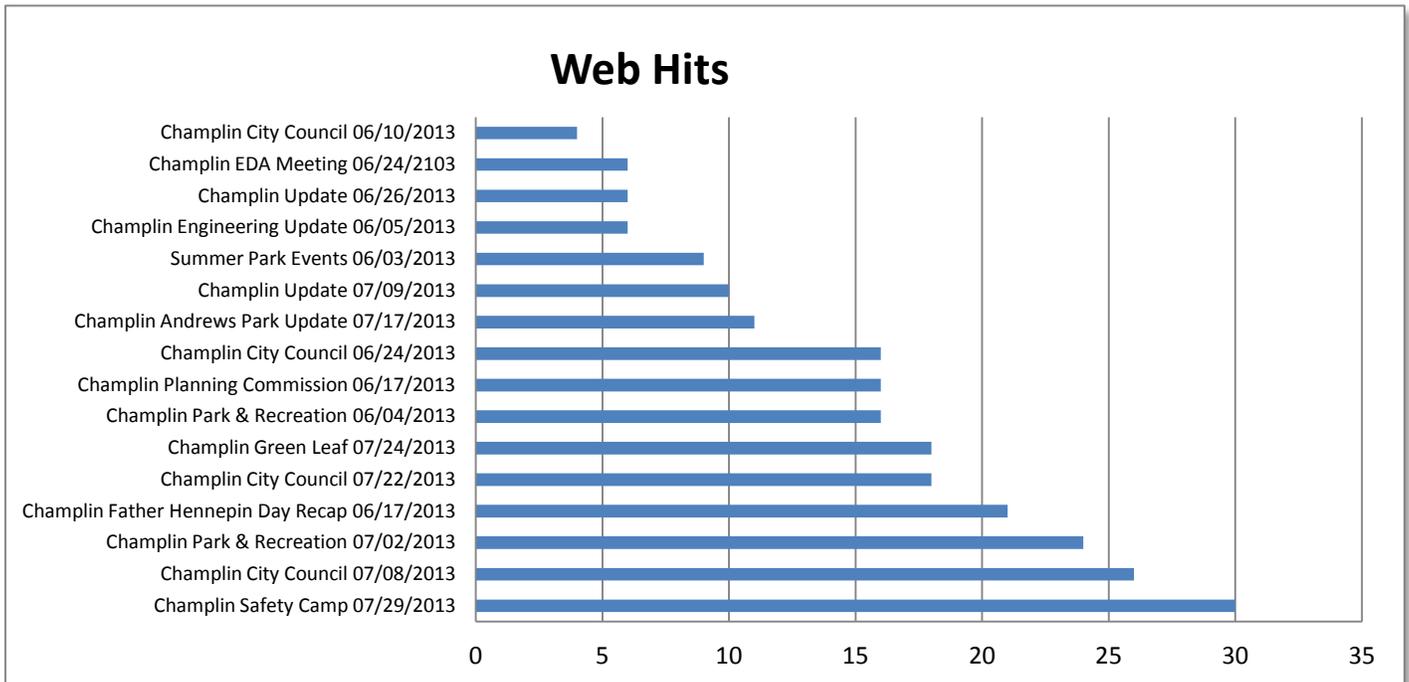
July 2013

Playback:	Shows:	Bulletin Board:	Web Hits:
Total Runs: 1192	New Shows: 10	Total Hours: 115:25	Total Hits: 237
Total Time: 604:35	New Time: 3:56	Saturation: 16%	
Saturation: 83.97%	All Shows: 25		
	All Time: 9:40		



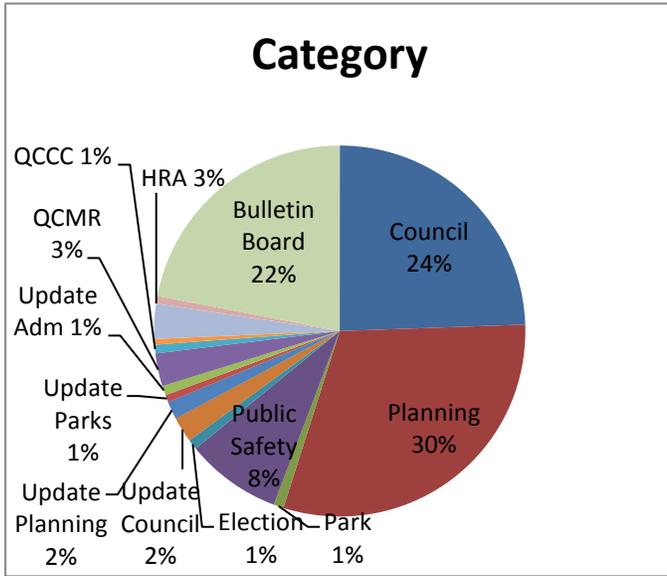
Channel Uptime 97 %		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	3%	24:00
Other:	0	0

Shared With Multiple Cities		
7/29/2013	Safety Camp	0:03:25
7/17/2013	Anoka Champlin Fire	1:09:22
5/16/2013	Public Safety Talk	0:32:05
7/26/2013	QCMR	0:16:52
7/11/2013	QCMR	0:12:08
6/27/2013	QCMR	0:13:34
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26
5/16/2013	Aquatic Invas. Spec	0:24:44



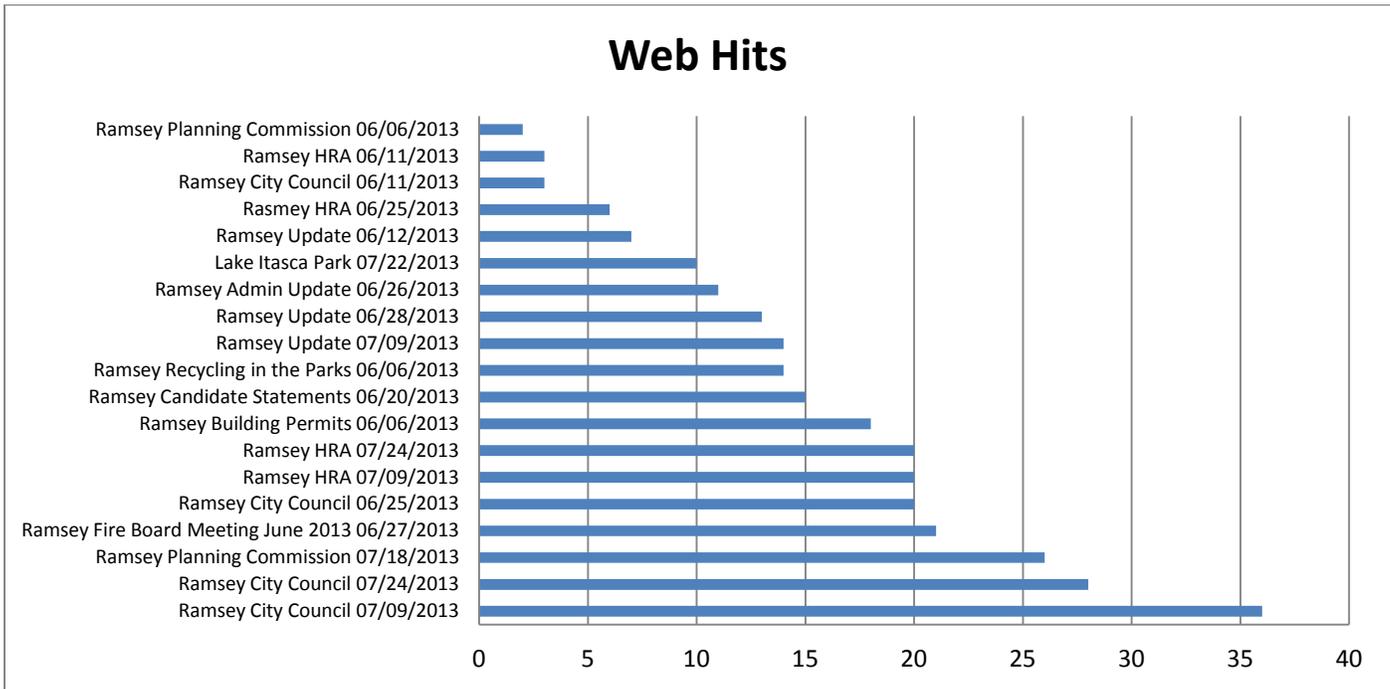
Ramsey Channel & Web Statistics July 2013

Playback:	Shows:	Bulletin Board:	Web Hits:
Total Runs: 1192	New Shows: 10	Total Hours: 158:12	Total Hits: 287
Total Time: 561:48	New Time: 5:56	Saturation: 21.97%	
Saturation: 78%	All Shows: 26		
	All Time: 13:29		



Channel Uptime 96.87%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	.13%	1
Server:	3	24:00
Other:	0	0

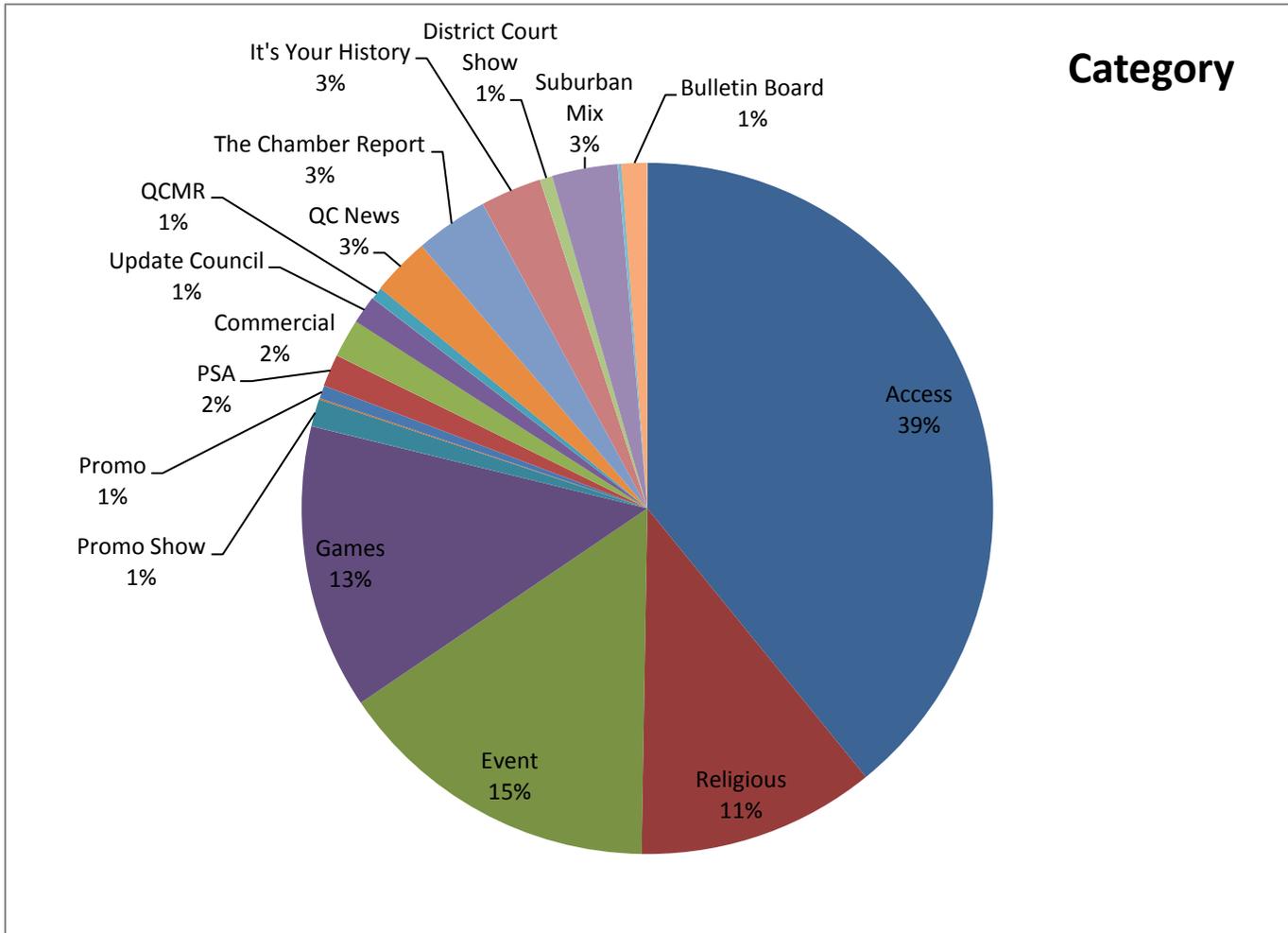
Shared with Multiple Cities		
7/2/2013	Sheriff Show	0:10:50
6/6/2013	Events with Sheriffs Office	0:02:54
5/16/2013	Public Safety Talk	0:32:05
7/26/2013	QCCMR	0:16:52
7/11/2013	QCCMR	0:12:08
6/27/2013	QCCMR	0:13:34
6/20/2013	QCCC	0:36:26



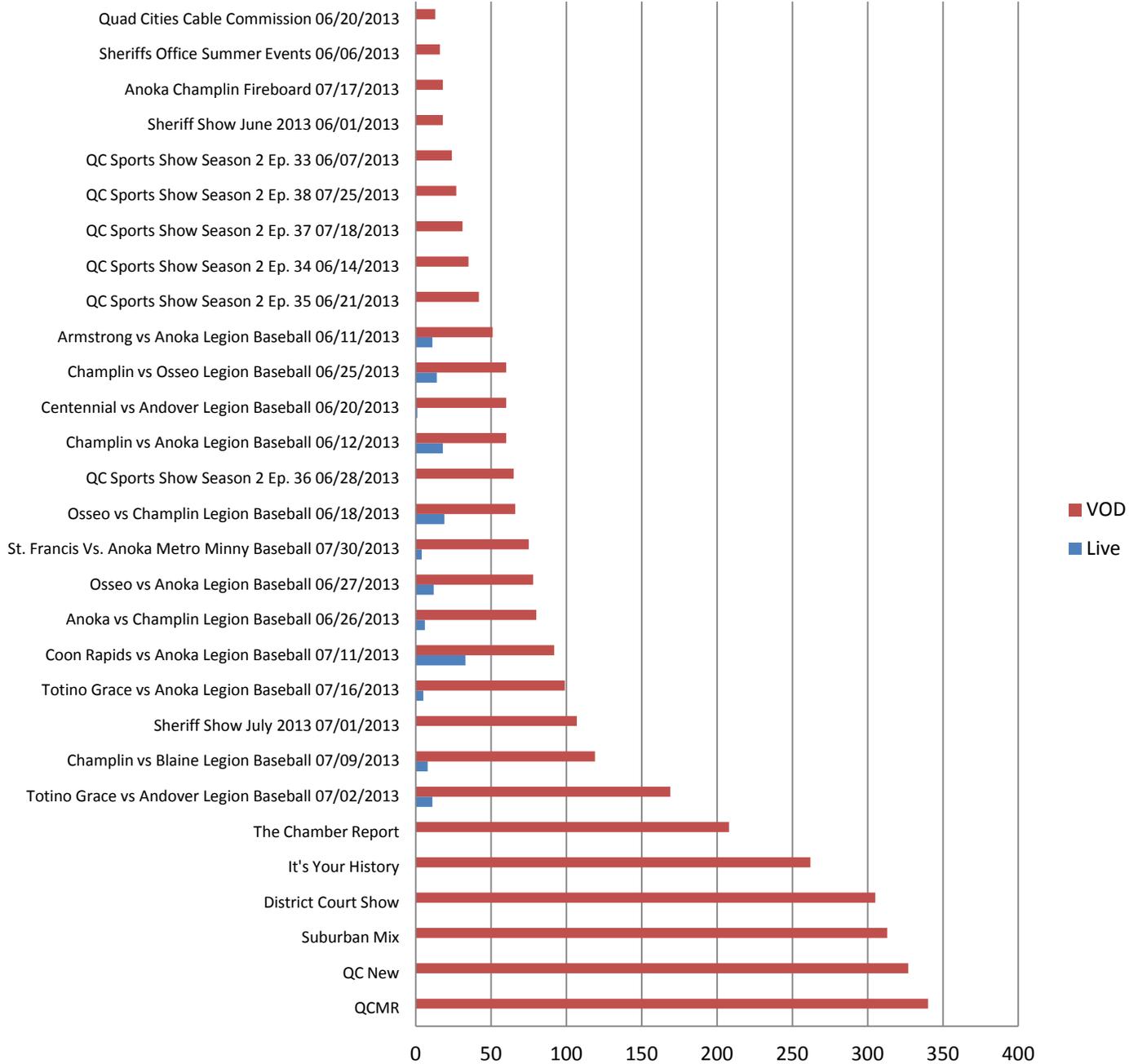
Community Channel 15 July 2013

Playback:	Shows:	Bulletin Board:	Web Hits:
Total Runs: 2221	New Shows: 71	Total Hours: 8:53	Total VOD Hits: 1613
Total Time: 735:06	New Time: 48:21	Saturation: 1.2%	Total Live: 142
Saturation: 98.8 %	All Shows: 161		
	All Time: 107:31		

Channel Uptime 99.6 %		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0%	0
File:	.4%	3:00
Server:	0%	0
Other:	0%	0



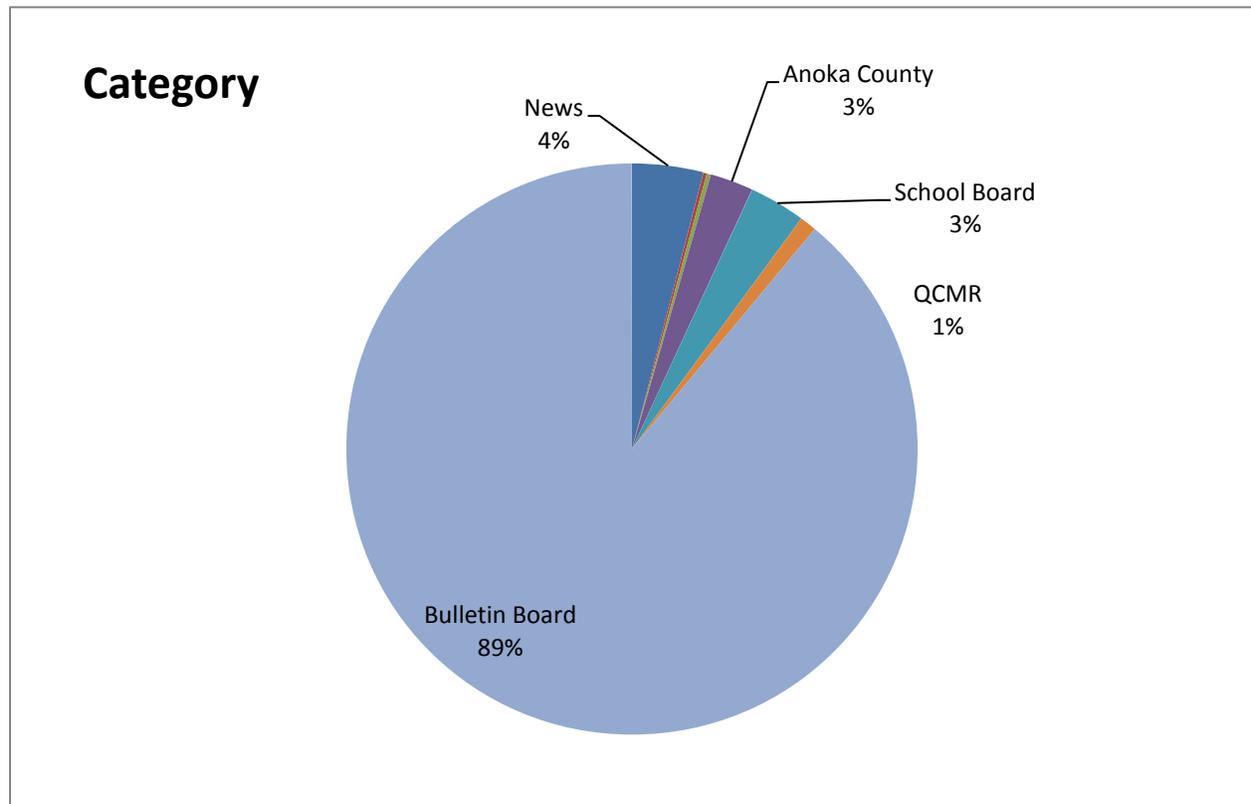
Web Hits



Community Channel 19 July 2013

Playback:		Shows:		Bulletin Board:	
Total Runs:	187	New Shows:	8	Total Hours:	661:57
Total Time:	82:03	New Time:	3:59	Saturation:	88.97%
Saturation:	11%	All Shows:	13		
		All Time:	9:19		

Channel Uptime 100%		
Issues	Percentage	Hours
Scheduling	0	0
File:	0	0
Server:	0	0
Other:	0	0



QCCCC Agenda Item

5.5 Programming Reports

August 5, 2013

To: Commissioners

From: Karen George, Executive Director

Subject: June and July Programming Reports

Programming reports submitted by:
Government Programming Director Susan Huston
Sports Director Bruce Chaffee
Community Affairs/Creative Services Director Terry Lovaas
Computer Specialist Scott Flynn
Media Producer Tim Rick

These reports are provided for information on QCTV activities. Please feel free to contact me regarding these reports.

Action Requested: None.

MEMORANDUM

TO: QCTV Board of Directors
FROM: Susan Huston, Government Director,
Quad Cities Community Television
DATE: Monday, July 8, 2013
RE: June 2013

ISD 11 Board Meeting •

In the month of June, the school district held one meeting. I understand that the School District is happy with the services we have provided for the last several months, since their move to Sandburg.

Bulletin Boards •

Each month we receive requests to create community bulletin boards. Our reception staff creates bulletin boards promoting city meetings and their meeting agendas. City events as well as public safety announcements are also among the many created each month.

In June, we produced a total of 110 new bulletin boards. There were 60 new community and city event bulletin boards and an additional 50 bulletin board slides containing city agenda information. This month there was a reduction in agenda bulletin boards due to the fact that four meetings were cancelled and most agendas were shorter, resulting in 35 less slides. We also have 30 bulletin boards that are part of the regular rotation that we don't touch unless there is a change (i.e. new contact information for a councilmember).

The duration for each bulletin board hasn't changed. Each bulletin board is part of a rotation and is on screen for 15 second intervals. The local weather and playback schedule bulletin boards continue to stay up for 35 seconds each.

Shared Programming •

There are a number of programs that are shared between cities. Anoka Champlin shares a fire board; those meetings are played on both channels. All Sheriff programming is also shared. Although the Sheriff's Office is law enforcement for the city of Andover, the Sheriff generally prefers to talk about county wide programming, so we play those programs in Anoka County. The Quad Cities Cable Commission and the Quad Cities Municipal Report are also shared among our cities. Below are listed shared programs.

Sheriff Show

Quad Cities Municipal Report

Summer Events with the Sheriff's Office

Quad Cities Cable Commission

Andover

During the month of June we had 13 new programs, with a total of 3 hours and 20 minutes.

Meetings:

City Council (6/4)

Planning Commission Meeting (*cancelled*)

City Council (6/18)

Cable Commission (6/20)

Park and Recreation Meeting (*cancelled*)

New Programming:

1. Sheriff Show
 - This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run and reviews the many instruments in the patrol cars
2. Sunshine Park
 - Ted Butler, Chair of the Park and Recreation Committee reviewed the parks amenities
3. Summer Events with the Sheriff's Office
 - Safety Camp
 - Bike Helmut Clinic
 - County Fair
 - Night to Unite
4. Park & Recreation Meeting Overview
 - Todd Haas reviewed the Park Meeting that was held at Sunshine Park
5. Quad Cities Municipal Report: (*featured stories*)
 - Tree Planting
 - Promo Family Fun Fest
6. Community Center update
 - Cindy Ramseier talks about the upcoming July through Summer activities at the center
7. Council Update
 - Council member Sheri Bukkila reviewed the council meeting of June 18
8. Quad Cities Municipal Report: (*featured stories*)
 - Business Appreciation Golf Tournament
 - Nightingale Street Reconstruction
9. Sports Complex
 - An update on the progress of the future Sports Complex
10. Safety Camp
 - A review of Safety Camp

What we are working on:

Library on the Go

Parks Index (b-roll gathering)

Community Center Update

Family Fun Fest

5K Run

Sheriff Show Active Shooter Training

Anoka

During the month of June we had 13 new programs, with a total of 13 hours and 45 minutes.

Meetings:

City Council (6/3)

Planning Commission Meeting (6/4)

Housing and Redevelopment (6/10)

Historic Preservation Committee (6/11)

City Council (6/17)

Cable Commission (6/20)

New Programming

1. Sheriff Show

- This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run and reviews the many instruments in the patrol cars

2. Summer Events with the Sheriff's Office

- Safety Camp
- Bike Helmet Clinic
- County Fair
- Night to Unite

3. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Riverfest Promo
- Ice Cream Promo

4. Council Update: Council Member Steve Schmidt reviewed the council meeting of June 17

5. Advance Anoka topics:

- Classic Car Show
- Aquatic Center & Concerts in George Green Park
- Riverfest
- Celebrate Anoka Day
- Take the Northstar to the Twins Game
- Farmers Market
- Independence Day Fireworks
- Ice Cream Social
- Ghosts of Anoka
- Annual Home and Garden Tour
- Anoka County Fair
- Night to Unite

6. Castle Field Opening Night Promo

7. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Aquatic Center Promo
- Heritage Home & Garden Tour

What we are working on

Construction Update

Home and Garden Tours

Fall Advance Anoka

Riverfest Recap

Castle Field Opening Night festivities

Champlin

During the month of June we had 13 new programs, with a total of 5 hours and 18 minutes.

Meetings:

Park and Recreation (6/4)

Environmental Resource Commission (No)

City Council (6/10)

Planning Commission (6/17)

Cable Commission (6/20)

City Council (6/24)

Economic Development Authority (6/24)

New Programming

1. Summer Park Events
 - Art In the Park Program
 - Performances in the Park
2. Engineer Update
 - Mill Pond Update
 - Hayden Lake/West River Road realignment
 - Reconstruction of Elm Creek Dam (2014)
3. Father Hennepin Festival Recap
4. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - Earth Day Clean up Event
 - ERC Arbor Tree Give-away
5. Famers Market Promo
6. Council Update: Council Member Bruce Miller reviewed the meeting of June 24
7. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - Picnic Entertainment in the Park
 - Farmers Market

What we are working on

Performances in the Park

Parks Index (b-roll gathering)

Kiddie Karnival Promo

Watering Ban

Night to Unite Promo with new PD staff

Family Room & tour of the Police Department

Ramsey

During the month of June we had 18 new programs, with a total of 10 hours and 23 minutes.

Meetings:

Planning Commission (6/6)

City Council Meeting (6/11)

Housing & Redevelopment Mtg (6/11)

Cable Commission (6/20)

City Council (6/26)

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (6/26)

Shared Fire Services (6/28)

New Programming

1. Sheriff Show

- This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run and reviews the many instruments in the patrol cars

2. Summer Events with the Sheriff's Office

- Safety Camp
- Bike Helmet Clinic
- County Fair
- Night to Unite

3. Recycling in the Parks

- Chris Anderson speaks about recycling opportunities at the city parks

4. City Inspector reviews required building permits

5. Your Council Your Community Update: June 11

- Council members John LeTourneau and Mark Kuzma review recent activities in Ramsey.

6. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Meet Bruce Westby, new city engineer
- Happy Days Promo

7. Planning Update

8. Candidate Statement

9. Administrator Update: Kurt Ulrich reviewed development projects

- Mc Donald's
- Performing Arts Center
- Super America
- Seasons of Ramsey, Town house project
- Stony River, Memory Care/Senior Living Center

10. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Safety Camp Recap
- The Draw Park at the COR

11. Your Council Your Community Update: June 25

- Council members Jason Tossey and Mark Kuzma review recent activities in Ramsey.

What we are working on:

Parks Meetings in the field recap

Amphitheater Summer Events Promo

Environmental Policy Board Update

Farmers Market

Historic Park story with Al Pearson

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Bruce Chaffee, Sports Director
DATE: July 11, 2013

Time flies doesn't it. Summer took its time getting here and now we're past Independence Day.

Legion baseball for the summer is winding down. The regular season for our teams is scheduled to end on Wednesday, July 17. In the past, Anoka or Champlin has had a strong team and advanced deep into the playoffs, but this year none of our teams is expected to make it out of the league championship play. I'm probably done with baseball for 2013 on the 17th.

Programming Totals (June):

7 - Baseball Games

3 - Graduations

Totals Hours of New Programming (June):

17 hours of new programming.

The most exciting thing in the community this summer, at least as far as sports go, is the opening of the new Castle Field in Anoka. The bad spring weather has really affected all of us, but the new Castle Field is probably one of the hardest hit. The lack of a good spring growing season has delayed playing on the new field. It seemed for awhile like the 2013 year would be a total wash out. But now, the city staff and all those involved in the operation of the field have deemed it ready for play. On July 11, the Anoka Tornados will have their "home opener" against the Coon Rapids Cardinals at Castle Field. The new stadium will be great for the players, fans, and those watching at home through our QCTV productions.

As I stated in reports before, I usually take my vacations during the breaks in the season and that's no different this time. I will be taking a 9-day road trip to various parts of the south from July 19 - 28. I hope the weather is not too hot, but it is July after all.

And when I get back I will be looking ahead to the fall high school sports' season that begins in the last weeks of August. Every year it is amazing how quickly the summer ends and the new school year begins. The Northwest Suburban Conference has a great web site and I can tell right now who and when my first football game will be; August 29, Champlin Park at Andover. Not a common occurrence having two District 11 schools facing off in the opening game of the year, but it should add to the drama of

opening night. Actually, QCTV's sports coverage begins with girls' soccer on August 22. In next month's report I will have a calendar of games for the fall season for you to peruse.

Sports Production Schedule

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Totino-Grace at Andover Legion Base- ball 6:15	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>																																																																																																																
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Champlin at Blaine Legion Baseball 7:30	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Coon Rapids vs. Anoka Legion Base- ball 7:30	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>																																																																																																																
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All games are subject to change.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Directors
FROM: Terry W. Lovaas, Community Affairs Director / Creative Services Director
DATE: July 18, 2013

Community Affairs

Ongoing programming:

<i>The History Show</i>	Anoka High School sports history
<i>The District Court Show</i>	Domestic Violence Issues (rerun)
<i>The Chamber Report</i>	Rod Carew luncheon / Riverfest / Golf / Member Profiles
<i>Suburban Mix</i>	Appraising / ID Theft / Genesis Wines / Good Eats / singer Jessica Manning
<i>QC NEWS</i>	2 new episodes
<i>Updates</i>	Updates were produced for Andover (1), Anoka (1) and Champlin (1)

Special June Programming:

Father Hennepin Festival parade (June 7th)
Chamber of Commerce luncheon with Rod Carew (June 14th)
North Metro Graduation (June 20th)

Programming Totals:

We produced 11 new programs for a total of 9.5 hours.

Upcoming July Events:

State of the County luncheon (7/10)
Andover Fun Fest parade (7/13)
Halftime Report (7/29)

Personnel:

Two former employees have returned to QCTV. Brandon Rickert and Alyssa Fox will be producing programming once again for us.

They will help fill our recent vacancies. Zac Petrich has moved on to other pursuits. Long-time employee, Jean Stauffer, has announced her retirement (effective July 15th). Jean has been producing *The History Show* with the Anoka county Historical Society for many, many years. With her departure, we are in discussions on whether to continue that program or not – and who could be the new producer.

Conference:

With two other QCTV employees, I attended a short conference on the art of video storytelling. The conference was geared toward creating videos for websites.

Creative Services

Ad Sales:

I'm writing a new script for Peterson's Shoes and once that is approved, we'll shoot / edit in July.

RMS is still considering what changes they'd like in their commercial.

My meeting with Anoka Massage & Pain Therapy was productive. They haven't signed a contract at this writing but I am confident that they will go forward with us to produce videos for their website.

Networking:

I attended two networking meetings in June, one with the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and the other with Get Connected, a group that meets in Andover.

PSA day:

In July, I'll begin the initial contacts for producing PSAs for local non-profit groups.

Rate card:

I am in the process of evaluating / changing QCTV's rate card.

MEMORANDUM

TO: QCTV Board of Directors
FROM: Scott Flynn, Head Tech
DATE: July 11, 2013

Projects and Events

June was a big month as it started off with high school graduations. Greg Harris had worked the previous months on getting the word out on the live streaming of the Andover, Anoka and Champlin Park High School graduation ceremonies. The "Graduation" page was setup on the website and promos were put on the social media outlets before and during the events. The live webcasts went out and the number of viewers online grew. This is the big live stream event of the year for us.

The tech department has been working to complete inventory. It has been a big project with thousands of items to be logged. We will have a status update next month on the totals from this project.

The tech department has begun laying out a 5 year budget plan when it comes to A/V and computer equipment. This is an extension of the work we did for the 2013 budget by planning out replacement times and rotation schedules of equipment. A special capital budget will allow us to better plan purchase in the rotation schedule and we are excited to have a second year where we are involved in the budgeting process.

Playback Channel Uptime

QCTV's government channels had a 92.53% uptime for the month of June. The downtime was due to a hard drive failure that took down the server over the last weekend of the month. You will also see this effecting the July report. Ramsey additionally had a bulletin board crash that brought it's uptime down to 90%. The channel 15 and 19 had a 98.13% uptime.

City/District Tech Services Report

Anoka had three issues. June 3, the Mayor's mic was working intermittently. The mic input was rotated on the sound board. This has resolved the issue, however, we are currently monitoring the situation with concerns that the audio mixing board may be going bad. On June 5 the live feed (I-net) was reported as not functioning properly. Comcast was contacted and they resolved the issue. On June 5, the podium mic was detected as not functioning. It was reseated which resolved the problem. We are currently monitoring this issue.

Champlin had two issues. On June 17, the web stream encoder computer wouldn't boot up. It was determined to be damaged from a recent power outage. The encoder from the QCTV playback center used for sports streams had been installed temporarily in its place while replacement parts were on order. The original encoder has been rebuilt and is scheduled to be

reinstalled into Champlin. On June 24, the public wifi and internet for the systems was not functioning. A reboot of the cable modem and router resolved the issue.

Ramsey had two issues. On June 25, one of the dais monitors had no red to the color. The VGA connection was reset and it resolved the problem. Also on June 25, the subscriber monitor used to verify we are going out live was not picking up channel 16. The cable box was missing. Jason Fredrickson, the Ramsey IT director, was notified of it's disappearance, and the cable box was returned later that day.

Tech Department Work Stats

Attached to the end of this report is the Tech Department Work Stats for June 2013. This month, the tech department had 27% for community, 17% for government related support, 6% for sports and 50% for organization wide support. By category, the majority of work was tech related at 30% followed by production related at 21%.

Web Statistics

The qctv.org website had 230,982 total hits for pages and videos for the month of June. With our VOD(video on demand), Suburban Mix hit the top with 424 hits. City council meetings average 15-72 hits. The Champlin Council Update of May 30 had topped 84 hits.

Complete VOD statistics are attached to your packet.

School Partnerships

School is out for the summer, and this gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past year. The tech department has been fostering great relationships with the schools in our area and we want to continue to grow that relationship. Our efforts has increased viewership of QCTV's coverage of high school sports and the sports show. Student interest in our social media outlets, like Facebook and YouTube, have increased. We find our partnership with the schools to be important and will contine to find creative new ways to work with our partners.

Social Media Promotions

QCTV's website and social media marketing presence was very active in June. There were several legion baseball games as well as the Father Hennepin Parade. Greg was at the Father Hennepin parade sending up social media content of behind the scenes pictures and posts as the crew setup, during the parade, and after. There were several clicks to our stream resulting from creative hashtags on Twitter. As an example, when people search the name of a high school marching band or a dance team that was in the parade they would be linked to us.

Tech staff continues to post daily on Twitter and Facebook to alert the community of new and interesting videos, features, and happenings at QCTV. Currently there are 163 (+2 since last month's report) following us on Twitter and 195 (+2) following on Facebook.

I also have changes to report from Facebook and Twitter on the services they provide. Facebook has begun to integration the Twitter style hashtags to their platform. This will enable us to use organic(free) advertisements directly to the interests of specific items. For example if the #marchingtornadoes was a commonly used hashtag, and we were to use it, there is increased likelihood that new people would see our content.

In addition, both Facebook and Twitter are modifying how their embedded modules for websites work. These changes affect websites like ours with the like buttons, Facebook comments, and Twitter feeds. The code on qctv.org must be updated to be compliant with the new requirements. We are continuing to research and develop the proper procedures for working with these code changes to keep qctv.org functioning fully. The Twitter feed change to API v1.1 has been completed successfully and Facebook's change is in progress.

Facebook Insights:

Posts by QCTV on Facebook have the potential to be seen by 50,708 people. This is up 6753 since last month. Facebook advertisements and "boosting posts" could be a way to increase our social reach. To gage the results of the paid advertisement service, 2 ads resulted in a 20% gain in followers during the graduation season. Continued investment in social media advertisements could see significant returns in visibility of QCTV and its member cities. A company procedure would have to be adapted that includes an authorized credit card holder to maintain this form of advertising. This is due to Facebook's policy of only accepting credit card orders directly connected to a human account. At this time, there is not a way for a business to use a business account, and you cannot setup a personal user for the company as this goes against their policies.

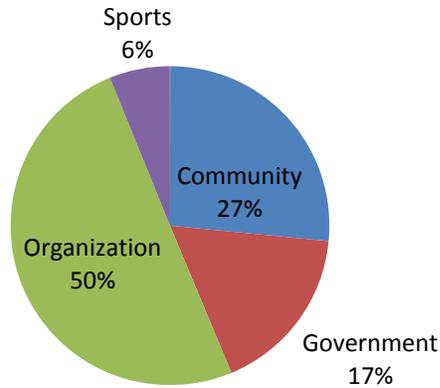
YouTube Insights:

In June QCTV videos and promos that are on YouTube currently reached 922 minutes of view time, down 364 compared to last month, and 387 total views, down 91 from last month. One process change that we have put into place could be the cause for lower numbers is that we have started to embed video directly into Facebook instead of the link to the video hosted on YouTube's site. This new process creates a more seamless user experience for those on Facebook, however, Facebook has not made available a way to count views of these videos.

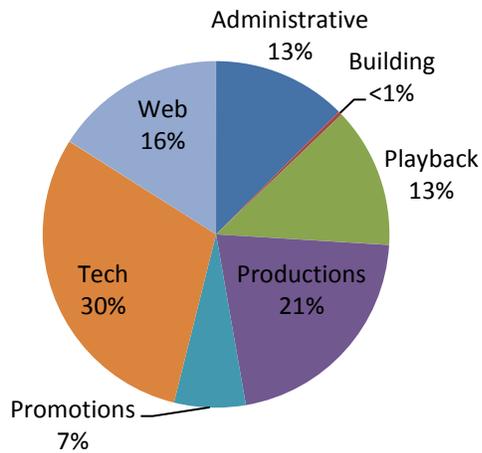
Tech Department Work Stats

June 2013

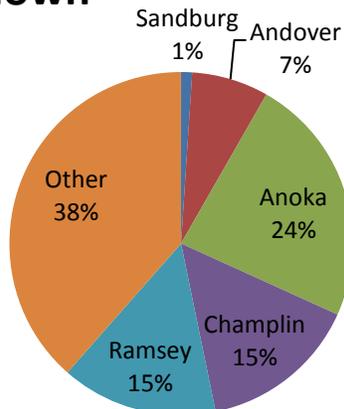
By Department



By Category



Government Breakdown



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: Tim Rick, Media Producer
Date: July 7, 2013

The bulk of this report will be on the QCTV graphics I've recently finished, am working on and will soon be starting. Looking at my project work flow list I see six items designated in the government category.

- 1) The Green Leaf open
- 2) QCMR green screen city background with topic bar
- 3) QCMR Open with topic bar
- 4) The Sheriff's Show graphic package with a) open b) lower thirds c) full screen
- 5) 4 City Studio Posters
- 6) Seasonal city graphic package with a) open b) lower thirds c) full screen

The Green Leaf open was a short 10-12 second animation for the city of Champlin. It was completed on July 8 and is now ready for the producer working on the project. Number two on my graphic list for government programming is "QCMR green screen city background with topic bar". I finished this graphic on July 11 and the file was instantly download from our Staff Communication folder by one of our producers and edited into the most recent QCMR show. Susan Huston wanted to try a new approach the The QCMR (Quad Cities Municipal Report) by utilizing a topic bar to the viewer left of the screen. Many news outlets have been going to this approach in the last few years. If you are unsure what I'm referencing simply watch ESPN and KMSP's local news and you will notice the topic bar to the right of there anchors.

I discussed items 3, 4 and 5 in the last report so I'm not going to go into great detail this time around. I will say that all three are in various stages of completion with target dates of completion as the beginning to middle of August. Item number 6 refers to creating city opens that are seasonally specific. This means having winter videos footage and a blue/white color scheme to convey a winter theme from November to March. And vice versa during the spring/summer months. This was an idea Susan discussed with me to keep the graphics and feel of these shows more fresh and less dated. A great idea.

I currently have one item on my project work flow list for the Sports Department. I'm in the process of creating a new sports graphic package a) open b) lower thirds c) score buy d) stats. I discussed this in the last reports and am happy to report I've already finished customized motion backgrounds incorporating each teams logo when played behind the team starting line ups and halftime/final stats.

Another non QCTV graphic project I've been spearheading is the First Annual QCTV Company picnic. We have a date set of Wednesday, July 17 and it will take place at Mississippi River Community Park located in Anoka. Plans are in the final stages, it looks to be a fun event for families.

Tim Rick
QCTV Media Producer

MEMORANDUM

TO: QCTV Board of Directors
FROM: Susan Huston, Government Director,
Quad Cities Community Television
DATE: Monday, August 05, 2013
RE: July 2013

ISD 11 Board Meeting •

In the month of July, the school district held one meeting, we had no technical difficulties. We are looking at a staffing change to record the School District meetings. Will Wojcik, our point person for the School Board meetings, will be leaving later this fall for new employment. We are currently in the process of looking for a replacement.

Bulletin Boards •

Each month we receive requests to create community bulletin boards. Our reception staff creates bulletin boards promoting city meetings and their meeting agendas. City events as well as public safety announcements are also among the many created each month.

In July, we produced a total of 148 new bulletin boards. There were 70 new community and city event bulletin boards and an additional 78 bulletin board slides containing city agenda information. This month were a few more meetings than in June, consequently there were more agenda items, significantly adding to the overall number of agenda bulletin board slides.

The duration for each bulletin board hasn't changed. Each bulletin board is part of a rotation and is on screen for 15 second intervals. The local weather and playback schedule bulletin boards continue to stay up for 35 seconds each.

Something New •

In an effort to increase production quality we have made a few changes to the Quad Cities Municipal Report (QCMR). We have a new look. Taking our cue from the sports and news cable networks we have a running "index" on the left side of the screen. This allows the viewer to see all of the stories in that show at a quick glance. As the program progresses only the stories that are still coming up are at full opacity. The current story is also located in the bottom right corner. We are still working on some of the details, making this a work in progress. Below is a link to the current QCMR.

<http://www.qctv.org/qcmr/>

Andover

During the month of July we had 10 new programs, with a total of 6 hours and 53 minutes.

Meetings:

City Council (07/02)

Planning Commission Meeting (07/09)

City Council (07/16)

Park and Recreation Meeting (07/18)

Cable Commission (No)

New Programming:

1. Sheriff Show
 - This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run
 - Safety Camp summary
 - New fleet and equipment
 - Night to Unite
2. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - Night to Unite
 - Water Restrictions
3. Family Fun Fest Recap
 - Mayor Mike Gamache and Miss Minnesota Stephanie Phillips spoke on the many activities at this year's event.
4. Council Update
 - Mayor Mike Gamache reviewed the council meeting of July 16
5. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - Family Fun Fest Recap
 - Library On the Go
6. Family Fun Fest 5K Fun Run
 - Mayor Mike Gamache and Park and Recreation Ted Butler and his son reviewed the the success of the 2013 Fun Run

What we are working on:

Parks Index,
(Interview with Todd Mahon on Kelsey Round Lake Park)
Community Center Update

Sheriff Show
Watering ban

Anoka

During the month of July we had 10 new programs, with a total of 13 hours and 25 minutes.

Meetings:

City Council (07/01)

Housing and Redevelopment (07/08)

Planning Commission Meeting (07/09)

Economic Preservation Committee (07/11)

City Council (07/16)

Anoka Champlin Fire Board (07/17)

Cable Commission (No)

New Programming

1. Sheriff Show

- This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run
- Safety Camp summary
- New fleet and equipment
- Night to Unite

2. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Opening night at Castle Field
- Night to Unite Promo

3. Council Update: Council Member Steve Schmidt reviewed the council meeting of July 16

4. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Riverfest
- Farmers' Market

What we are working on

Celebrate Anoka Day

Greenhaven

Fall Advance Anoka

Lifeguard Training

Champlin

During the month of July we had 10 new programs, with a total of 3 hours and 54 minutes.

Meetings:

Park and Recreation (07/03)

Cable Commission (No)

Environmental Resource Commission (No)

City Council (07/22)

City Council (07/08)

Anoka Champlin Fire Board (07/17)

Planning Commission (No)

New Programming

1. Council Update: Council Member Bruce Miller reviewed the meeting of June 24
2. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - o Night to Unite Promo
 - o Performance in the Park with Dazzling Dave
3. Andrews Park Construction Update
4. Green Leaf
 - o Environmental Resource Committee promoting their partnerships
5. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*
 - o Dinner and a Movie
 - o Farmers' Market with the ERC (environmental resource commission)
6. Safety Camp Recap

What we are working on

Performances in the Park

Kiddie Karnival Recap

Parks Index (b-roll gathering)

Planning Update

Night to Unite Recap

Ramsey

During the month of July we had 10 new programs, with a total of 5 hours and 34 minutes.

Meetings:

City Council Meeting (07/09)

Housing & Redevelopment Mtg (07/09)

Planning Commission (07/18)

Cable Commission (No)

City Council (07/23)

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (07/23)

New Programming

1. Sheriff Show

- This month's show features participation in the Special Olympics torch run
- Safety Camp summary
- New fleet and equipment
- Night to Unite

2. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Library On the Go
- Night to Unite

3. Your Council Your Community Update: July 11

- Council members Chris Riley and John LeTourneau review recent activities in Ramsey

4. Lake Itasca Park

5. Quad Cities Municipal Report: *(featured stories)*

- Ace Recycling Days
- Happy Days Promo

What we are working on:

Parks Index (b-roll gathering)

Night to Unite Recap

CODE 3 (Ramsey Public Safety show)

EDA Golf Tournament

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Bruce Chaffee, Sports Director
DATE: August 5, 2013

I know in last month's report I stated the end of the baseball season. Well, that wasn't exactly true. When I returned from vacation I discovered a re-schedule of a Metro-Minny baseball game for Tuesday, July 30 at Castle Field. Metro-Minny baseball is the same as town ball. Basically, there are no age limitations. Players are 19 years of age or older and typically the season lasts a few weeks longer than legion baseball. Most games are played on the weekend. The Anoka Bucs are the local nine who play at Castle Field and that night they took on the St. Francis Saints, featuring our own Chris Carpenter. It was a great contest that came down to the last inning when QC Chris came in to pitch the final three outs and preserve the victory for the Saints. Good job Chris! That officially ends the baseball season for QCTV Sports.

Programming Totals (July):

5 - Baseball Games

Totals Hours of New Programming (July):

11 hours of new programming.

The month of August is a transitional time for the sports' department. In a few weeks, the new high school sports' year will be starting and a lot of preparation needs to take place before the first game is televised. Generally, I like to have a new opening and new graphics package created to start the year. Keeping it fresh and new is very important for QCTV because the broadcast world that I try to imitate (ESPN, FSN, etc.) does that all the time. Tim Rick is in charge of creating them and he has done a great job so far. I would say he is 80-90% finished. For the most part, Tim creates the CG templates that I will use throughout the year for my sports' production. And continuity is a must. Mismatching graphics and openings will cause confusion to our customers and in the end hurt the viewing experience.

Another item on my list during August is the general maintenance of the production van. This is a good time to fix the things that need fixing. During the season, some items may get pushed off because we can work around the issue or problem without any long term effects. Bad cables for instance. If we have a bad camera cable the work around is as easy as grabbing a different cable that works. Problem solved but doing that too many times and I might run out of good working cables. So now is the time to test all the vans' cables and fix those that are in need of repair.

QCTV's sports coverage begins with girls' soccer on August 22: Bloomington Jefferson at Anoka. The first football game is a week later, August 29, Champlin Park at Andover. I've included a calendar of the season, but it is still somewhat incomplete. The metro area sports' producers meeting that I attend to coordinate schedules has not happened yet. So, I am waiting for that meeting to take place later this month to finalize exactly what QCTV Sports' Schedule will be. The August games are set though and have been posted to the website.

Sports Production Schedule

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> PC at Champlin Park Volleyball 7:00	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Mpls. SW at Champlin Park Girls Soccer 7:00	<i>6</i> Andover at Anoka Football 7:30	<i>7</i>																																																																																																			
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All games are subject to change.

Sports Production Schedule

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
		<i>1</i> Soccer 5:00	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Centennial at Andover Vol- leyball 7:00	<i>4</i> TG at Andover or Champlin Park at Blaine Football 7:00	<i>5</i>																																																	
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All games are subject to change.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Directors
FROM: Terry W. Lovaas, Community Affairs Director / Creative Services Director
DATE: August 15, 2013

Community Affairs

Ongoing programming:

<i>The History Show</i>	A History of Oak Grove
<i>The District Court Show</i>	Domestic Violence Issues (Judge Halsey takes the summer off and this will be the last rerun of this episode. He's taping a new show in August for a September run)
<i>The Chamber Report</i>	State of Anoka County luncheon / BUSY SUMMER!!! / Member Profiles
<i>Suburban Mix</i>	Hanging Plants / Grassroots Market / Homeless Teens in Anoka County / Musician Brian Bassett
<i>QC NEWS</i>	2 new episodes
<i>Updates</i>	Updates were produced for Anoka (1) and Champlin (1)

Special July Programming:

State of the County luncheon	(7/10)
Andover Fun Fest parade	(7/13)
Halftime Report	(7/29)

Programming Totals:

We produced 10 new programs for a total of 7 hours.

Upcoming Events:

No special events are currently scheduled for August.
The Ramsey Happy Days parade is scheduled for September 7th.

Personnel/Training:

We'll be conducting a day-long staff training on August 14th where we will learn more about editing, lighting, audio, cameras and the Tight Rope system.

Conference:

We had another informational Webinar on August 5th (in our conference room).

Creative Services

Ad Sales:

Peterson Shoes has approved the script and we will shoot just as soon as their fall line of shoes is in their store (probably early August).

I wrote a new script for RMS and they are currently reviewing it. Their main concern is getting enough qualified employees.

Fifth Avenue Dental wanted to feature a new aspect of their dental services (Sedation Dentistry) and I am working with them on how best to present that information.

Anoka Massage & Pain Therapy is still considering what they want in regard to us producing videos for their website. I hope to get an answer from them yet in August.

Networking:

I attended one networking meeting in July, one with the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce. I was unable to make the Get Connected meeting in Andover last month.

PSA day:

I have the mailing list and have created the letter for our first-ever PSA Day (most likely to be held in September. I'll share the response to this unique program in my next report.

Rate card:

I am working with Jayne Ubl to evaluate / change / update QCTV's rate card.

MEMORANDUM

TO: QCTV Board of Directors
FROM: Scott Flynn, Head Tech
DATE: August 5, 2013

Projects and Events

July started off with some excitement as the Tech Department came in Monday, July 1 with a failed playback server. This specific server handles the playback of the government channels. It was quickly determined a failed hard drive caused the issue. Recovery efforts began immediately. All files were backed up and the hard drive was replaced. The system began a rebuild process that would take the remainder of the day. Taking that into consideration, we scheduled playback to resume at midnight. The downtime affected both June and July statistics.

The inventory project has completed it's first phase with the recording of all items into a database. There was just under 2,000 items logged at QCTV and of the city hall production equipment. Phase two of the project has now begun with listing current values and estimating years of service remaining.

The Tech Department has been busy compiling information and numbers for the upcoming budget meetings with QCTV staff starting August 10. We have been looking into edit suites, studio, field equipment, playback, and mobile production. Options, estimated purchase and ongoing costs, and life expectancies are being assembled. This information will be used to generate a proposed 5 year budget plan.

The Tech Department is leading up the preparations of a QCTV training day. On August 14, QCTV will be hosting 5 seminars for staff and commission. The seminars include: Lighting, Cameras, Adobe Premiere, Audio, and a Tight Rope demo of their current HD video server.

The Anoka Castle Field webcam has been taken offline and the camera will be removed soon. It was a great run for QCTV, Anoka and our residents to watch the construction of this new baseball field. We can't wait to see the next location Anoka chooses to put up this camera.

We have sunset the QCTVmedia.com website and merged it's content into the QCTV.org website. All commercial media related projects are now part of Quad Cities Community Television, and the QCTV Media business name has been discontinued.

Playback Channel Uptime

Minus the server failure that affected July 1, which counted for 3%, uptime on all channels were high. QCTV's government channels had a 96.87% to 97% uptime for the month of July. Channel 15 had a 99.6% up time and channel 19 had a 100% uptime.

City/District Tech Services Report

Andover had one issue. July 9, the doc camera was not showing up on the video switcher. A power cycle of a distribution amp in the presentation system corrected the issue.

Anoka had one issue. July 1, the archive DVD recorder was not functioning. A temporary recorder was put in place and a replacement was ordered.

Champlin had two issues. On July 17, it was found that no audio was going to the DVD recorders, the web stream encoder, or to the channel. It was found that the cables going to the audio distribution amp were loose. The issue was corrected. On July 22, the control room was unable to connect to the internet. A reboot of the cable modem resolved the issue.

Ramsey had two related issues. On July 9, the web encoder was found scrambling video output. A reboot of the system correct the issue. The following day, on July 10, the web encoder would no longer start up. The video card and ram had to be replaced. It is suspected the first issue is relevant.

Tech Department Work Stats

Attached to the end of this report is the Tech Department Work Stats for July 2013. This month, the tech department had 28% for community, 19% for government related support, 3% for sports and 50% for organization wide support. By category, the majority of work was tech related at 26% followed by administrative related at 23%.

Web Statistics

The qctv.org website had 164,364 total hits for pages and videos for the month of July. With our VOD(video on demand), QCMR hit the top with 340 hits. City council meetings range from 3 to 77 hits. Advance Anoka of June 22 had topped 145 hits.

Complete VOD statistics are attached to your packet.

School Partnerships

The QCTV Tech Department maintains a good relationship with the tech and media departments at Anoka and Champlin Park High schools. We are taking the off season of summer to plan out how we can increase our partnerships with Andover High School, the area middle schools, and other community groups. We have also been looking into ways to increase the interaction with these partners and getting them involved in community television.

Social Media Promotions

The Tech Department continues to post daily on Twitter and Facebook to alert the community of new and interesting videos, features, and happenings at QCTV. Currently there are 169 followers

on twitter, up 7 since last month. On Facebook, we earned 5 more, bringing our total followers to 200. We have started using "#" symbols (hash tagging), but we are noticing that they have not caught on with the Facebook crowd quite as well as they have on the Instagram or Twitter platforms.

Facebook Insights:

July's most viewed items were the videos posted directly onto QCTV's Facebook page or linked from the Youtube site. One interesting highlight was a unique video that was posted of an aerial view of QCTV. A QCTV employee brought a "drone" helicopter equipped with a camera to the QCTV facility and a quick promo video was made from footage recorded by this drone. The video begins as a close up and pulls out to reveal the entire building, and then suddenly, an above the treetops view of Champlin. This Facebook post reached 772 people, which means that our 200 people shared and showed this to others, and watched more than once. To compare, 107 people were reached with a post about our free community bulletin board. 772 reached is quite a feat without promoting through facebook's paid promotion program. This goes to show that posting creative content gets interest!

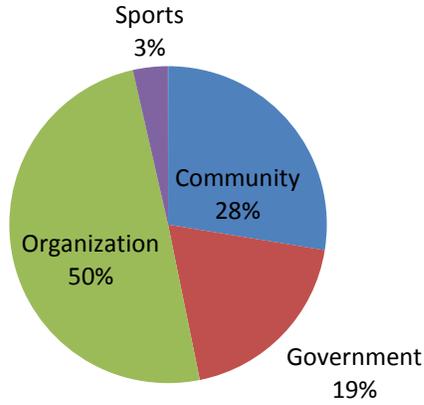
YouTube Insights:

July's YouTube videos hit 924 minutes of view time, up 2 compared to last month, and 404 total views, up 17 from last month. The QC Sports Show continues to be popular on our YouTube feed, including videos from previous years. This upcoming season, we plan to post the names of student athletes who appear in each video to increase search results.

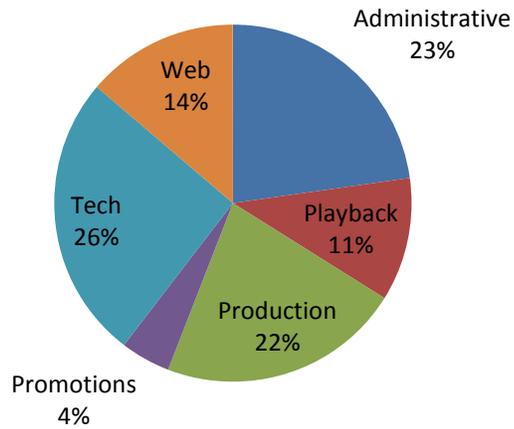
Tech Department Work Stats

July 2013

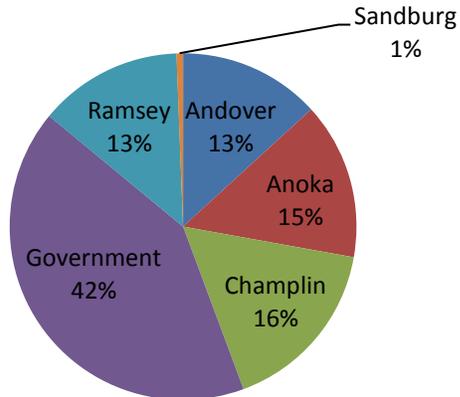
By Department



By Category



Government Breakdown



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: Tim Rick, Media Producer
Date: August 2, 2013

The bulk of this report will be on the QCTV graphics I've recently finished, am working on and will soon be starting. Looking at my project work flow list I see four items designated in the government category.

- 1) QCMR Open with topic bar
- 2) Sports Graphic Package a) open b) lower thirds c) full screen
- 3) The Sheriff's Show graphic package with a) open b) lower thirds c) full screen
- 4) 4 City Studio Posters
- 5) Seasonal city graphic package with a) open b) lower thirds c) full screen

For those who have seen the latest QCMR you will notice a new look. There is a new green screen city background with topic bar to the left of the host. I will be working on a new open to better match the graphical feel of the show. QCTV is in the process of buying a membership to Video Blocks, an online graphical library. Until the purchase is finalized I've been visiting their website to familiarize myself with their products and in doing so have discovered the particular animated template I will be using for the new QCMR open.

I currently have one item on my project work flow list for the Sports Department. I'm in the process of creating a new sports graphic package a) open b) lower thirds c) score buy d) stats. I'm currently in the process of finishing the new 2013-2014 sports open, I would estimate it is 90% complete. I've already gathered all the clips, which is the bulk of the project, the remaining 10% will entail some fine tuning of the edited elements. It's a general sports open that will show a variety of all the sports we cover throughout the school year.

A new The Sheriff's Show graphic package comes in at number three on my list. It will be separate in feel than our other law enforcement opens. This is one that I've yet to begin, as I'm waiting on video from the Sheriff's Department. Finishing the city posters comes in at number four. Just yesterday I was given new photographs, and other photographs are in the process of being shot. So this project will be completed soon.

Item number five refers to creating city opens that are seasonally specific. This means having winter videos footage and a blue/white color scheme to convey a winter theme from November to March. And vice versa during the spring/summer months. This was an idea Susan discussed with me to keep the graphics and feel of these shows more fresh and less dated. A great idea.

Here is a list of some graphics I've completed since my last report:

- 1) Reworked QCMR green screen topic bar
- 2) It's Your History graphics package a) open b) lower third
- 3) Nearly finished with the new sports graphic package (90% done)

One last note, I will be adding the responsibilities of Studio Manager. I will have the task of preparing the studio prior to a show taping and helping the production crew during the taping. And then making sure the studio is returned to it's original state of non use. This will be a great opportunity for me to better understand the workings of the studio and of each of the shows we produce. I'm excited for the opportunity.

Tim Rick
QCTV Media Producer

A Cable Show Tech Primer

GUIDE TO A DEEP DIVE INTO NEW INNOVATIONS IN D.C.

By: JEFF BAUMGARTNER Jun 10 2013 - 12:00am

GUIDE TO A DEEP DIVE INTO NEW INNOVATIONS IN D.C.

If cable technology is on your agenda at The Cable Show, you'll be busy, whether you're building apps, engineering the next-generation cable-access network or getting ready to take TV Everywhere to another level. To help you boil it down, here are some of the hot topics we'll be tracking at this year's show in Washington, D.C., as well as some "must-see" sessions to put on your schedule:

Comcast's Reference Design Kit (RDK)

Last year's show was a coming out of sorts for the Comcast Reference Design Kit, a pre-integrated bundle of software for IP-only and hybrid QAM/IP set-tops and gateways aimed at accelerating the product development cycle. Comcast has already attracted dozens of vendors as RDK licensees, but if the aim is to turn the RDK into a broader industry effort, it will need other MSOs to jump in and adopt it.

Don't miss: "RDK in Action," Wednesday, June 12 at Imagine Park (Booth 2133) at 1:45 p.m.

DOCSIS 3.1

Cable has the technical ability now to deliver downstream bursts of 1 Gigabit per second, thanks to new DOCSIS 3.0 modems that can bond up to 32 downstream channels. The broadband bar will be raised with DOCSIS 3.1, an emerging, more efficient platform that will put cable in the position to offer multi-gigabit speeds and delay expensive fiber-to-the-home upgrades.

Don't miss:

- "CTOs on Devices, DOCSIS and Deployments." Monday, June 10, at 2 p.m. (Room 207B).
- "Widening the Pipe: The Evolution in Cable Access Architecture and Infrastructure." Tuesday, June 11, at 3:30 p.m. (Room 207A).

Search and Recommendation

Cable operators already offer hundreds of live channels and thousands of on-demand choices. That's nice, but it also presents consumers with a paradox of choice. To help users find those needles in the haystack, vendors and MSOs will be showing off a range of video search and recommendation products, including offerings that rely on voice commands and build profiles based on individual tastes and preferences.

Don't miss:

- "Guide Garden" on Monday, June 10, at 1 p.m. at Imagine Park (Booth 2133).

- “Getting Personal: New (and Cool) Approaches to Content Recommendation,” Monday, June 10, at 3:30 p.m. (Room 202B).

- General Session, Tuesday, June 11, at 10 a.m. Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts is expected to offer a glimpse at the “X2,” a new version of Comcast’s X1 cloud-based UI that will include personal recommendation features.

TV Everywhere

The general idea of authenticated TV Everywhere services might seem like old hat by now, but there’s still plenty of ground to be blazed as MSOs and programmers look to deliver more content to more screens while making the sign-in process less of a chore for consumers. And those early efforts are likewise giving guidance on how to improve these products in the months ahead.

Don’t miss: “Authenticate Me, Baby: Consumer Behavior in the TV Everywhere Era.” Monday, June 10, at 2 p.m. ET (Room 202B).

Advanced Advertising

With dynamic ad insertion for VOD starting to hit its deployment stride, the next key area of focus for advanced advertising is multiscreen and authenticated TV Everywhere services. At this year’s show, expect to hear more about how cable is setting the stage for targeted advertising for tablets and other mobile devices following its initial focus on set-tops and the TV screen.

Don’t miss: “Redefining the Zone: Cable Advertising’s March to Multiscreen Addressability,” Monday, June 10, at 3:30 p.m. (Room 201).

UltraHD

TV makers are betting that UltraHD, a format that offers four times the resolution of traditional HDTV, will push the needle at retail in a way that 3D failed to do. While it might be surprising to see any MSOs announce 4K video packages at this juncture, expect the industry’s video encoding and set-top vendors to make announcements showing how they are making progress in that direction. Much of that early chatter will likely focus on H.265/High-Efficiency Video Coding, a codec designed to be about 50% more efficient than MPEG-4/H.264.

The Cloud

Moving services and apps to the cloud has been a hot topic in recent years, but only now are we starting to see a bevy of real-world examples of how the cloud is being leveraged to decouple the user interface, house the DVR, and become a repository for “Big Data” analytics.

Don’t miss: “Living Large and Soaring Higher: How Big Data and Cloud Services are Powering Cable’s New Tech Era.” Monday, June 10, at Noon (Room 207A).

Imagine Park

If you're looking for a centralized (and comfortable) place (with Wi-Fi) where many of these topics will be colliding, the place to be is Imagine Park (Booth 2133), which will offer hours of info on new products and ideas and general "thought leadership" throughout the show. Topics on tap include cable's targeting of the second screen, advanced user interfaces, the all-IP migration, the so-called "Internet of Everything," and Big Data. Among the don't-miss Imagine Park sessions is a Q&A with Comcast chief technology officer Tony Werner on Wednesday, June 12, at 1 p.m

Multi Channel News June 10, 2013

Cable Can Answer Call to Transform Education

By: BILL GOODWYN Jul 1 2013 - 12:00am

Speaking at the The Cable Show last month, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan challenged our industry to bring expanded broadband access and engaging educational content — including digital textbooks — to all schools across the nation. It is a challenge that we can, and must, rise to meet. The good news is that it's not the future. It's now.

Here's what we know: Access opens up the world to students, enabling dynamic digital learning experiences that transport them beyond the walls of the classroom and transform their learning environments. As Secretary Duncan shared, fewer than 20% of U.S. educators feel their school's Web connection meets their teaching needs and can accommodate the multimedia requirements of today's curriculum. That figure is both surprising and unacceptable. Also at the show, acting Federal Communications Commission chairwoman Mignon Clyburn asked industry leaders, the government and communities to help in getting broadband into public schools, as well as to the economically disadvantaged.

A lack of bandwidth in our schools, combined with a lack of access at home, engenders a learning gap that leaves the U.S. woefully lacking in the knowledge and skills necessary to be globally competitive. While access is the door that needs to open for our students and their families, access would do little for students without customized content awaiting them once the door is ajar, as Secretary Duncan rightly pointed out. The marriage of high-speed broadband access, high-quality, multimodal content and professional development enables great instructional practice, and that is the game-changer for our nation's educational system.

Fortunately, the cable industry has the means to answer this call. With tools that connect and captivate students and their families, coupled with a commitment to empower educators with the experiences they need to optimize these resources, the kind of transformation we see in innovative school districts across the country will spread. As we know, it's not just about the technology. Technology dropped at the doorstep — without engaging digital content that is customized and aligned to standards, and educator professional development needed to transform student outcomes — does little.

Digital content, especially digital textbooks, engage today's students in the ways they are accustomed to and provides access to knowledge that is current, accurate and relevant to their lives; lets them forge virtual connections with experts at the forefront of today's most important issues; and arms educators with professional learning resources and social networks that both support and transform instruction.

An excellent example of this can be found in North Carolina's Mooresville Graded School District. In the first three years after the district introduced broadband-powered technology, digital textbooks and educator professional development, student performance on state exams increased by 13%, while per-pupil expenditures in the state.

In Florida's Miami-Dade County Schools, a focused effort around teacher effectiveness, as well as ubiquitous access to customized, aligned digital content helped make possible a seven-point increase on 8th- and 11th-grade state science assessments.

Each of these success stories was the result of visionary school district leadership that engaged the entire school community; equipping educators with the tools and training needed to optimize digital media, including digital textbooks, and technology to accelerate student achievement.

Through programs like "Connect2Compete," Time Warner Cable's "Connect a Million Minds" and Comcast's "Internet Essentials," along with companies like Discovery Education that are dedicated to transforming teaching and learning, our industry is moving in the right direction to ensure that every student has access to the digital learning environment needed for college and career readiness,

productive citizenship and a competitive position on the global stage. But there is clearly more that can and should be done.

We are inspired by the industry's efforts to date and invite programmers, operators and suppliers alike to join us in a commitment to supercharge the effort. In addition to a focus on deployment and infrastructure, whether you fully empower one school near your corporate headquarters or 10 districts across your footprint, the time is now to transform the classrooms of today to prepare our nation's students for tomorrow.

The benefits of broadband at home and in the classroom are clear, and these pockets of success should not be limited to Mooresville or Miami. Our industry is uniquely positioned to meet Secretary Duncan's and acting chairwoman Clyburn's challenges, and to play a leadership role in closing the education gap. Only then will we continue to see improved results in transforming teaching and learning for all students — those that need remediation and those that need acceleration.

Students are clearly not the only ones in need of remediation, however. Educators need our support and collaboration to create transformative, digital-learning environments. They are committed to empowering our young people with the tools they need to compete for the jobs of tomorrow. Joining them in this effort is our moral imperative.

Bill Goodwyn is president and CEO, strategic distribution and Discovery Education, at Discovery Communications.

Multi Channel News – July 1, 2013

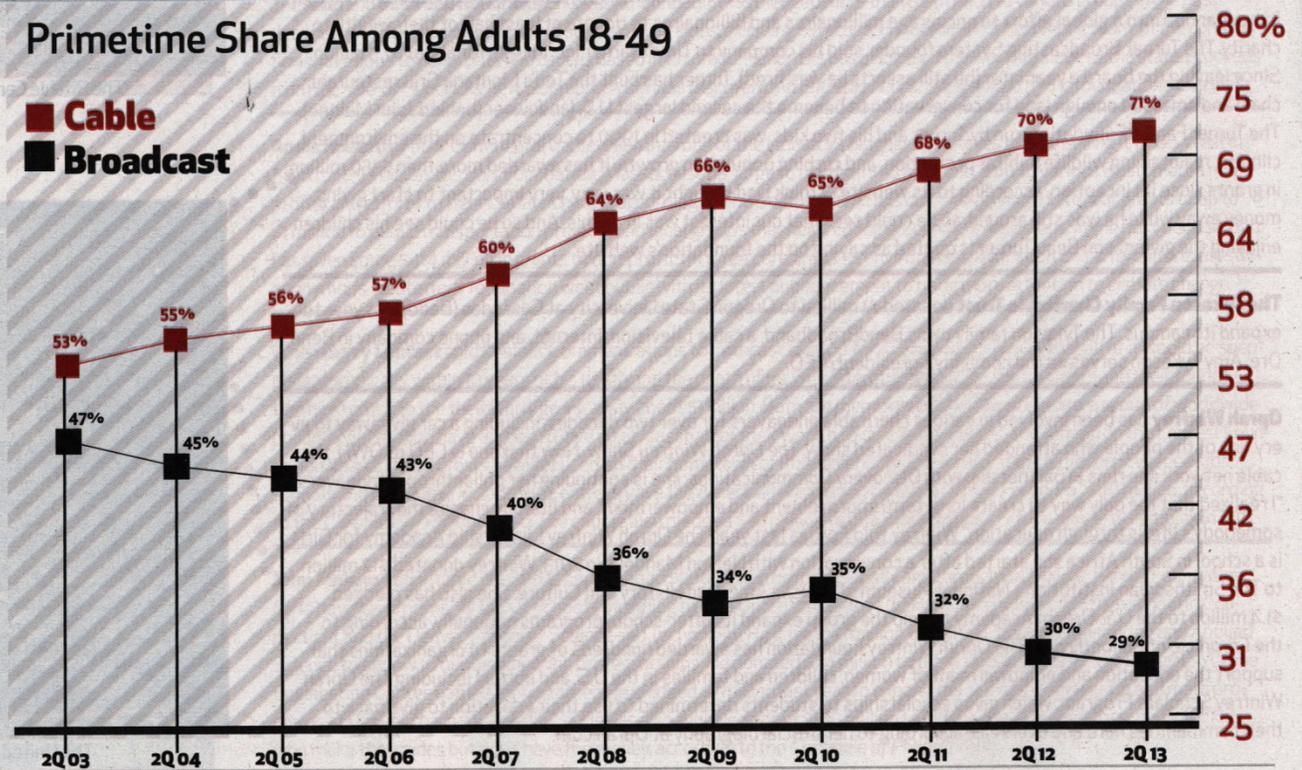
Cable Romps In Q2

Cable is expected to continue its dominance of the broadcast networks among viewers 18-49 during 2013's second quarter. With a week to go, ad-supported networks are projected to average a record 71% share of audience, compared to 29% for the broadcast networks.

SOURCE: Turner research from Nielsen data. Reflects "strict broadcast prime" daypart (M-Sat, 8-11 p.m. & Sun 7-11 p.m.). Final live-plus-7-day data (12/26/05-6/09/13), blended with live-plus-same-day data (6/10-6/23). Live prior to 12/26/05. Four broadcast net weighted total: ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

Primetime Share Among Adults 18-49

■ Cable
■ Broadcast



Comcast: We'll Be Ready for Ultra HD When Content Comes

By: JEFF BAUMGARTER Jun 17 2013 - 12:00am

WASHINGTON — There's a dearth of 4K/Ultra HD content available and 4K TVs are still out of the financial reach of many consumers, but Comcast demonstrated here that it won't be caught flat-footed when and if the market for the eye-popping format takes off .

"If the 4K market develops, we're ready for it," said Mark Francisco, fellow of premises technologies for Comcast Cable, which was running two live demos of Ultra HD here at its booth that involved development equipment running on Comcast's production network. While one demo showed 4K video, which packs in four times the resolution of a HD video shot in 1080p, running on Comcast's DOCSIS 3.0 network, the other rode upon the MSO's legacy QAM video infrastructure.

In the IP-based demo, Comcast piped in an Ultra HD stream encoded in H.264/MPEG-4 running at 50 Megabits per second on a DOCSIS 3.0 modem that was provisioned for the MSO's 105 Mbps (downstream) speed tier. That was paired with a PC outfitted with Intel's fourth-generation Haswell processor.

The QAM demo shined the light on H.265/High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC), an emerging compression technology that is 50% more efficient than H.264. HEVC is also positioned to help cable operators deliver the same number of Ultra HD services inside a 6MHz-wide QAM channel as they do today with HDTV via MPEG-2. Comcast can typically pack two to three HD MPEG-2 digital QAM streams inside a 6MHz channel, which consumes about 40 Mbps of data, and could essentially duplicate that if it were to run 4K video streams encoded in HEVC, Francisco said.

But today's QAM set-tops don't have HEVC chips and are not capable of supporting Ultra HD video. For the QAM demo, Comcast ran the 4K video to a Broadcom set-top reference design with HEVC capabilities on board.

For both demos, the 4K video was run on a Samsung Ultra HDTV and showed segments of Universal's *Oblivion* and Syfy's *Defiance*.

The technology demos "show we're capable of doing this now," Francisco said.

CableLabs also had live 4K demos running that the show, and executives noted here Wednesday morning that the R&D consortium has opened up an Ultra HD lab and purchased a Red Epic camera to shoot "rightsfree" content for its testing purposes.

During the general session last Tuesday (June 11), Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts demonstrated a 3.382 Gbps connection to a PC downloading a 4.2-Gigabyte 4K video file (shot by former Charter Communications chairman and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen) in 3.93 seconds. In 2011, Roberts demonstrated a 1 Gbps connection.

Multi Channel News June 17, 2013

Comcast's Essential Adviser

EVP DAVID COHEN WEIGHS IN ON CABLE'S POLITICAL AGENDA

By: MCN Staff Jun 10 2013 - 12:00am

EVP DAVID COHEN WEIGHS IN ON CABLE'S POLITICAL AGENDA

Comcast executive vice president David Cohen heads up government and regulatory affairs for the nation's largest cable operator, and serves as a trusted counselor to CEO Brian Roberts. He agreed to share some of that counsel on policy matters with *Multichannel News* readers in the run-up to The Cable Show in Washington, D.C., this week.

Cohen doesn't predict a lot of action out of Congress — a pretty safe bet these days. And though the Federal Communications Commission is pondering whether to define over-the-top providers as multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs), Cohen doesn't think it has the authority to do so. He sat down with *MCN* Washington bureau chief John Eggerton to talk about the FCC, pending cable a la carte legislation introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) — and, for the first time, his take on the media violence issue.

MCN: What cable-related bills do you see coming out of this Congress?

David Cohen: Candidly, I don't see any non-mandatory cable or telecommunications issues getting much traction in this Congress.

MCN: Not even on cybersecurity or piracy, two hot topics these days?

DC: I don't think piracy. Cybersecurity is something around which there probably should be action. But whether the two houses can agree with each other on what should be done in order to pass a single piece of legislation, I don't know. [The House has passed the cable-backed Cyberintelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) bill, but the Senate appears intent on coming up with its own legislation.]

By next year, Congress is going to have to deal with the renewal of STELA [the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act] and the compulsory copyright license [the blanket license that allows satellite operators to deliver distant signals to subscribers who cannot get a viewable signal from their local affiliate]. But that is in the category of mandatory things. [STELA expires unless renewed by the end of 2014].

I think there is enough momentum around an Internet sales tax and the moratorium on taxation of Internet services. That is a place where you could see activity in this Congress.

I don't see comprehensive video reform occurring in the next few years. I don't see the adoption of a la carte legislation happening in the next Congress.

I think it is doubtful that you can get FCC reform done. One of the problems around topics like video reform, and even cybersecurity — although there is at least more crystallized thought on cybersecurity than on video reform and FCC reform — is that there is no real consensus as to what it should look like. A lot of different people have talked about FCC reform, but they have all talked about different things. So it is a real challenge to move from

the amorphous thought to crystallized legislation, and then have to address how you get it through both the Senate and the House.

MCN: Are there any major changes you would like to see in the reauthorized STELA?

DC: We're comfortable with the current regime. We think the compulsory copyright license remains the most efficient and equitable way to give multichannel video distributors access to distant signals for the benefit of their customers. We'll certainly be advocating for a simple extension of the current regime.

MCN: Once the FCC gets settled, is there anything you see happening there?

DC: Clearly, they will do an annual competition report, and that obviously happens in the ordinary course. And the Sprint transaction is still pending in front of the commission, and I'm assuming there will be action by the commission on that transaction at some point, maybe even before the FCC becomes settled. But right now there are no other major FCC proceedings.

I am actually assuming there will be some crystallization around rules for the incentive auction of spectrum, and maybe even the running of an incentive auction in order to tee up an ultimate spectrum sale. I doubt we will get to the sale in the next two years.

MCN: Has the media violence issue receded, and should it have?

DC: I haven't had a chance to talk about violence in the media, so you will be the first reporter to talk to me about it.

I do think it is certainly impossible to say that in the discussions around some of the terrible shootings we've had in America that it would be inappropriate to talk about violence in the media. I think we as a company, and as an industry, have been pretty straightforward about this. We do produce content that is not appropriate for all viewers. And that is true whether it is violence or sexual situations or conversations about adult matters.

It's part of the great strength of the creative economy that we have in the United States. The creative economy in the United States is a huge economy, one of the largest economies in the world. The last thing you want to do, even if it were legal — and there are many, many significant legal issues — is to interfere with the creative economy as a matter of governmental regulation or public policy intervention.

And that is particularly the case when you have an industry that has been recognized that it is producing content that is not appropriate for all people. And that is why we have parental controls; why we have the V-chip. And you can say to yourself, "That's all well and good but people don't even know about them." And that is why the industry has stepped up with a huge public-education campaign around parental controls, movie ratings, television ratings, what they mean, making sure parents know about them and how to use them. So that, in fact, parents can control the content that comes into their homes and control the content that their children see outside their homes in theaters.

I am proud of industry initiatives. We have stepped up in a big way the level of control we put in the hands of parents so they can screen content from their families that they determine is not appropriate.

MCN: If network-neutrality rules are overturned, Comcast is still subject to them for several more years. Does that tilt your playing field?

DC: I think the answer to that is no. We participated in the negotiations as to what these rules would look like. We supported them, and the basis of our support was that we believed the rules reflected the way in which we were conducting our business, and the way in which we expected to continue to conduct our business and the way in which everyone was conducting their business.

That is also why we agreed to the condition in the NBCUniversal transaction, because there is nothing in those rules that is contradictory or conflicting with the way we and everyone else in the industry is currently conducting our business and plans to conduct our business.

MCN: What is your take on FCC chairman-designate Tom Wheeler?

DC: I am of a generation that didn't work with Tom Wheeler. I came to the industry not only long after he left the NCTA, but I think CTIA [the wireless trade group]. But I have been impressed with his writings. I have been impressed with the few public statements that he has made.

I think he really understands the business. I think he is incredibly knowledgeable about public policy and public policy implications of our industry. I think he was intimately involved with Julius Genachowski and the president in developing the telecommunications policy for the Obama campaign and the Obama presidency. And, so, I think he is an almost uniquely qualified individual to be chair of the FCC under President Obama.

He knows what the FCC's directional thinking is on our issues. He brings a sound public-policy background to analyzing those issues. But he also understands the business imperatives and the way in which business operates. I think he is in the ideal position to appropriately balance consumer interests with business realities.

MCN: What was your main takeaway from the Senate future of video hearing and John McCain's a la carte bill, which he plugged at that hearing?

DC: I have several main takeaways.

No. 1, and notwithstanding Senator McCain's introduction of legislation, I did not detect any serious interest by any member of the committee in pursuing an a la carte regime. And by the way, as soon as Senator McCain left the hearing room, there was very little mention of a la carte, and I think the focus was on other issues in the video space, including the role of online video.

I think the cost of programming is a legitimate and continuing concern. I think most of the focus moved to those sorts of issues and I think those are appropriate issues for the Congress to become educated on.

MCN: How important is it for the FCC to come up with a definition of online video in terms of its regulatory status?

DC: I don't think the FCC could lawfully determine under the telecom act that an over-the-top provider, which I call an OVD, is an MVPD. So, I don't think it is very important for the FCC to act because OVDs are not currently being treated as MVPDs.

MCN: Even though an MVPD definition for an OVD might help cable because it could allow the industry to move to an OVD model to get out from under access requirements and other regulations?

DC: I just don't know that the "access regulations" are the major impediment, because I have no idea if it makes any sense for all cable companies to be delivering their content online outside of their geographic footprints. The No. 1 impediment to that is none of our programming agreements give us the authority to do that. So, it is not a regulatory impediment, but a business and contractual impediment, and no matter what the regulatory scheme is it is unclear to me how that is going to fundamentally change the way in which our services are delivered.

MCN: Talking about fundamental change. What should the FCC do to speed the transition to Internet protocol and how big an issue is that for cable?

DC: Obviously this is really important for AT&T. We are beginning our shift to an IP world and we frankly don't see the regulatory framework as much of an impediment. We started with our excellent platform, which is basically using IP delivery systems for the guide and on-demand programming, but it really provides a platform, if we ultimately choose to do so, to deliver our video service on an IP basis as well.

I think the more complicated issues in the IP space may be issues of data usage thresholds, consumption-based billing, and byte caps. I hate to even use the term byte caps because we don't even use byte caps anymore, and we don't use that language.

But I think that, right now, it is pretty clear under the FCC's open Internet order and the rules that are in place that usage thresholds and consumption-based billing are fully lawful. But to the extent there is any doubt about that, more clarity about that subject would definitely help to speed the transition to IP-based video-delivery systems.

Multi Channel News June 10, 2013

FCC Mulls Using a Lighter Touch

AGENCY'S BUREAU CHIEFS SURVEY THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

By: JOHN EGGERTON Jun 17 2013 - 12:00am

AGENCY'S BUREAU CHIEFS SURVEY THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission should give “close attention” over the next few years to the issue of whether the agency will need to apply a lighter regulatory hand to a dynamic and changing video marketplace, Media Bureau chief Bill Lake told an at The Cable Show here.

That came during a panel last Tuesday (June 11) featuring an embarrassment of riches in the FCC bureau chief department, as seven top agency officials took turns outlining their agendas and issues.

While the FCC has not weighed in on whether online video distributors should be subject to traditional multichannel- video program distributor (MVPD) regulations, Lake noted, the Media Bureau in the Sky Angel decision expressed the view that the Internet protocol-delivered Christian subscription-TV platform was not likely to succeed in making the case that it was an MVPD.

While the sequester has cut down on travel by federal agencies, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association's decision to hold the show here meant the panel was packed, with just enough room for moderator Rick Chessen, the NCTA's senior vice president of law and regulatory policy and himself a former FCC official.

Chessen asked a “news you can use” question for those in the audience who have to make their case at the FCC. Asked whether such arguments had ever changed his mind on a position, Lake had to reach back to one that was not currently being litigated and came up with the FCC's selectable output waiver, which allowed for earlier cable video-on-demand windows for movies.

He said he had initially felt that the waiver was an unjustifiable incursion on the use of devices any way a consumer wanted. But he had been persuaded that such limited authority for operators to control what comes out of a set-top actually gave consumers something they would not otherwise have — that early window. He said his mind was changed by a “very good explanation” of the consumer benefit.

Lake pointed out that the waiver had not had a big impact in terms of opening that window, but that it did not prove to be a consumer harm, either.

Office of Engineering & Technology chief Julie Knapp suggested that the interplay between stakeholders and the FCC was integral to the decision- making process in general. “So much of what we do relies on interaction with all the stakeholders,” he said, adding that interaction had a real impact on decisions more often than not.

Chessen asked the panelists to weigh in on some big issues and some sleepers. The spectrum auctions received lots of votes in the “big” department — or the 500-pound gorilla, as Lake tabbed them.

Lake said that one of the sleeper issues, or more like one that had him tossing and turning in bed, was where to go with navigation devices after the courts threw out the CableCard rules while preserving the integration ban. The question of what downloadable security should be included in navigation devices remains, he said.

David Turetsky, chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, said that if there were sleepers in his area, he hoped they stayed asleep.

Asked about the FCC's retransmission-consent rulemaking, Lake said it was still open and that the agency continued to watch the industry and both the continued and threatened blackouts. He also talked

about the price of content as one of the factors in those impasses. The FCC continued to have an open mind about the possible need for a regulatory response, he added.

Multi Channel News – June 17, 2013

GOP Vets New FCC Candidate

By: JOHN EGGERTON Jun 17 2013 - 12:00am

WASHINGTON — There was movement on the Federal Communications Commission nominee front last week.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.), the Senate Commerce Committee chairman, last week scheduled a hearing this Tuesday (June 18) on the nomination of FCC chairman-designate Tom Wheeler, and a highly placed source confirmed that Republicans had interviewed Fred Campbell, a new candidate for the seat of former commissioner Robert McDowell.

Campbell, currently director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Communications Liberty & Innovation Project, declined comment. But a source said that the staff of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), had talked to Campbell about the post.

McConnell was said to have wanted to extend the search to include academics and think-tank thinkers, and Campbell would fit that bill.

Campbell, a veteran communications attorney, was a wireless adviser to former FCC chairman Kevin Martin, chief of the Wireless Bureau and an attorney adviser with experience in auction policies, including the 700-MHz auction of broadcast spectrum, arguably the FCC's central issue as it readies for a second broadcast spectrum incentive auction.

He is also the former president of the Wireless Communications Association International. Wheeler, President Obama's nominee to replace Julius Genachowski as chairman of the FCC, is also a former wireless trade group chief (of CTIA—The Wireless Association), so they could definitely compare notes if both make the cut

Multi Channel news – June 17, 2013

House Leaders on STELA: Keep It Clean

But Retrans-Reform Backers Want in on Reauthorization Bill
By: John Eggerton Jun 17 2013 - 12:00am

WASHINGTON — There appears to be growing consensus among House Communications Subcommittee leaders that there will be a “clean” renewal of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (STELA), but getting there could be messy nonetheless.

That was apparent from a STELA reauthorization hearing last week, “The Satellite Television Law: Repeal, Reauthorize, or Revise?” in the House Communications Subcommittee. The former chairman and ranking member both said they wanted that clean bill, primarily because it has the best chance to pass by the deadline. Subcommittee chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) has said he anticipated it would be a clean renewal, but has also said that all options remain on the table.

There were arguments for all three options — repeal, reauthorize or revise — among the half-dozen witnesses. And while the STELA bill mostly deals with the compulsory license that allows satellite operators to deliver distant affiliate TV-station signals to about 1.5 million customers who lack access to local network affiliates, the hearing ranged over a host of related issues, particularly retransmission consent, bundling, the price of programming and a veritable host of others.

All of the panel’s leaders were present three years ago when the STELA reauthorization bill became bogged down in attendant issues and had to be extended twice as the reauthorization deadline passed. None of them want to repeat that performance.

Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), the ranking member, went so far as to urge the committee to immediately start work on a draft of legislation — the law does not expire until Dec. 31, 2014 — and try to pass it long before that deadline.

At the same time, though, the hearing made it equally clear that those same legislators — and all of the witnesses — had video-related issues the committee needed to debate, either as part of the STELA reauthorization, in a deeper dive into the 1992 Cable Act and 1996 Communications Act or both (see box).

The cable and satellite operators lobbying for retransmission-consent reforms under the American Television Alliance umbrella continue to push for STELA as the vehicle for said reforms.

“Some parties have called for a ‘clean’ reauthorization of STELA, suggesting that the system is not broken and nothing should change,” the ATVA said last week. “However, an overwhelming majority of Republican and Democratic members highlighted the need to address outdated video rules within STELA.”

While there was certainly much talk of many issues, there was less clarity about where the committee would address them. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), now the longest-serving member of Congress, said the committee needs to build a separate record on all those issues, as well as the impact of the new video marketplace on existing law. But to try and do that in the context of STELA would result in the “dog-gonest donnybrook” in recent memory, he said.

HELPING HANDS?

WASHINGTON — Amy Tykeson, CEO of small cable operator BendBroadband, was a witness at Wednesday’s hearing on STELA reauthorization (see story, this page).

But one executive on the other side of the small cable operator's argument for retransmission-consent reform pointed out that the PDF of her testimony on the House Communications Subcommittee site bore the name of a government relations exec from Time Warner Cable. So, what gives?

Both Bend and TWC are members of the American Television Alliance, which is pushing for retransmission-consent reform as part of STELA renewal, a reform that broadcasters are pushing just as hard against.

According to an ATVA spokesperson, it helped prepare the testimony since the Bend, Ore.-based MSO does not have a Washington presence, as do ATVA and TWC. But he assured *Multichannel News* that Tykeson's testimony was not written for her. (For more of Tykeson's comments, see Viewpoint, page 39.)

In an email Tykeson acknowledged, and was thankful for, help from various quarters: "[H]aving been invited to testify just over a week ago and not having a Government Relations department or an office in D.C., I relied on several groups to help me with the testimony," she told *MCN*, "including Time Warner [Cable] and the ACA. I am very appreciative of the support I received to get my testimony filed while here in Washington."

— John Eggerton

ISSUES IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS

Some of the video-programming marketplace issues that could come up as part of STELA reauthorization, or in separate hearings, or both:

Aereo and its impact on the cost of content and the future of free over-the-air TV vs. a subscription delivery model.

Cablevision vs. Viacom, the former's lawsuit alleging the latter's bundling practices violate antitrust laws.

Program carriage, specifically a recent court ruling that the FCC had not adequately justified its discrimination finding against Comcast in the Tennis Channel decision.

Program access, specifically the FCC's unanimous decision under former chairman Julius Genachowski to let the ban on exclusive contracts expire in favor of case-by-case review of complaints.

A la carte legislation, specifically the Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.)-sponsored "Television Consumer Freedom Act," first reported by *Multichannel News*.

Shared-service agreements, FCC proposals to limit them and their effect on consumers.

The rise of original online video content, such as Netflix's *House of Cards*.

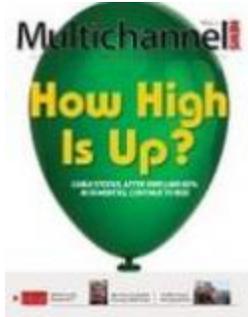
SOURCE: House Communications Subcommittee Democratic staff memo

How High Is Up?

Can Cable Stocks, After Swelling 60% In 18 Months, Continue To Rise?

By: Mike Farrell Jun 24 2013 - 12:00am

Can Cable Stocks, After Swelling 60% In 18 Months, Continue To Rise?



If you bought into cable in 2012, you're a happy investor.

After an impressive run last year, when MSO stocks shot up 40%, cable stocks across the board are having a stellar first half of 2013, with all three sectors — cable operators, satellite-TV providers and programmers — up about 20%.

And while strong fundamentals (and a little deal speculation) helped drive media stocks ahead in the first six months of the year, the question remains: Can the good times last?

Cable stocks have gone up more than 60% in the past 18 months, a nearly unprecedented run that has helped fill investors' coffers and has completed the transformation of the industry from an also-ran in its infancy to a front-runner today.

To be sure, the increases in 2012 came after a relatively flat year for the stocks in 2011, a year also marked by a strong first half — MSO stocks rose 21%, satellite shares were up 37% and programmers gained 7% in the first six months of 2011, only to fall back on competitive concerns. And though there is no

guarantee that this year won't play out the same way, some analysts think it will prove to be different.

Pivotal Research Group principal and media and communications analyst Jeff Wlodarczak said he believes the continued strength of broadband, an easily upgraded plant and growth opportunities in business services and home security and monitoring will continue to drive the stocks upward. Cable companies also have been returning huge amounts of capital to shareholders through buybacks and dividends, which should continue to support the sector, he added.

"I think there is plenty of upside left in cable stocks," Wlodarczak said.

Returns have been incredibly strong for MSOs — for example, Comcast is expected to grow earnings per share by 108% over the five years between 2012 and 2017, a 15.7% compound annual growth rate, according to Moffett Research senior analyst Craig Moffett. And Comcast and Time Warner Cable alone paid out more than \$7 billion in the form of stock repurchases and dividends to shareholders in 2012.

Several stocks have already broken through analysts' price targets for the year, including Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Cablevision Systems, with others expected to grow another 5% to 20% for the rest of the year.

Cable MSOs have outperformed the Standard & Poor's 500 Index by 150 points over the past four years, Moffett estimated. But that success may come back to haunt the sector.

Taking a slightly more contrarian view, Moffett, in initiating the cable sector earlier this month, opined that the ride might be over. With threats from satellite, telcos and over-the-top providers, as well as increasing programming cost pressure, Moffett believes that cable stocks may have run out of steam.

“The cable bull case is now consensus, and we no longer see material upside to intrinsic value for the sector,” he wrote in a recent report.

Coupled with declining pay TV subscribers and rising programming costs, slowing broadband penetration and an expected “choppy” next few months in Washington that could bring added regulatory risk, the upside may have been drained from the stocks, he said. “In short, it’s a very, very good business,” Moffett continued. “But it is not without its risks, and, as an industry, it is priced fairly.”

Despite that risk, new investors are crowding into the sector — including mutual funds lured by cable’s fat returns and one legendary investor from Denver in particular, Liberty Media chairman John Malone.

Malone’s re-entry into the cable business through a March investment in Charter has been a huge catalyst for MSO stocks. Charter stock is the single largest gainer in the sector, rising 54% since the beginning of the year almost entirely on Liberty’s investment in the stock and deal speculation.

Charter stock has been something of a perfect storm in the cable community — it attracted perhaps the best operations executive in the industry in CEO Tom Rutledge in 2011; it has the lowest penetration rates in the industry in virtually every product category, meaning the potential for growth is enormous; and, after emerging from bankruptcy in 2009, it has low debt.

Seeing that potential, Liberty Media agreed in March to invest \$2.6 billion for 27% of Charter stock, a stake that can rise above 40% after January 2016. Malone, who has called Charter a “horizontal acquisition machine” in the past, has said the MSO could be a vehicle for further industry consolidation.

Speculation grew earlier this month when reports surfaced that Liberty Media CEO Greg Maffei had met informally with Time Warner Cable chairman and CEO Glenn Britt to discuss industry consolidation in general. TWC is said to not be interested in a merger with Charter, but the M&A wheels have helped drive up both stocks, along with the rest of the sector.

Charter stock rose 31.1% between March 15, when shares sold for \$90 — the day before the Liberty announcement — and June 18, when it was priced at \$117.95.

TWC shares, languishing after a disappointing first quarter with higher-than-suspected subscriber losses, have surged on speculation of a Charter deal. The stock was up 10.9% between its June 12 mark of \$92.90 and its June 18 price of \$103.01, when talk of a Charter merger was in full swing.

Cablevision Systems, which has been hit hard as its growth appeared to peak in the past few quarters, also saw a benefit. Shares were up nearly 10% between June 12 and June 18, on the hopes that the Bethpage, N.Y.-based operator could be the next acquisition target.

HAPPY RETURNS FOR PROGRAMMERS

While MSO investors eagerly await the next consolidation boom, holders of programming stocks enjoyed even larger returns in the past six months. Stocks of the 12 largest programmers rose an aggregate of 24.8% in the first six months of the year, driven by a return to growth in the advertising market and continued healthy increases in carriage and retransmission-consent fees.

But there also was a little MSO-type deal speculation driving some of the stocks. The biggest gainer in the sector for the period, premium channel Starz, is a former Liberty Media subsidiary that was spun out at the beginning of the year and is a prime candidate for a merger with a larger programmer. Starz

stock was up 72% in the first six months of the year on the hope it would be snapped up at a premium price.

The rest of the sector rose on strong fundamentals, a return to ratings growth and double-digit increases in affiliate and retransmission-consent fees.

“Programmers have a lot of market power right now,” said GAMCO Investors portfolio manager Chris Marangi, whose funds own a substantial interest in several distribution and programming stocks. “The near to medium term looks favorable for programmers, although there are definitely some long-term issues with affordability that they need to confront.”

Viacom, which was pounded last year after a huge drop in ratings at flagship networks Nickelodeon and MTV, rebounded strongly in the first half. Armed with several new hits at both channels, Viacom also saw a return to advertising growth — domestic ad revenue rose 2% in the fiscal second quarter ended in March, soundly beating analysts’ consensus expectations of a decline of 1%. And Viacom said it expected ad revenue to rise sequentially in the fiscal third quarter.

Cyclical elements and the ongoing battle for share with online ad outlets are expected to put continued pressure on the ad market going forward, Marangi said, but he sees growth opportunities in international and targeted advertising.

RBC Capital Markets media analyst David Bank agreed, adding that he believes the secular and cyclical fundamentals for the sector remain incredibly robust.

Content monetization opportunities through retransmission consent, digital deals and advertising remain strong, Bank added, and despite possible threats from over-the-top players such as Aereo and Netflix, as well as calls for unbundling of networks,

“there is very little risk that anything changes to the negative for quite some time.”

Some cable stocks have already broken through several analysts' 12-month price targets, Bank noted, and though he did not want to reveal any changes he may have in store, he added that typically, analysts roll forward price targets around the middle of the year.

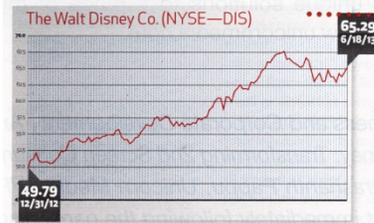
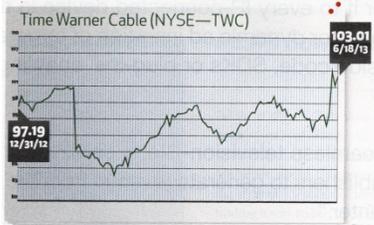
“I suspect all Street price targets will go up this summer, assuming no shift in the fundamentals,” he said.

That could mean that the best part of the ride for cable investors is yet to come.

Multi Channle News – June 24, 2013

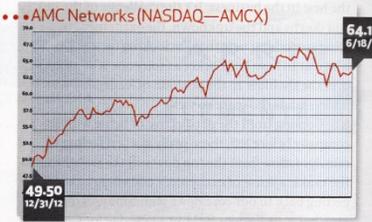
Stock and Trade

Cable stocks, up more than 40% in 2012, are continuing that impressive run in the first six months of 2013.



MSOs	12/31/12	6/18/13	% CHANGE
Charter	\$76.24	\$117.95	54.7%
Comcast	\$37.36	\$40.39	8.1%
Time Warner Cable	\$97.19	\$103.01	6%
Cablevision	\$14.94	\$15.30	2.4%
Liberty Global	\$62.96	\$71.88	14.2%
Totals:	\$288.69	\$348.53	20.7%
SATELLITE TV	12/31/12	6/18/13	% CHANGE
DirecTV	\$50.16	\$63.58	26.8%
Dish	\$36.40	\$39.09	7.4%
Totals:	\$86.56	\$102.67	18.6%
PROGRAMMERS:	12/31/12	6/18/13	% CHANGE
News Corp.	\$26.24	\$31.71	20.8%
Disney	\$49.79	\$65.29	31.1%
Viacom	\$52.74	\$67.60	28.2%
Time Warner Inc.	\$47.83	\$58.89	23.1%
Discovery	\$63.48	\$77.85	22.6%
Scripps Networks	\$57.92	\$67.93	17.3%
CBS	\$38.05	\$48.75	28.1%
AMC Networks	\$49.50	\$64.19	29.7%
Starz	\$13.24	\$22.88	72.8%
Liberty Interactive	\$19.68	\$23.01	16.9%
Liberty Media ^a	\$108.71	\$130.01	19.6%
Crown Media	\$1.85	\$1.96	5.9%
Totals	\$529.03	\$660.07	24.8%

SOURCE: NASDAQ website, Multichannel News research
^aLiberty Media price as of Jan. 10



Inside The Guide

Cable Courts The Cloud To Solve Navigation Irritation

By: Jeff Baumgartner Jun 17 2013 - 12:00am

Cable Courts The Cloud To Solve Navigation Irritation



WASHINGTON — When it comes to solving the viewer’s supreme frustration with navigation, the leaders of the largest cable operators have their heads in the clouds.

That was abundantly clear at The Cable Show here last week as the nation’s two largest cable operators — Comcast and Time Warner Cable — unveiled new personalized, recommendation-driven user interfaces designed to run not just on MSO-leased gateways and set-tops, but on an array of connected retail devices, including tablets, smartphones, specialized streaming boxes, and “smart” TVs.

Comcast wowed the crowd with X2, an upgrade for the MSO’s Internet protocolcapable X1 platform that will be launched to some customers by this fall. Time Warner Cable, meanwhile, offered limited, private showings of a hosted UI that is being tested in select markets this year in anticipation of a wide-scale launch in 2014.

This evolutionary, more IP-driven approach looks to solve one of cable’s biggest problems: Helping customers find something they want to watch on any screen. Cable TV may be home to the most and best content, but the industry’s broadly deployed, grid-based interfaces for set-tops have made the process of discovery a painstaking chore.

This new, Web-centric focus is a critical leap forward and gives MSOs a chance to unshackle themselves from QAM-locked legacy video platforms that have fallen woefully behind more advanced, intuitive navigation systems. Indeed, the telcos and satellite players, as well as TiVo and a new crop of over-the-top video entrants, had surpassed cable TV in navigation.

“The cloud is a game-changer,” Brian Roberts, Comcast’s chairman and CEO, declared at the unveiling of X2 during the opening general session last Tuesday (June 11). Later, at a press conference, Roberts called X2 a “quantum leap forward” for the MSO. “I think we’re going to have the best television service available.”

It’s a change long overdue, and one that cable has no choice in making as MSOs try to halt the erosion of their video subscriber base. Despite signs of improvement in recent quarters, cable operators continue to lose subscribers to their traditional rivals while also being faced with a new class of OTT threats, including a “virtual” MSO service that Intel Media is expected to unleash later this year, and an expanding broadband TV/ cloud DVR combo from Aereo that makes for an appealing alternative for cord-cutters.

Cable operators, keen to outside threats, want more than anything to look like the most modern video service. On a technical level, the reliance on cloud represents a tectonic shift for the industry. Instead of putting the bulk of the smarts in the set-top box — a decades-long effort by operators — the brains of the platform will instead reside in the proverbial cloud.

Unlike the unwieldy current process, MSOs using a cloud-based architecture can now tweak and alter the interface almost instantly while accelerating their ability to build and launch new applications.

X2: NOW IT GETS PERSONAL

The industry's first look at X2 revealed a raft of upgrades, including a spruced up interface that weaves in a recommendation engine and personalization features, as well as a new remote control with a voice-based search function.

The X2-powered interface features a new, customizable home screen/dashboard designed to help users find what they need rapidly, in categories such as TV listings, kids' content, movies, sports and recommended content. The guide is also integrated with software from Zeebox, a Comcast-backed company that helps users discover which shows are hot or trending by correlating data from Twitter and other social-networking apps.

X2's multiscreen capabilities should enable Comcast to extend its brand and service to where the eyeballs are going. "If you don't have your products on every platform, you're missing a whole generation," Roberts said.

X2 will allow Comcast, for the first time, to offer Web videos to the set-top box, though the MSO did not announce any partnerships.

Comcast is also outfitting X2 with "Send to TV," a feature that lets users "fling" Web videos from their mobile devices to the TV.

Comcast plans to implement X2 upgrades this fall, and will later use the capabilities of X2 to spark two advanced, future services: a Cloud DVR and an in-home TV streaming service (see sidebar).

Comcast is on pace to deploy X1 to all markets by year-end, providing the foundation for the X2 upgrades.

At a show panel, MSO senior vice president Mark Hess said X1 is in "hundreds of thousands" of homes today, and is poised to reach "millions" of homes in 2014.

Time Warner Cable said it is also testing a new navigator for advanced set-tops and gateways with employees in Syracuse, N.Y., and will expand trials to New York and Los Angeles this fall, in anticipation of a full scale deployment in 2014, Matthew Zelesko, TWC's senior vice president of Web services and technology, said.

TWC is developing the flagship cloud UI to run on a new class of hybrid QAM/ IP gateways and IP-only HD client devices. The centerpiece will be a six-tuner gateway with 1 terabyte of storage (enough for 150 hours of HD video) that can feed content over the home network to a new type of IP set-top client.

Sharing some of the traits seen on the Comcast X2, TWC's new UI will also feature a revamped menu structure, jacket art, personalized user recommendations, and a search function that unifies what the customer can get on live TV, via the MSO's VOD platform, and what's stored on the local DVR.

Among some of the bells and whistles: An icon that identifies shows with Start Over rights and customized pages that give access to a viewer's favorites. The MSO has also developed similar versions of the UI that run on Roku boxes, Samsung-made connected TVs and other IP-connected devices that are on the MSO's roadmap.

An upgraded version of the TWC TV app for the Roku, expected to become available in four to six weeks, will add a mini guide now offered on iOS devices, as well as other features.

The MSO also announced last week that it would offer the TWC TV app on Samsung smart TVs without the need for a separate set-top, starting with 2012 models (see "Translation Please,"). Other major U.S. MSOs are keying on these trends. Cox recently added a feature to its Trio guide that lets customers create up to eight personalization profiles. Cablevision Systems supports a recommendation feature in its new cloud-based guide.

STILL M.I.A.: OTT

Even with the host of bells and whistles being delivered from the cloud, X2 and TWC's new platform will still lack access to a large library of over-the-top video sources.

That's one advantage held by TiVo and one of the reasons why the DVR company does not view these new cloud-based options as a huge threat to its business prospects, which are centered on retail sales and, increasingly, direct deals with MSOs, TiVo CEO Tom Rogers said.

TiVo already works with about half of the nation's top 20 cable operators, but most small and midsized operators don't have the resources and wherewithal of a Comcast or a TWC to execute next-generation video strategies on their own, Rogers said. "They have to get off the dime," Rogers said of the nation's tier-2 cable players.

But even Comcast has hedged its bets. The MSO does not lease TiVo boxes, but has integrated its VOD service with TiVo boxes sold at retail, which support OTT apps like Hulu Plus, Amazon Instant Video and Netflix that are not offered on TiVo devices leased by cable operators.

COMCAST TO LIGHT UP CLOUD DVR, IN-HOME TV STREAMING

WASHINGTON — X2 was Comcast's star of the show, but the sideshow was the MSO's sneak peek at two additional services that will ride its cloud video infrastructure and X2 upgrade — a Cloud DVR and an in-home TV streaming service.

At its show booth, Comcast execs demoed both, noting that the MSO is testing Cloud DVR in Boston and Philadelphia ahead of a commercial launch later this year. The Cloud DVR will eventually become the MSO's de facto DVR service, Elad Nafshi, Comcast Cable's vice president of video product management, told *Multichannel News* in an interview following the demo.

Similar in some ways to the court-approved architecture of Cablevision Systems' "remote-storage" DVR, Comcast's Cloud DVR will also create individual copies of each customer's recording. But Comcast's version will take things several steps further by extending access to tablets, PCs and smartphones, as well as a new all-IP HD client called the Xi3.

Comcast claimed the Xi3 is four times faster, three times smaller and half as power hungry as "traditional" cable boxes. Multiple industry sources have identified Humax, Pace and Technicolor among the initial batch of vendors that are making the Xi3 for Comcast.

The Cloud DVR product will also feature a sync-and-go element that will allow users transfer a recorded program to another device. Those side-loaded recordings will not be accessible on other devices while the show is essentially "checked out" like a book. Any program ported to another device will be available for viewing for up to 30 days.

Comcast's coming live TV streaming service will offer in-home access to the MSO's full linear-TV lineup and support closed captioning and the Emergency Alert System, essentially mirroring all the key technical and regulatory pieces that make up the MSO's legacy QAM-based live TV platform.

A Comcast spokesman confirmed that content for the live IP video service will be delivered in MPEG-4 format from the cloud. Multiple sources familiar with the technical makeup of it said those streams will be

fed into the home via Comcast's new line of video gateways, and shuttled along to the Xi3 and other IPbased devices as streams encased with Digital Transmission Copy Protection over IP (DTCP-IP). DTCP-IP, developed by the Digital Transmission Licensing Administrator, was approved by CableLabs in 2007.

Last week, Comcast said it also has the technical ability to insert targeted ads dynamically into those live TV streams, and extend this capability to Cloud DVR recordings (when they are played out by the customer) and in recorded programs that are transferred to a tablet or another device.

"We didn't take any easy ways out," Tony Werner, executive vice president and chief technology officer at Comcast, said of the MSO's in-home IP video streaming service.

— *Jeff Baumgartner*

Multi Channel News – June 17, 2013

MCNBRIEFS

By: John Eggerton Jun 10 2013 - 12:00am

President Pushes 1-Gbps Broadband

WASHINGTON — Cable operators already concerned about government-funded overbuilding in the Obama Administration's effort to get high-speed broadband to anchor institutions through a federal subsidy program face a potential new wave of government-funded buildouts.

The president last week challenged the Federal Communications Commission to "leverage" the E-rate program to get high-speed broadband, by which he meant speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second at, preferably, 1 Gigabit per second within five years.

That would dovetail with Google Fiber's push to launch 1 Gbps service in cities across the country.

The so-called ConnectED program has a goal of connecting 99% of students to high-speed wired and wireless broadband (speeds of no less than 100 Mbps and preferably 1 Gbps) within five years.

The cable industry and the FCC have already teamed up to try to provide broadband to low-income students in their homes, and the focus of the federal BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) broadband subsidy program has been on anchor institutions like schools and libraries. But the "99% in five years" goal is a new national benchmark.

The announcement could prove a boon to consumer electronics and software companies, since one of the goals is to spur "feature-rich educational devices" and software.

NCTA, CEA Ask for Pause on Set-Top Energy Standards

WASHINGTON — Imposing energy-efficiency standards would work against the interests of consumers and industry should the Department of Energy insists on regulating standards for settop boxes. It also would foreclose innovation and "sabotage" a voluntary agreement among equipment manufacturers and the top TV distributors.

That was a message to the Washington press corps in a joint Consumer Electronics Association and National Cable & Telecommunications Association press conference here last week.

The trade groups noted that while they continue to fight each other at the FCC over set-tops (notably over the issue of CableCards vs. downloadable security), they were speaking with one voice on the issue of DOE regulations. Both industries want the FCC to pause its regulatory proceeding to see how the industry pledge to adhere to Energy Star ratings plays out.

Verizon: Open Internet Order Is Due No Deference

WASHINGTON — In the latest legal volley on the network-neutrality front, Verizon Communications has told the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that nothing in the FCC's decision to adopt the open Internet order deserves Chevron deference.

In a recent decision, the Supreme Court ruled that when a statute's direction is ambiguous, a federal agency's interpretation of its own authority deserves so-called Chevron deference, which is a court's recognition of that agency's subject-area expertise, say, energy policy for the Energy Department or communications policy for the FCC.

The FCC argued in a filing to the court that the decision, *City of Arlington vs. FCC*, means that its ruling that it has the authority to regulate Internet-service providers as it did in the net neutrality-rules is due that deference.

Verizon on June 3 responded that Chevron deference only applies when it is resolving "a statutory ambiguity," which is not the case here. Verizon said there is no ambiguity about the FCC's authority, because it has not identified any authority.

Multi Channel News June 10, 2013

Spreading The Wealth

Cable Moguls, Getting Older, Give Away Self-Made Fortunes

By: K.C. NEEL Jul 1 2013 - 12:00am

Cable Moguls, Getting Older, Give Away Self-Made Fortunes



In 1997, as he was named Man of the Year by the United Nations, the ever-unpredictable Ted Turner stunned the crowd when he pledged to give the organization \$1 billion.

The Turner Broadcasting System founder had spent his entire adult career building a cable-TV empire, and though his family foundation gave to environmental and sustainability groups, his pledge to the U.N. made headlines as much for its largess as the ease with which it was offered up.

"I don't measure my success in numbers, but I consider my contributions of over \$1.3 billion to various causes over the years to be one of my proudest accomplishments and the best investment I've ever made," Turner said in his letter to The Giving Pledge, an organization dedicated to urging billionaires around the world to donate at least half of their wealth to non-profits and charities. "Looking back, if I had my life to live over, there are things I would do differently, but the one thing I would not change is my charitable giving."

Turner, who challenged other wealthy executives to jump on the benevolent bandwagon, is not the only cable guy to give away a billion dollars. Upon his death in 2000, pioneering industry investment banker and systems broker Bill Daniels — who made and lost millions over the course of his career and was always generous with his money when he had it — left his foundation, the Daniels Fund, with \$1 billion. Gerry Lenfest sold his MSO, Lenfest Communications, to Comcast in 2000 for \$1.2 billion, and he and his wife, Marguerite, have already given over \$1 billion away to a variety of causes, including colleges and universities and Philadelphia-area cultural institutions.

Over the last 50 years, the cable industry has produced scores of millionaires and billionaires. The growth and popularity of the sector — among financiers and consumers — created an environment in which small investments often turned into pots of gold for all kinds of people, including secretaries. Unlike the great philanthropists of the 19th century — The Carnegies (steel), Rockefellers (oil) and the Vanderbilts (shipping and railroads) — where a few people dominated the landscapes in which they plowed their fortunes, the cable industry was almost egalitarian in that just about anyone with gumption, risk aversion and a little bit of money could start and build a cable company.

Many of the industry's leading titans — and philanthropists — came from modest beginnings. Several are first-generation citizens who formed their first companies on a shoestring. Alan Gerry borrowed \$20,000 to buy a community antenna TV service in his hometown of Liberty, N.Y. in 1956 and grew that company into what would become Cablevision Industries, eventually agreeing to sell it for \$1.2 billion to Time Warner Cable in 1995.

John Sie emigrated to the U.S. from war-torn China when he was 14. He spoke no English and was put into an orphanage while his family got settled in a new country. He would go on to be involved in some of cable's biggest successes including Jerrold Electronics, Showtime and Tele-Communications Inc. and

was the architect behind pay services Starz and Encore. Bill Bresnan's dad died of tuberculosis when he was 5 years old and his mom made ends meet by working as a seamstress. At 12, he was fixing neighbors' radios to bring in a little extra cash. He eventually went on to create Bresnan Communications and was an influential and charitable leader in the industry until his death in 2009.

Glenn Jones was sleeping in his Volkswagen Beetle in 1967 when he borrowed \$400 against his lodgings at the time and bought the cable system in Georgetown, Colo. He would go on to create Jones Intercable and Jones University, making millions along the way.

Most of the executives who donate to non-profits and schools feel strongly about the causes they represent. Sie and his wife, Anna, started the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation to fund research for Down Syndrome; their granddaughter was born with the condition. Gerry's love of his economically struggling hometown of Liberty, N.Y., helped push him to buy Max Yasgur's farm — the site of the 1969 Woodstock Music & Arts Fair — and turn it into a tourist attraction.

The cable fraternity remains close-knit, Gerry said, and when a pet project or cause arises, they aren't afraid of going to each other to ask for a lending hand. Former Group W executive Dan Ritchie did it when he was trying to raise money to pump up the University of Denver in the mid-1990s. Gerry Lenfest is doing it now with his quest to build the American Revolution Center in Valley Forge, Pa.

Tax benefits are a major incentive. And as with many cases of philanthropy, ego is at work too — it's common to see the names of large donors on buildings, schools and programs. Many of the University of Denver's buildings and amenities bear the names of cable executives who ponied up the money to help build them. The same goes for The Cable Center, where everything from the programs to the exhibits to the meeting rooms and even the bathrooms bear the name of some cable executive that donated money to the museum.

Yale University's School of Technology and Engineering is named after the father of Liberty Media chairman John Malone, after Malone donated \$50 million to the school a few years back. The University of Pennsylvania named its cancer-treatment facility after Comcast founder Ralph Roberts and his son, CEO Brian, after they donated \$15 million to the university's medical center.

Gus Hauser, a former Warner Amex Cable who later founded his own company, Hauser Communications, was the first operator to sell to a telephone company — SBC Communications. For the past almost two decades, Hauser and his wife, Rita, have created non-profit programs that have benefitted schools, including Harvard, other non-profits, museums and cultural events centers.

There is a propensity for retired executives to be more philanthropically active than working executives, but there are some notable exceptions. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who is all of 29 years old, and his wife, Priscilla Chan, made charitable donations of \$498.8 million last year, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. Google co-founder Sergey Brin, and his wife, Anne Wojcicki, who are both 40, pledged \$222.9 million to charity in 2012.

"So many of the cable industry's leaders have been so generous over the years in so many ways," Cable Center CEO Larry Satkowiak said. "I would say their generosity rivals the Fords and the Carnegies — those people who created the great foundations of the past. They have all found things to support that are important to them and that they are passionate about."

While no organization tracks individual giving on an industry-by-industry basis, the cable industry has arguably created more humanitarians than any other industry. On the next page is a sampling of the industry's philanthropists and where they are putting their charitable donations.

MOGULS WITH A CAUSE

Paul Allen, one of the co-founders of Microsoft, was already wealthy when he helped build Charter Communications into one of the largest MSOs. Allen gave away \$309.1 million in 2012, primarily to medical research, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The top beneficiary was the Allen Institute for Brain Science with a \$300 million pledge. He also gave \$8 million to the Experience Music Project museum, which he founded in his hometown of Seattle, and a total of \$1.1 million to the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Ambassadors for Humanity, the Motion Picture & Television Fund and the Robin Hood Relief Fund.

C. Michael Armstrong made a brief albeit big splash in the cable industry in the late 1990s and early 2000s, as CEO of AT&T when it bought then-top MSO Tele-Communications Inc. He currently serves as chairman of Johns Hopkins Medicine's Board of Trustees and has given \$38 million to Hopkins to date. In 2011, he donated \$10 million to establish and name the Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. In 2010, he and his wife, Anne, gave Miami University in Oxford, Ohio \$15 million to construct a new student center.

New York Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** has vowed to give away all the money he has made since forming financial-services firm Bloomberg L.P. Earlier this year, he donated \$350 million to his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University — the largest gift in the school's history, according to *The New York Times*, which reported in March that Bloomberg's total charitable contributions to the school have topped \$1.1 billion over the past four decades. Bloomberg Philanthropies donated \$350 million to various causes last year, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Upon his death in 2000, **Bill Daniels**, known as the father of the cable industry, gave his Daniels Fund \$1 billion. The grants program primarily supports nonprofit organizations in the West. In 2010, the fund surpassed \$377.3 million in cumulative grants and scholarships awarded since 2000. Before he died, Daniels gave money — oft en anonymously — to various groups. In 1987, Daniels created the Young Americans Bank to teach kids how to invest, save and learn about finances. After he noticed a lack of etiquette among interviewees at his brokerage firm Daniels & Associates, he started the Daniels School of Business MBA program.

The Motion Picture & Television Fund received a grant of \$30 million from the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation to provide health services and other support to entertainment industry workers in 2012. Former USA Networks chairman and CEO **Barry Diller** is now chairman of IAC/InterActive Corp.; his partner, **Diane von Furstenberg**, is a fashion designer. The duo also donated \$1 million to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles for the hospital's Women's Heart Center last year.

Alan Gerry, who built Cablevision Industries into a cable powerhouse before selling it to Time Warner Cable in 1995, has almost single-handedly spurred the local economy of financially strapped Sullivan County, N.Y., with the purchase of the site of the Woodstock music festival and its subsequent rejuvenation. Gerry turned Max Yasgur's farm into a music and entertainment mecca for East Coast residents and the effort has resulted in an economic boost for the community he grew up in. Gerry also made the first — and largest — donation of \$10 million to the The Cable Center, kicking off a fund-raising effort that created the industry's museum and learning center.

Gus Hauser — CEO of Warner Amex Cable in the 1970s and '80s, who also ran Hauser Communications until he sold it to SBC Communications in 1993 — and wife **Rita** created the Center for Non-Profit Organizations at Harvard University to help people, groups and other countries create foundations and non-profit organizations. The Hausers also created an international law program at New York University that taught the nuances of different laws in various countries. He is helping New York's Lincoln Center digitize and export its content so people everywhere can enjoy its vast library, and his Hauser Foundation has donated to non-profits, hospitals, schools and other public entities.

The **John and Maureen Hendricks** Charitable Foundation has pledged more than \$23 million to various groups in the past decade. Hendricks has given funds to several universities, including Syracuse, Princeton and Strathmore. Many of the contributions have gone to nonprofits and causes based in

Colorado. Hendricks has a home on the western slope of the state. Proceeds from the sale of Hendricks' new biography, *A Curious Discovery: An Entrepreneur's Story*, will go to the foundation's charities.

Amos Hostetter built Continental Cablevision into one of the industry's biggest companies before selling it to US West in 1996 for \$5.3 billion. His Barr Foundation, Massachusetts' largest, pledged \$50 million in 2010 to various Boston-area nonprofits and efforts to fight climate change, according to *The Boston Globe*. It is currently giving multi-year grants of up to \$1 million to public transportation projects and local groups that help reduce greenhouse emissions. In the past decade, Barr has given some \$414 million in grants to non-profits in three core areas — environment, education and arts/culture. Mostly anonymous, Hostetter's foundation went public with its latest announcement to bring more attention to climate change.

When he sold Lenfest Communications to Comcast in 2000 for \$1.2 billion, he vowed that all of it would be spent philanthropically within 10 years of his death and the death of his wife, **Marguerite**. So far, the Lenfests and their foundation have stuck to their word, giving away about \$1 billion. Both are members of The Giving Pledge, a group of worldwide philanthropists who have agreed to give up at least half of their wealth to charitable causes, and remain on the Lenfest Foundation board. The Lenfests have focused on their hometown of Philadelphia, giving scholarships to underprivileged kids, schools and museums. In 2012, the Lenfests gave the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge, Pa., \$40 million, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The couple also pledged \$30 million to Columbia University for a new arts complex in 2011.

John Malone's charitable donations have topped \$300 million both personally and through his Malone Family Foundation. Gifts have gone primarily to U.S. schools, including to Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, his old high school in Connecticut and the Denver School of Science and Technology. He gave \$50 million to Yale's School of Engineering and Applied Science to endow 10 new engineering professorships. He donated \$24 million to the school in 2000 for the Daniel L. Malone Engineering Center, named for his father. He pledged \$7 million last year to expand the science, engineering and math programs at Denver charter school DSST. He has also funneled about \$100 million to independent secondary schools for kids who make the grades but don't have the money, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications exists because of the largesse of the **Newhouse** family, which provided the seed money in 1964 to get the school off the ground. **S.I. Newhouse Jr.** and **Donald Newhouse** donated \$15 million in 2003 to expand the school's facilities. Other Syracuse alumni have also given money to expand the school's offerings and facilities. Longtime Warner Bros. executive **Ed Bleier**, for instance, donated money to the school; it named its Center for TV & Popular Media after him. The late **Dick Clark** donated funds to create studios at the school, which will open next year. Retired Advance/Newhouse Communications CEO **Bob Miron** sits on the Newhouse School's board and has given time, money and resources to the school for decades.

Sumner Redstone, through personal donations and the Sumner M. Redstone Charitable Foundation, has given more than \$150 million to charities and institutions worldwide. The Viacom and CBS Corp. chairman's philanthropic endeavors focus on medical research in areas including cancer, burn recovery and mental health at several major nonprofit healthcare organizations such as Faster Cures and Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as medicine in developing countries. Redstone has also contributed to the USC School of Cinematic Arts and the Boston University School of Law, supported the Global Poverty Project's efforts to eradicate polio and established the Cambodian Children's Fund child rescue center. This year alone, Redstone donated \$3 million to the Museum of the Moving Image, \$10 million to the USC school of Cinematic Arts, and \$18 million to Boston University Law School. "I've tried to live my life by the guiding principles of do all you can, give what you can and live every day with passion," Redstone said in a statement to *Multichannel News*. "Throughout my career, I have been passionate about winning and succeeding in business. I have also brought that same passion and commitment to my philanthropic work."

Dan Ritchie has made it a mission to make the University of Denver the best university in the country and has spent millions of his own money (as well as that of his cable buddies) on that effort. Ritchie, chairman

and CEO of Westinghouse Broadcasting (and DU's chancellor from 1989-95), has given the school his beloved 19,600-acre ranch in Kremmling, Colo., which over time has netted it more than \$50 million for various projects. Earlier this year, he gave the school his Montecito, Calif., avocado ranch, valued at \$27 million, with proceeds going to construct a new engineering and computer science building. It was the largest one-time gift the university has ever received. Ritchie also convinced his old cable pals to pony up money for the school's expansion and improvements. Cable execs' names now adorn almost a dozen campus buildings, including the Barton Lacrosse Stadium, Magness Arena, Williams Carillon Bell Tower and Fisher Early Learning Center. Several TCI executives donated funds to expand DU's facilities: **Peter Barton's** widow, **Laura**, gave \$2.75 million in his name to build the Barton Lacrosse Stadium; Daniels College of Business is named after **Bill Daniels**, who donated \$11 million to update the school's MBA program; former TCI executive **Donne Fisher** pledged \$2 million for the Fisher Early Learning Center; and TCI founder **Bob Magness** ponied up \$10 million for the university's sports arena.

Comcast founder **Ralph Roberts** and his son, chairman and CEO **Brian Roberts**, have made millions of dollars in mostly anonymous donations through the years, according to a Comcast spokesman. In 2006, the Roberts jointly pledged \$15 million to the University of Pennsylvania to help create the first-of-its-kind proton therapy center for cancer treatments. The Roberts Proton Therapy Center opened in 2009. The Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs were developed by Project H.O.M.E. in partnership with various local philanthropists, including Brian and **Aileen Roberts** and The Comcast Foundation. It offers literacy, educational and job training opportunities to kids in one of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods, which suffered from a 57% dropout rate when the center it opened in 2004. Over the years, Brian and Aileen, along with their children, have regularly volunteered at the center, according to the Comcast spokesman.

After his granddaughter was born with Down Syndrome in 2009, **John Sie**, who had worked for Jerrold Electronics, Showtime and Tele-Communications Inc. before launching Starz and Encore, created the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation, which provides support for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome. The Denver-based foundation also provides grants that involve international security and diplomacy, education, arts and culture and the media.

The Tow Foundation was formed by **Leonard Tow** and his family in 1988. Tow and his wife, **Claire**, joined The Giving Pledge in 2012, vowing to give the bulk of their wealth away. The Tows sold their Century Communications in 1999 for \$5.2 billion. When the family first formed their foundation, their funding was more about passion than structure. "We brought out personal passions to the boardroom and let them guide us to potential grantees," said Tow's daughter, **Emily Tow Jackson**, who serves as executive director of the foundation, on the foundation's website. Their grant-making began to take a more structured form and focused on medical research, cultural institutions, higher education and journalism. The foundation's Juvenile Justice Initiative invests in programs that work with at-risk kids and families who may have some involvement with Connecticut's juvenile justice system.

Ted Turner may have turned heads when he gave the United Nations \$1 billion in 1997, but he set in motion a trend that has expanded into a global effort to encourage millionaires and billionaires to donate at least half of their wealth to charity. The Turner Broadcasting System founder sold his company to Time Warner Inc. in 1995 for about \$7.5 billion. Since leaving the board a year later (he still asserts he was fired), Turner has built the Ted's Montana Grill restaurant chain and amassed enough land for conservation to become the second largest U.S. landowner (behind John Malone). The Turner Family Foundation, run by Turner and his five kids, was created in 1990 to concentrate on the environment, climate, maintaining wildlife habitat protection, and curbing population growth. It has awarded more than \$350 million in grants since its inception, according to its website. "I think Dad thought it was very, very important to start giving money away while he was still around, so he could see what our interest was in all this. And so he could see his children enjoying the giving," son Beau Turner is quoted as saying on the foundation's website.

The Tykeson Family Charitable Trust donated \$1 million to Oregon State University at Cascades (Bend) last year to expand its campus. The Tykeson family owns BendBroadband, a cable television, Internet, and phone company in Bend, Ore. Amy Tykeson serves as the company's president/CEO.

Oprah Winfrey has been involved in various charitable endeavors for over two decades, including a car giveaway to every one of the people who attended her syndicated show, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Now that she is CEO of OWN, the cable network she runs in partnership with Discovery Communications, she is continuing her philanthropic endeavors. "I realized that the only way to create long-term improvement and empowerment, and literally change the trajectory of somebody's life, is through education," Winfrey told *Forbes* last year. The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls is a school in South Africa she started after a conversation with Nelson Mandela. In 2013, Winfrey donated \$12 million to The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She also has pledged \$1.4 million to the U.S. Dream Academy to help the group expand its after-school programs nationally, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The Oprah Winfrey Foundation has awarded hundreds of grants to organizations that support the education and empowerment of women, children and families in the U.S. and abroad including The Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program, which gives scholarships to students determined to use their education to give back to their communities here and overseas, according to her official biography at Oprah.com.

Multi Channel News – July 1, 2013

Verizon: Fiber up or die!

- **By LOIS WEISS**
- Last Updated: 2:12 AM, June 28, 2013
- Posted: 12:39 AM, June 28, 2013

Some Verizon customers in the New York metro area who refuse to switch from copper wiring to fiber are being told their service will be cut off.

The phone company, in letters sent to an unknown number of homes starting in April, did not leave customers any other choice.

“If you will not permit us to perform the necessary work, we will not be able to restore your service, and we therefore will assume that you wish to cancel your Verizon service,” the letter sent to one customer read.

While the letter is signed by “Manuel Sampedro, Region President,” the number listed goes to a Verizon representative — and those who have called have been told to change to accept fiber or change providers.

Customers in Virginia, Texas and Florida are also being terminated, according to Verizon spokesman John Bonomo.

Those affected, he said, have had multiple repair requests over the last 12 months. So far, Bonomo said, just 18 customers “have elected” not to receive the fiber service and have been disconnected.

PSC documents show Verizon is the largest carrier with 3.7 million access lines, while Verizon says it has 4.2 million landline-service customers in the state.

Verizon customer John Viola from Queens says he has two lines and in the last year or so, made only one repair request on one line in early June.

The repairman who came two days later, he said, did not even try to fix it but merely tried to convince him to change to fiber.

Wheeler Outlines Priorities: Spectrum, IP Transition, Advancing Civil Society

GOP Memo Tees Up Some Issues Likely on Agenda for Nomination Hearing

By: John Eggerton Jun 16 2013 - 10:52pm

GOP Memo Tees Up Some Issues Likely on Agenda for Nomination Hearing



FCC chairman nominee Tom Wheeler outlined the top three challenges he would face under his leadership in a Republican staff memo for his upcoming nomination hearing.

Wheeler said that the top three challenges the FCC would encounter under his leadership are: 1) implementing the spectrum auctions and creating a public safety network; 2) the IP transition--overseeing the transition from analog switched-circuit networks to Internet Protocol (IP) delivery (Wheeler has been chairman of the FCC's Technological Advisory Council, which has been wrestling with that IP transition); and 3) advancing civil society through communications, including the broadband buildout and promoting diversity.

Those responses are according to the GOP staff memo for Wheeler's nomination hearing June 18 in the Senate Commerce Committee, citing his answers to questions from the committee.

The memo points out that Wheeler has said in the past that the FCC has the authority to impose merger conditions or spectrum auction rules "that might seem to be regulation in another guise." Republicans are concerned that the FCC will limit participation by the two largest carriers, AT&T and Verizon, in the upcoming incentive auctions.

The Republican staffers point out that both House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Communications Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) have raised red flags about that view in regards to Wheeler's nomination.

They also point out that *The New York Times* editorial board has labeled Wheeler "an industry man for the FCC." Wheeler is former head of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association and CTIA: The Wireless Association, as well as a venture capitalist and merger advisor. But Wheeler has pointed out to the committee that he was a consultant, not lobbyist, to Cingular's purchase of AT&T Wireless in 2005, and that he has not been a registered lobbyist for a decade.

Wheeler also was a campaigner and fund-raiser for the Obama Administration, so look for questions at the hearing about how much money he raised from telecommunications executives and how he would prevent that from influencing his decisions.

Multi Channel News June 16, 2013

Wheeler Takes The Hill

Political-Ad Issue A Hurdle For FCC Chair Pick

By: John Eggerton Jun 24 2013 - 12:00am

Political-Ad Issue A Hurdle For FCC Chair Pick



WASHINGTON — Tom Wheeler, former head of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association’s predecessor group, has cleared a significant hurdle on his way to the Federal Communications Commission chairmanship.

He emerged from a nomination hearing in the Senate Commerce Committee last Tuesday (June 18) relatively unscathed — save for a single senator’s threat that the issue of political ad disclosures could potentially derail his nomination.

Unfortunately, a single senator can derail — or at least delay — a nomination, as was the case with the two most recent nominees, Ajit Pai and Jessica Rosenworcel. Both remained commissioners-in-waiting for months, due to a hold placed by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa).

The issue here is whether the FCC has the authority to require advertisers on both broadcast and cable TV to disclose not only the political action committees and other groups that pay for ads, but also the underlying funders. The DISCLOSE Act would have required such enhanced disclosure, but failed on more than one occasion to make it through the divided Congress.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and other Republicans on the committee warned the FCC last April not to wade into what they called one of the most partisan issues in recent Congresses, which is saying something.

Last week, Wheeler said he would study the issue and recognized the “tension” in the committee over it.

But Cruz said he wanted a written answer, and threatened that Wheeler’s response to the question could affect his chances of confirmation. Cruz’s communications director did not return a call by press time on whether that was meant to be a veto threat.

Most of the hearing was devoted to Wheeler answering a host of questions, sidestepping others, and expressing some frustration that, since he did not yet have access to non-public FCC data, there were others he could not answer.

Wheeler generally professed his support for competition as a basic American value, but said he is for government intervention when needed to ensure other basic values, such as universal access.

He got the cable industry re-tweeting the hearing when he said, in answer to a question about his stand on retransmission consent that, as chairman, he would look into cases when “consumers are held hostage over corporate disputes.”

WAIT-AND-SEE ANSWER

He declined to weigh in on shared-services agreements among broadcast-TV stations and whether they are an end-run around local ownership caps. He said he would await a Government Accountability Office study on that impact requested last month by Commerce Committee chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.).

According to a committee source, no vote has yet been planned on Wheeler's nomination. Rockefeller has indicated it would not occur until after the July 4 break.

Quotations From the Would-Be Chairman

WASHINGTON — Some of FCC chairman-designate Tom Wheeler's more memorable answers from last week's nomination hearing:

On 2011 blog comments that merger conditions could be applied industrywide: "What you cited was hypothetical speculation. What a regulator must deal with are the realities of a specific case and the law and precedent that deals with merger review."

On his approach to indecency: "I remember [former FCC chairman] Newton Minow talking about television's 'vast wasteland.' He did that without regulatory authority. He caught the public's attention. Maybe it's possible to do the same kind of thing today, and say, 'Can't we do better?'"

On the broadcast-spectrum incentive auctions: "I liken it to a Rubik's cube. Over on this side of the cube, you've got to provide an incentive for broadcasters to want to auction their spectrum. On this side of the cube [moving his hands as though working the puzzle], you have to provide a product structured in such a way that incentivizes the wireless carriers or whoever the bidders may be to want to bid. And then, in the middle, on an almost real-time basis, you have to have a band plan that is constantly changing to reflect the variables going on here. That is why this has never been done before. "

— *John Eggerton*

Multi Channel News – June 24, 2013

Cable Consolidation, D.C. Style

FCC Could Accept Concentration in Service of Broadband Goals

By: John Eggerton Jul 29 2013 - 12:00am

FCC Could Accept Concentration in Service of Broadband Goals

WASHINGTON — Cable operators have been talking a lot about consolidation lately, but any action would depend on signoff from the nation's capital.

What are the odds of the Federal Communications Commission approving a Charter Communications-Time Warner Cable deal? That may depend on what conditions the stakeholders would accept.

After suffering under the lash of Republican FCC chairman Kevin Martin, who beat the industry up over its reluctance to offer programming on an a la carte basis, cable fared far better under Martin's successor, Democrat Julius Genachowski — but that was generally the side benefit of having bet correctly on the future of broadband.

To the extent that a cable-friendly decision — such as on basic-tier encryption, viewability or tower siting — benefited broadband deployment, the FCC was all smiles. OK, there was network neutrality, but those rules haven't been a deal-breaker.

CHECK ON COMCAST

While the likes of John Malone (now a major Charter investor) and Glenn Britt (TWC's chairman and CEO) may be talking about heavying up, it will be policymakers, not dealmakers, who get the last word.

Comcast is always the elephant in the room, so if a cable merger creates a stronger competitor to the No. 1 U.S. cable operator, that could work in a deal's favor in Washington.

And as distribution continues to fragment among telcos, satellite providers and Webdelivered video, there may be less argument against the horizontal concentration of two distributors outside the top three or four.

In the FCC's most recent video-competition report, approved two weeks ago, over-the-top video and satellite TV both showed growth in share of the video market, while cable's subscriber count and share of the market continued to decline.

The FCC will eventually need to look at ownership limits in a broader context, Pivotal Research Group senior analyst Brian Wieser said, pointing out that current regulations date from a world that existed two decades ago.

One veteran cable attorney who asked not to be identified pointed to the precedent of the FCC allowing cellphone companies to bulk up and essentially create a Big Four. He said the FCC could possibly allow for a similar consolidation in cable through mergers among or with midsized companies, though not among the top three or four.

One argument that could work in cable's favor with the FCC and the Obama administration is the need for economies of scale to deliver more high-speed broadband.

But the attorney suggests that, despite the government's high-profile push for high-speed Internet, cable is the victim of its own success. Five years ago, the argument that cable needed scale to upgrade to DOCSIS 3.0 had legs, but today it doesn't, given the pace of that buildout.

But there are still broadband carrots that could be offered. Charter and TWC could propose merger conditions on delivering broadband to low-income populations similar to those Comcast agreed to in the NBCUniversal merger, for instance.

Harold Feld, senior vice president at Public Knowledge — a public advocacy group that's no fan of big mergers — thinks a horizontal deal between a Charter and TWC is still going to be a tough sell to an FCC chaired by Tom Wheeler.

That's because the combined company isn't going to start overbuilding, so the only way to get the deal approved would be to load on enough conditions to create a regulated duopoly — more than a John Malone would be likely to accept.

Vertical mergers, like Comcast's acquiring NBCUniversal, are harder for the FCC and Justice Department to say no to than horizontal ones that extend a company's reach within its core business. Feld said the government might be uncomfortable with vertical deals, but it has a harder time articulating traditional antitrust reasons to justify a rejection.

The FCC under incoming chairman Wheeler might be amenable to, for instance, a combined TWC and CBS, the attorney said — especially under terms similar to those imposed on Comcast.

TEST CASE SEEMS LIKELY

The FCC looks beyond antitrust issues to weigh the impact on the broader public interest, but is more likely to recommend behavioral conditions than to put a kibosh on a deal.

Wheeler, in a 2011 blog posting made while he was working as a venture capitalist, said that the FCC could have put conditions on the AT&T/T-Mobile merger that could then be more generally applied, though he has since called that hypothetical speculation.

At press time, cable's consolidation talk was still just that, too. But the more competitive other distribution models become — and it appears only a matter of time, with respect to over-the-top providers — the more likely the FCC will be asked to weigh in.

Multi Channel News – July 29, 2013

Comcast Expands Prepaid Internet Test

Service Available to Eligible Homes in Most of MSO's Markets

By: Jeff Baumgartner Jul 15 2013 - 12:00am

Service Available to Eligible Homes in Most of MSO's Markets

Comcast is inching toward the national rollout of a prepaid Internet service that will enable it to tap into new revenue and offer a model that can be replicated by other cable operators.

The MSO originally tested the service in the Philadelphia area for potential customers who could not get bank accounts or would not qualify for traditional billing. A website dedicated to the prepaid offering indicates that Comcast has extended the trial to eligible households in most of its service areas, including Denver, Chicago, Seattle, Detroit, Baltimore, Boston, Atlanta and Houston.

The cable firm has not announced a launch date, but the expanded trial is an indicator that it is shoring up its back-office and billing systems to accommodate a national deployment. Comcast continues "to test this particular channel to study our operational readiness, communications and customer education to learn more," a company spokesman said.

Comcast began to its prepaid Internet product last year in parts of Philadelphia, Delaware and New Jersey. It initially marketed the service through dozens of local wireless phone stores, as well as via the website, but recently shifted order fulfillment to a call-in number (855-75-PREPAID), presumably to accelerate its ability to support the product nationally.

The prepaid product has remained relatively unchanged since Comcast began testing it. The Starter Kit, which includes a DOCSIS 3.0 modem, the required cabling and 30 days of Internet service, costs \$69.95. After 30 days, customers can refill the service for seven days for \$15, or 30 days for \$45, using a credit or debit card or a specialized prepaid card.

Also unchanged is the maximum speed supported by the prepaid service: up to 3 Megabits per second downstream and 768 Kilobits per second upstream.

In an apparent decision to avoid cannibalizing its higher-margin postpaid broadband service, only homes without an active Comcast account are eligible for the prepaid product.

The prepaid approach opens Comcast up to markets it can't easily pursue with a postpaid product, including former customers who have previously been switched off due to nonpayment and consumers who don't have bank accounts, or otherwise do not qualify for postpaid broadband service.

That alone represents a potentially large sector. According to a report issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) last fall that collected responses from nearly 45,000 homes, 8.2% of all U.S. households — nearly 10 million homes — were "unbanked" in 2011. More than one in four homes (28.3%) were either unbanked or underbanked, meaning they "conducted some or all of their financial transactions outside the mainstream banking system," which includes "alternative financial services" such as payday loans, pawnshops and non-bank check cashing.

The prepaid approach also gives Comcast an opportunity to pursue a sales model that has stoked growth for cellular services. According to SNL Kagan senior analyst John Fletcher, U.S. cellular postpaid services achieved a 2% compound annual growth rate from 2007 to 2012, while the cellular prepaid CAGR jumped 14% during that same period. Regular postpaid cellular subscribers still represented 66% of the U.S. cellular market at the end of last year, versus 15% prepaid, and the rest is a mix that included wholesale

providers and mobile virtual network operators (MVNO), subscriptions for tablets, health meters and other types of more non-traditional cellular services.

A prepaid service could likewise give cable companies a new sales vector when traditional, postpaid broadband subscriber growth starts to flatten out.

Multi Channel News July 15, 2013

Comcast Shines Again as TWC, Cablevision Report Sluggish Q2

Some Analysts Believe TWC's Results Could Fuel Potential Charter Deal

By: Mike Farrell Aug 5 2013 - 12:00am

Some Analysts Believe TWC's Results Could Fuel Potential Charter Deal

Cable earnings seasons kicked off last week with three of the four publicly traded MSOs reporting results, and once again Comcast shined the brightest, turning in another quarter of improved video customer losses despite an aggressive push by its telco-TV competition.

For the other MSOs releasing results — Time Warner Cable and Cablevision Systems — sluggish operating performance seemed to reinvigorate acquisition speculation, which in turn boosted their stocks.

Comcast was first out of the block on July 31 and set the bar high with its second-quarter results. The Philadelphia-based MSO again improved basic-video customer losses, shedding 159,000 basic-video subscribers, better than the 176,000 it lost in the prior year. It was the ninth quarter out of the past 10 in which the company has shown such improvement.

High-speed Internet customer additions also improved in the period, to 187,000 versus 156,000 in the prior year, as did telephony additions, to 161,000 compared with 158,000 in 2012.

“Comcast’s second quarter in the cable business was about as good as it gets,” Moffett Research principal and senior analyst Craig Moffett wrote in a note to clients. “In a seasonally weak Q2, [it] lost fewer video subscribers than last year and gained more of everything else.”

Such was not the case with Cablevision and Time Warner Cable. Cablevision, which has been a victim of its own success — it has the highest penetration rates in the industry for every service — lost 20,000 basic-video customers in the period, adding just 1,000 high-speed Internet customers and 3,000 phone customers. Cablevision stock rose more than 6% (\$1.14 per share) to \$19.79 each in early trading Aug. 2, mainly on future deal hopes.

Time Warner Cable stock also rose after releasing results on Aug. 1, but again, not because of better-than-expected results.

TWC shares were up 3.2% on Aug. 1, the day it missed practically every operational target for the second quarter. Basic-video losses at 189,000 topped last year’s mark of 169,000 and were above analysts’ consensus estimates of a decline of 175,000. Most troubling to some, however, was the fall off in high-speed data customer additions. TWC added just 21,000 customers in the period, less than half the 59,000 added in the second quarter of 2012 and well below consensus of 55,000 high-speed data additions.

The No. 2 MSO faced tough comparisons in the quarter — customers are still rolling off an aggressive promotional offering from last year, and the company is switching its focus to higher-margin customers. Those efforts are beginning to bear fruit — chief operating officer Rob Marcus said recurring revenue per newly connected customers was up in the high-single digits during the quarter. But he stressed the new initiatives have only been in place for about six months and said any meaningful impact on financial results probably wouldn’t occur until the fourth quarter.

Some analysts saw TWC’s sluggishness as good news in that it could fuel a potential Charter Communications deal. Charter had approached TWC in June about M&A possibilities, but was rebuffed by the larger MSO

Multi Channel News August 5, 2013

Comcast's Answer to Chromecast: 'Send to TV'

Available to Public in Beta Form on X1
By: Jeff Baumgartner Aug 5 2013 - 12:00am
Available to Public in Beta Form on X1

The buzz surrounding Google's \$35 Chromecast streaming media adapter has seemingly stolen any that might have been put aside for a similar feature Comcast recently built into its IP-capable X1 platform — one that lets users fling Web-sourced content to the TV screen.

Comcast's approach is called "Send to TV," and it's available in public beta form to customers on the X1 service, now deployed to about 53% of the MSO's footprint. Comcast Labs, the developer of Send to TV, is using the tagline, "See the Web larger than life."

Like Chromecast, Send to TV enables X1 customers to send Web videos and pages to the TV via a PC, smartphone or tablet. It requires a "bookmarklet" — a small computer app stored in the Web browser as the URL of a bookmark or as a hyperlink. Selecting the bookmarklet launches the Send to TV app. The Send to TV bookmarklet supports most of the latest stable versions of Safari, Firefox and Chrome.

But there's a significant difference between Comcast's app and Chromecast — Send to TV only works with content that's not digital rights management (DRM) protected. For instance, that means Send to TV can't run Netflix, which has been optimized for Chromecast.

Comcast confirmed this also means a customer can't fling on-demand content in the MSO's TV Everywhere library from a tablet to the TV. However, there's plenty of video from other sources, such as NHL.com and nonprotected YouTube fare, that will work just fine.

Those DRM barriers are apparently more business-related than tied to technical or engineering hurdles. Some of Netflix's rights deals expressly forbid it from delivering portions of its library to MSO-leased devices, making the content available only on retail-purchased devices such as Chromecast. That's also why Netflix is not offered on TiVo boxes leased by cable operators, such as Suddenlink Communications and Mediacom Communications.

That's not how Comcast intends for Send to TV to be used, anyway. Most content on the Xfinity Play app is already available on set-tops, an MSO official noted, including the Pace-made XG1 HD-DVR that currently drives X1.

Among MSOs with authenticated streaming video apps, Time Warner Cable is "looking at it closely as we do other consumer devices in this space," a spokesman said.

Cox Communications hasn't announced any specific plans for Chromecast, but a spokesman said a chief goal of its soon-to-launch "personal video experience" will allow "discovery and viewing of relevant content across multiple devices like never before. Cox video customers will seamlessly move content from their tablets to the living room TV and experience the same, high-quality transmission they expect."

Multi Channel News August 5, 2013

Congress Can't Agree on FCC Reform

Longstanding Political Divide Impedes Progress
By: John Eggerton Jul 15 2013 - 12:00am
Longstanding Political Divide Impedes Progress

WASHINGTON — The House Communications Subcommittee wrapped up its hearing on Federal Communications Commission process reform last week, and the signs were strong that proposed legislation would get no more traction than similar efforts in the previous Congress.

While both Republicans and Democrats agreed that regulating communications by various service “silos” is so last century, the GOP-backed bills last week exposed the longstanding political divide over putting the FCC on a shot clock, limiting its merger condition authority and giving commissioners power to control the agenda.

On one side of those bills were Republican legislators who argued they were necessary to speed FCC decision-making, tie decisions to a cost-benefit analysis of any new regulations, improve transparency and limit the agency’s ability to impose merger conditions, which they suggest are a vehicle for back-door regulations.

Subcommittee chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) said the communications sector is one of the few that is “firing on all cylinders,” but that poor FCC processes threaten the health of the sector, and codifying “certain protections” is necessary. Walden said he was only asking of the FCC what he would of a gradeschooler: “Show your work.”

Republicans were pulling out the stops. Several invoked the recent incidents involving the Internal Revenue Service, Justice Department and National Security Agency as further evidence that the committee should be looking to inject more transparency into the FCC process. Citing what she said were all those “scandals,” Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) said that only in Washington did it seem acceptable to allow an agency to be reckless with taxpayer money.

FCC chairman-designate Tom Wheeler also came in for some Republican criticism. Walden pointed to a 2011 Wheeler blog post — which he wrote when he was a venture capitalist — that said the FCC could have put conditions on the AT&T/T-Mobile merger that could then have been more generally applied.

But Wheeler has since explained in his Senate nomination hearing that the comment had been “hypothetical speculation,” and that a regulator’s mandate for reviewing mergers, a job he said was one of the FCC’s most important, is to look at statutory directives from Congress, the facts in a specific merger and legal precedent.

On the other side were Democrats, who, in effect, said the committee was essentially wasting its precious time debating bills similar to, and even more onerous than, ones that had failed to get traction in the past.

Full-committee ranking member Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) said the GOP legislation was a way to undermine the FCC’s ability to adopt new rules and protect consumers, and that the only thing it would efficiently speed was endless legal challenges. It would also impose new costs and obligations, and effectively take the FCC out of the merger-review equation, leaving that to the Justice Department, whose deliberations, unlike the FCC’s, are nonpublic.

Waxman also pointed out that the FCC’s review goes beyond antitrust issues to include diversity, impact on jobs and other public-interest considerations.

Multi Channel News – July 15, 2013

GAO to FCC: Report Less, Say More

Watchdog Agency Pushes for Re-evaluation of Video Competition Report

By: Gary Arlen Jul 8 2013 - 12:00am

Watchdog Agency Pushes for Re-evaluation of Video Competition Report

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission should re-evaluate the processes used for its annual video-competition report, as a less-frequent report might provide more pertinent data, according to a new study by the Government Accountability Office.

Congress's financial watchdog issued its recommendations just weeks before the FCC is set to release its 2013 Video Competition Report at its July 19 meeting.

The GAO "Video Marketplace" study's subtitle states the office's conclusion: "Competition Is Evolving, and Government Reporting Should Be Re-Evaluated." The GAO suggested that to ensure the FCC's "cable-industry price and video competition reports provide timely and useful information," the FCC chairman should propose different reporting schedules. A revision, such as moving to biennial reports, would minimize the reporting burdens and meet statutory deadlines, the GAO said.

Since 1992, the GAO noted, the FCC has failed to publish cable-industry price reports four times and has not published video-competition reports four times — all within the past 10 years, including for 2010 and 2011. It acknowledged the FCC's explanation that "a variety of administrative factors contributed to the missed reports," which are "time-consuming to prepare" and "impose burdens on some industry participants."

RATES ROSE 33%

The GAO study found that cable rates, including basic and premium service, climbed by more than 33% from 2005 to 2011. That increase far exceeded the Consumer Price Index rise of 15% during the same period.

The GAO's study pegged current average cable prices at \$19.33 monthly for basic service and \$57.46 for "expanded basic." It acknowledged the growing fees being charged by program networks, singling out sports leagues, such as the National Football League and Major League Baseball. ESPN's \$5.6 billion contract with MLB for 2014 through 2021, at double the value of the previous agreement, is cited as a reason for the higher prices, with the GAO noting that operators ultimately "pass along these higher prices" to consumers.

The study acknowledged the growing capital expenditures of cable companies as they "roll out broadband Internet service to new communities and locations." Yet the GAO, using National Cable & Telecommunications Association data, observed that cable operators saw a national market-share drop from 98% in 1992 to 57% last year.

The GAO's study, signed by Mark L. Goldstein, the agency's director of Physical Infrastructure Issues, spends considerable time on the growth of online video distributors which, it noted, "are developing a variety of business models, including free and subscription-based services." It acknowledged that online viewing and revenue "represent a small portion of overall media viewing hours and revenue," but emphasized that about one in three U.S. homes can choose from among four or more subscription video providers: a cable company, a telco and two satellite providers.

Despite this growing competition, the GAO said technology is "likely to continue to spur new services and products" but that "a variety of factors may hinder future competition in the video marketplace." It cited looming competition from wireless and online video providers, but also noted that such competition "could be hindered" if content providers license programming "only on similar contractual prices and terms that they offer to traditional MVPDs."

“While OVDs present a new and exciting venue through which consumers can enjoy video services, we found that OVDs do not yet offer a package of programming that is substantial enough to induce households to drop their subscription to a traditional video service in favor of an OVD’s services,” the GAO concluded. “OVD providers have a variety of business models, but fundamentally, they are dependent on two established industries — developers of video content and providers of broadband Internet access — and this dependence could hinder any significant maturation of the OVD business model.”

COMPETITIVE CONCERNS

The GAO also looked at the “concentration of content production among a handful of large media and entertainment companies.” It found “little change in the pattern of ownership” since 2005.

To support its recommendation for a change in the FCC’s reporting timetable, the GAO cited industry comments that “laws and regulations have not kept pace with changes” and that the FCC “has not consistently reported on competition.” But the GAO added that “little agreement exists on potential changes.”

Although many believe that “some provisions of the [Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992] should be revisited,” the GAO noted, proposals from the cable industry focus on overhauling three factors: retransmission consent, program access, and the definition of MVPD and OVD.

The GAO’s study also pointed out the “varying opinions on the FCC’s Open Internet regulation.”

To justify its proposal for less frequent reporting on pricing and competition, the GAO said it “found little change in the reported findings from year-to-year in FCC’s video competition report.” However, Congress would have to approve any timing revision for the statutorily required reports.

Before publishing its report, GAO submitted a review draft to the FCC. William Lake, chief of the FCC’s Media Bureau, responded to the report by focusing on the recommendation for less-frequent video competition reports, saying that it “comes at an important time as we continue to consider all avenues to meet our budget goals.”

Multi Channel News – July 8, 2013

Help Needed on Closed Captioning

By: JANICE SCHACTER LINTZ Jul 29 2013 - 12:00am

Imagine watching *NCIS* without faces because the closed captions obscured them. You could only identify the characters by their hair.

Under the Federal Communications Commission's closed-captioning order, there are no standards on how captions are to be provided. The quality varies tremendously — from excellent to execrable.

For this reason, it is essential that the FCC implement closed-captioning standards for television. These are issues of direct communication. Issues include misspelled or garbled words; omitted letters or words that are missing entirely; paraphrasing instead of verbatim rendition of the storyline; lack of description of sound effects or music; and lack of identification of speakers. There are also issues regarding ease of communication. These include the use of upper-case letters (which are harder to read) rather than mixed-case letters; inappropriately using roll-up captions rather than pop-on captions; and the placement of captions in locations that obscure relevant information such as people's faces or descriptive banners.

Previous organized efforts had no impact on correcting this issue. More than seven years ago, five leading organizations for people who are deaf or hard of hearing filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the FCC "to establish additional enforcement mechanisms to better implement the captioning rules and to establish captioning quality standards to ensure high quality and reliable closed captioning." This petition has languished through the tenure of three FCC chairmen.

Captions benefit not only the more than 36 million people who have some form of hearing loss but also people learning English as a second language; people who do not want sound on in the room, perhaps because someone is sleeping; and people in noisy public venues such as airports, bars, gyms and restaurants. While poor-quality captioning may be an inconvenience to the latter group, it is exceptionally frustrating to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, who rely on captions to enjoy television and receive vital news information.

Networks now routinely advertise upcoming shows or place banners or logos within the lower third of the television screen, where captions traditionally have been placed. This location is excellent "real estate" for the networks to disseminate information and promote their shows or branding. But it pushes the captions to the upper third of the screen, covering the actors' faces.

Television credits, which were traditionally listed vertically at the end of a show, now often appear at the beginning and tend to flash one name at a time, which can continue for up to eight minutes into the program. The various guilds' contracts require that credits not be blocked, so the captions cannot obscure the credits. This again pushes the captions upwards over the actors' heads. The FCC needs to likewise ensure that relevant information or people on screen are not obscured by the placement of captions.

Studios, production companies and networks aren't required to monitor captions. Shows are in compliance with FCC regulations as long as captions appear throughout the them, somewhere on the screen.

Many contracts for captioning are bid without defining the captioning quality. They tend to be bid solely based on price — as if captioning were a commodity, something interchangeable between companies without any consideration regarding standards. There is no incentive for captioning companies to upgrade technology and software when captions are bid in this manner, since improvements cost money.

To be sure, some television shows provide excellent customer service to all their viewers and do offer quality captions, demonstrating that this caliber of captioning is obtainable. But when this is not the case, people who are deaf or hard of hearing have no recourse, since they have little market force and there are no captioning quality standards or regulations.

Since the FCC has failed to respond, the White House and Congress need to intervene to make sure the requested captioning standards are developed and implemented in a timely manner — or we need to ensure that no actor in a show has the same hairstyle.

Janice Schacter Lintz, a hearing-loss advocate across the hearing advocacy and related political spectrum, is founder of the Hearing Access Program and a former member of the FCC Consumer Advisory Committee under chairman Kevin Martin.

Multi Channel News – July 29, 2013

Obama Taps FCC Republican

O’Rielly Would Fill Out McDowell’s Remaining Term as Commissioner

By: John Eggerton Aug 5 2013 - 12:00am

O’Rielly Would Fill Out McDowell’s Remaining Term as Commissioner

WASHINGTON — As expected, President Obama last week nominated longtime GOP congressional communications policy adviser Michael P. O’Rielly to be the next Republican member of the Federal Communications Commission.

O’Rielly will fill out the remaining term of Republican Robert McDowell, which runs through July 1, 2014, after which he will have to be renominated. The Senate is preparing to exit for its August break, so O’Rielly isn’t likely to join the FCC before late summer or early fall.

O’Rielly is policy adviser to Senate minority whip John Cornyn (R-Texas), and was a top technology and telecom policy adviser to former Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.) and former Rep. Tom Bliley (R-Va.). The choice was Obama’s, but by custom dating to the Clinton White House, the president usually defers to the choice of Republican Senate leaders.

O’Rielly’s nomination must still be vetted and approved by the Senate Commerce Committee, which should pave the way for a full-Senate vote, and almost certainly approval, of both O’Rielly and chairman nominee Tom Wheeler, barring a hold, which can be placed by a single, unidentified senator.

Multi Channel News August 5, 2013

ROCKEFELLER WON'T WAIT

WASHINGTON — Senate Commerce Committee chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.) is squarely behind nominee Tom Wheeler — a point he made, well, pointedly, last week, when Republicans sought to delay the ultimately successful committee vote to approve his nomination.

The following is from Rockefeller's opening statement at the hearing: "Unfortunately, the FCC has been without a chairman for more than two months now [technically, yes, but there is an acting chairwoman, Mignon Clyburn], even though this committee considered Tom Wheeler's nomination to be chairman more than a month ago. I said this at his nomination hearing, and I will say it again: Tom Wheeler is well-qualified to be FCC chairman, with a distinguished career in the communications industry."

Multi Channel News August 5, 2013

SYNCING UP WITH THE

A SNAPSHOT OF THE EVOLVING SECOND-SCREEN ECOSYSTEM

BY JEFF BAUMGARTNER

Second-screen strategies are a big priority for programmers, as eyeballs continue to be drawn away from TV screens and locked on to ever-popular tablets, smartphones and other IP-connected mobile devices.

To help programmers stay in tune with viewers — even as their attention becomes fragmented — an ecosystem of vendors has emerged with a variety of products and applications designed and tailored to keep the viewer engaged and unify the viewing experience with the more mobile second screen.

To keep track of this evolving field, *Multichannel News* has compiled a scorecard of key players in five product categories: companion applications that sync up with live, on-demand and recorded content; content discovery tools; content-recognition technologies that use audio cues to tee up interactive elements on tablets and smartphones; second screen management tools; and advanced advertising systems for mobile devices. This list, which is not exhaustive, represents the many big players in the second-screen arena, and is meant to serve as a snapshot of how services are evolving.

TV veterans that survived the interactive-TV hype cycle of the late 1990s may get a bout of déjà vu, because history appears to repeating itself more than a decade later as a crop of new suppliers chase a lucrative market opportunity. But rather than delivering interactive apps to the set-top — a market that never truly caught on — this group of vendors is focused on mobile platforms that are not just interactive, but highly personal as well. **O**

	COMPANY	FOUNDED	WHAT IT DOES
COMPANION APPS	 BuddyTV Seattle	2005	BuddyTV Guide app is a "universal guide" that helps users find what they want to watch and also recommends new shows "that are otherwise buried in the guide."
	 ConnectTV Emeryville, Calif.	2010	Free app for iOS, Android and browser-based devices that uses audio cues to sync with live or time-shifted TV shows and lets viewers chat with each other.
	 Dijit San Francisco	2009	NextGuide, a hyper-personalized platform that helps connect consumers to TV shows and movies from traditional TV services, as well over-the-top video.
	 GetGlue New York	2006	Apps that enable users to "check-in" and share what they are watching with friends in exchange for product discounts and other rewards.
	 Shazam London	2002	Second-screen music and TV recognition applications. In May, the company introduced an "auto-tagging" element for the iPad.
	 Viggle New York	2010	A second-screen loyalty "check-in" app/platform that offers points and rewards, such as coupons and gift cards, for watching TV shows.
DISCOVERY	 Zeebox London	2011	Free app for iOS, Android, BlackBerry devices and PCs tells users what's trending on TV based on viewing activity of a range of data sources, including Twitter.
	 DigitalSmiths Durham, N.C.	2006	Video-discovery platform that bakes in personalized search, recommendations and browsing, social trending, mood-based discovery and a business-rules engine.
	 Fanhattan San Mateo, Calif.	2011	Cut its teeth on a TV discovery app for Apple iOS; has since branched off into developing Fan TV, an IP streaming device coupled with a fancy user interface.
	 Jinni Tel Aviv, Israel	2007	Powered by the Entertainment Genome, the vendor has developed a video-discovery engine that pumps out results based on the user's tastes and moods.
	 ThinkAnalytics Glasgow	1995	Personalized video recommendation engines for set-tops, browsers, tablets, smartphones and other connected devices.
RECOGNITION	 Audible Magic Los Gatos, Calif.	1999	Developer of "fingerprinting" technology that tracks and monitors the detection of copyrighted material or any other audio or video-based content.
	 Civolution Eindhoven, The Netherlands	2008 (as a spin-off of Royal Philips Electronics)	Digital watermarking and fingerprinting applications that interact in real time with mobile devices and connected TVs.
	 Cognitive Networks San Francisco	2008	Its ACR platform enables smart TVs and other connected devices to trigger transactions, information requests, personalization and other interactive features.
	 Flingo San Francisco	2008	Its ACR platform, Samba, connects, smart TVs, laptops, tablets and smartphones via a Web browser to deliver contextually relevant info to second screens.
	 Gracenote Emeryville, Calif.	1998	Provides music and video metadata and recognition technology. Recently announced customers and partners include Vudu, Invidi and Zeebox.
MANAGEMENT	 Ensequence New York	2000	Pitches interactive-TV products and tools that enable programmers, service providers and advertisers to drive deeper engagement with viewers.
	 Spot411 Technologies Orange, Calif.	2009	Markets a white label software-as-a-service platform called TVplus that enables partners to create, manage and syndicate interactive content.
	 Watchwith San Francisco	2006 (as the Related Content Database)	Specializes in sync-to-broadcast content authoring, content management and metadata syndication. Recent wins include Fox Broadcasting and NBC Universal.
ADVERTISING	 BlackArrow San Jose, Calif.	2005	Advanced advertising systems for set-tops as well as mobile and connected devices. Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Rogers are among its top clients.
	 FreeWheel Media San Mateo, Calif.	2007	Digital video ad-insertion systems and monetization rights-management platforms for mobile devices.
	 This Technology New York	2006	Dynamic ad-insertion and campaign management systems for set-tops and connected devices.
	 SeaChange International Acton, Mass.	1993	Its Infusion platform is designed to splice ads into on demand and live video shipped to set-tops and mobile devices.
YOUR FAVORITE HERE	 YuMe Redwood City, Calif.	2004	Video advertising systems for Internet-connected devices, including PCs, phones, TVs, tablets, set-tops and game consoles.

SECOND SCREEN

WHY WE CARE

• Reaches 5 million unique users per month via the BuddyTV.com site. • 1.1 million app downloads. • The company forged a partnership with DirecTV in 2012 that enables satellite-TV users to create custom channel guides and control their DirecTV set-top boxes via the BuddyTV Guide app.

• Claims its AdSync Netork has produced click-through rates of 0.73%, versus a 0.1% click-through rate for traditional banner ads. • Teaming with media research firm SmithGeiger on study that will examine second-screen social-TV viewing behavior. • Partners include 10 major broadcast groups.

• Launched a beta version of NextGuide for Web browsers in May, complementing a version developed for the iPad. • Dijit also operates Miso, a social TV, "check-in" service that came way of its acquisition of GoMiso in February 2013.

• 4 million registered users. • 1 billion-plus total check-ins, ratings and reviews. • More than 100 network and studio partners.

• Carlos Slim's America Movil invested \$40 million in Shazam, extending the company's total funding to \$72 million-plus. • Growing at 2 million users per week. • Global user base of 350 million people. • Sales of digital goods currently sit at more than \$300 million annually.

• Eclipsed 3 million registered users after adding 400,000 in May. • "Active" users (those that logged into the company's app at any time during the month) grew 26% in May, to 838,189. • Users checked in to TV shows more than 24.93 million times in May. • Posted a net loss of \$43.07 million on revenues of \$3.39 million for the three-month period ended March 31.

• More than 5 million global downloads. • Generates a 30-minute average engagement time across users of its mobile app. • Comcast intends to integrate the Zeebox app with its upgraded "X2" cloud-based user interface for set-tops, tablets and smartphones.

• In June, struck a deal to integrate its Seamless Discovery platform with the Zeebox TV companion app. • Launched MVPD-focused Unified Data Service, which creates a single index where multiple video related data sources are ingested, aggregated, reconciled and stored.

• Cox Communications uses the Fan TV box and Fanhattan's UI to power flareWatch, a IP-based video service being tested in Orange County, Calif. In a pilot that is evidently targeted to so-called "cord-cutters," flareWatch is being sold to Cox cable-modem subscribers for \$34.99 per month.

• Time Warner Cable and Walmart's Vudu over-the-top service announced as licensees for Jinni's platform in January 2013, complementing deals with Singapore's SingTel, and Belgium's Belgacom, among others.

• Hired cable vet Michael Pohl to corporate board of directors and strategic director for marketing and business development, Americas. • Vendor's technology services more than 100 million subscribers worldwide. Customers include Cox Communications, Liberty Global, Swisscom, Telenet, Zon, and British Sky Broadcasting.

• Database houses more than 11 million digital fingerprints. • In January, Entropic agreed to port Audible Magic's Smart ID automatic content recognition technology onto its set-top box system-on-a-chip platform. • Sling Media to integrate Audible Magic's technology in a new companion app for its video-placeshifting Slingbox products.

• Under a new, multiyear deal inked in July, NBC News Channel picked Cvolution's Teletrax system to monitor usage of its live and prerecorded video assets.

• Rogers Venture Partners invested \$2.5 million in November 2012 as vendor announced the changing of its name from TV Interactive Systems to Cognitive Networks, and hired cable and interactive TV vet Michael Collette as CEO.

• TiVo integrated Flingo's Launchpad video service to provide more than 70 on-demand video apps, including those for A&E, History and Showtime, to Premiere DVRs. • Vendor claims its technology is available on more than 20 million screens in 118 countries worldwide.

• Music and video database features descriptions of more than 130 million tracks and TV listings for 28 countries. • Database receives more than 500 million queries per day, and more than 15 billion every month. • Wholly owned, independent subsidiary of Sony Corp. of America.

• Sony Electronics agreed to embed Ensequence's ITV platform into its entire line of Internet-connected TVs. Ensequence, meanwhile, is tasked with selling the ITV capabilities to programmers and advertisers. • Customers include Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Dish Network, Verizon, ESPN, NBC, Showtime, Disney, HBO and AMC Networks.

• Company provides the "social and interactive video solution used by five of the eight largest TV network families." • Company's tools used to power several companion app projects for MTV, Discovery Channel, TLC, Fox, CBC, and CBS.

• Landed a \$5 million "A" round led by Rogers Venture Partners, with participation from early-stage investors Arris (via its acquisition of Motorola Home) and Gracenote.

• Introduced BlackArrow Linear, a campaign manager/platform that brings dynamic ad insertion to live TV, complementing a similar platform it has developed for video on demand. • Its dynamic ad-insertion platform covers 30 million homes; company expects to eclipse 40 million homes by sometime in 2014.

• Customers include NBCUniversal, Fox, Dish Network, Discovery Communication, Turner Broadcasting System, DirecTV, Crackle and Sling Media. • It's the first DAI vendor to be integrated with upgraded publishing system from Comcast-owned thePlatform that handles video-on-demand and live TV on multiple screens.

• Raised \$7.5 million in a series-A round while announcing wins with Comcast, Verizon Communications, NBCUniversal and ABC. • Launched upgrade of a blackout-management system for linear Internet-protocol video that could be delivered to set-tops or mobile devices.

• Teamed with billing/back-office specialist Amdocs to help service providers deliver targeted ads to multiple screens.

• Targeting a \$65 million initial public offering, according to an S-1 filed on July 2. • Delivered more than 8 billion video ad impressions in 2012 across its range of supported devices. • For the first quarter of 2013, recorded a net loss of \$3.3 million on revenues of \$26.6 million, a 33% increase from the year-ago period.

Wheeler Rolls On in Senate

But Lawmaker's Political-Ad Concerns Could Hold Up Confirmation

By: John Eggerton Aug 5 2013 - 12:00am

But Lawmaker's Political-Ad Concerns Could Hold Up Confirmation

WASHINGTON — Tom Wheeler is one step closer to chairing the Federal Communications Commission, as his nomination cleared the Senate Commerce Committee last week — but not without some drama.

One single, unhappy Republican senator threatened to delay the former National Cable & Telecommunications Association president's appointment — though that lawmaker, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), said he was speaking for many others.

Wheeler was approved by voice vote after committee Republicans, led by ranking member John Thune (R-S.D.), first suggested it would be better to hold off until the White House had submitted a Republican nominee for Robert McDowell's vacated FCC seat.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.), the chairman, would have none of it, though, saying there would be no "pairing" in his committee.

In recent years, nominees — such as Democratic commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and Republican FCC member Ajit Pai — have been paired by custom for votes both in the committee and full Senate, but the practice is not a rule. Rockefeller last week said it was time to vote on Wheeler, whose confirmation hearing was June 18.

Wheeler's nomination was one of nine subject to vote; the other eight were made en masse. Wheeler was voted on independently to allow Cruz to vote no and issue his warning.

Cruz, whose name has been floated as a 2016 Republican presidential candidate, had suggested at Wheeler's hearing that any FCC push to identify the funders of political ads on-air could derail the nomination. That was tried in the DISCLOSE Act, which failed due to Republican opposition.

It takes just one senator to block a nomination. Two years ago, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Neb.) held up the Rosenworcel and Pai appointments because of his concerns over how the FCC had handled wireless Internet firm LightSquared.

Cruz echoed his threat at last week's hearing, saying Wheeler still hadn't provided a satisfactory answer. At his confirmation hearing, Wheeler said he understood the passions over the issue, but need to study it more.

Apparently his subsequent answers were no more pleasing to Cruz's ears. Cruz did not use the H word ("hold"), but said: "If he continues to refuse to answer that question, I may well support using procedural means to delay this nomination until he answers the very reasonable question that has been posed."

And while he did not vote no, another potential presidential hopeful, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), suggested that Wheeler expand on his hearing answer about FCC indecency enforcement before a full Senate vote.

Wheeler said at the time that he had some concerns about content, but that the courts "have been pretty specific and restrictive." He suggested he could use the FCC chair's bully pulpit to appeal to programmers' better instincts.

Thune last week said he expected the White House would soon submit the GOP nominee, likely Michael O'Rielly, a top staffer with minority whip Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.).

Multi Channel News August 5, 2013