

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the)	DOCKET UT-150067
Establishment and Operation of)	
an Advisory Board for the State)	ORDER 01
Universal Communications)	
Service Program Pursuant to)	ORDER APPOINTING
WAC 480-123-150)	ADVISORY BOARD
)	MEMBERS AND
.....)	INITIATING MEETING

BACKGROUND

1 In 2013 the legislature established a state universal communications program (Program) to provide targeted financial support to small incumbent telephone companies serving high-cost rural areas of the state of Washington.¹ The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for implementing and administering the Program and has adopted rules to fulfill this statutory obligation.²

2 As part of its responsibilities, the Commission must “establish an industry and consumer advisory board to provide recommendations to the Commission on the implementation and management of the program.”³ The board must be comprised of members who represent each of the following interests:

- Incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) serving fewer than 40,000 access lines in Washington;
- ILECs serving more than 40,000 access lines in Washington;
- Competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) serving customers in Washington;
- Wireless communications service providers offering service in Washington;
- The Public Counsel unit of the state attorney general’s office (Public Counsel);
- and
- Commission Staff (Staff).⁴

3 Public Counsel and Staff representatives have permanent membership on the advisory board. The Commission will appoint other members for three year terms, at the end

¹ RCW 80.36.650 – 700.
² WAC 480-123-100 – 170.
³ WAC 480-123-150(1); *accord* RCW 80.36.650(7).
⁴ WAC 480-123-150(2)(a).

of which the Commission may reappoint those members for a subsequent three year term.⁵ The board must conduct meetings at least annually, but only the Commission may initiate board action other than the execution of administrative duties.⁶

4 The Commission issued a notice on October 13, 2013, in Docket UT-131239 seeking nominees from interested parties for positions on the advisory board. The Commission received one nomination for each position on the board.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

5 The Commission has reviewed the nominations for advisory board members and finds that each of the nominees is well-qualified to represent the requisite industry or consumer interest for which he or she was nominated. We also find that Roger Hahn, as the telecommunications Staff lead in the rulemaking to implement the Program, is the appropriate representative for Staff.

6 Accordingly, the Commission appoints the following persons to membership on the board:

Advisory Board Membership	
ILECs serving fewer than 40,000 access lines in Washington (Three year term)	Rick Vitzhum, Chief Financial Officer, Kalama Telephone Company and Tenino Telephone Company
ILECs serving more than 40,000 access lines in Washington (Three year term)	Mark S. Reynolds, Northwest Region Vice President – Public Policy, CenturyLink
CLECs serving customers in Washington (Three year term)	Rhonda Weaver, Senior Director - State Government Affairs, Comcast
Wireless communications providers offering service in Washington (Three year term)	Cindy J. Manheim, General Attorney, AT&T
Public Counsel	Simon J. ffitch, Senior Assistant Attorney General

⁵ WAC 480-123-150(2)(b).

⁶ WAC 480-123-150(3) & (4).

Staff	Roger Hahn
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7 The Commission appoints Roger Hahn as the chairman of the advisory board. He will establish the date and time of the first board meeting in consultation with the other board members. All meetings of the advisory board will take place at the Commission's office located at 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, Washington. The board Chairman will prepare and provide notice of the agenda no later than one week prior to meeting.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) Membership of the advisory board shall be as set forth in this Order.
- 9 (2) The chairman of the advisory board will schedule the initial board meeting and will prepare and provide notice of the agenda no later than one week in advance of the meeting.
- 10 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 29, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE: This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least 14 days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).