

*Office of*  
**Southwest Fox Valley Cable and Telecommunication Consortium**

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Chairperson

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## **Meeting Minutes**

A meeting was held on Thursday April 6 2, 2006 at 6:00 PM at the Yorkville City Hall to discuss the current status of the consortium.

### **Board Members present:**

Jane Regnier – Waubonsee  
Charlie Pajor – Oswego  
Scott Mulliner – Plano  
Dean Wolfer – Yorkville  
Max Herwig – North Aurora

### **Other Attendees:**

Denham Reynolds - guest  
Glory Spies – Yorkville

### **Topics of Discussion:**

#### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting seconded by Scott. All board members present voted yes.

#### **Budget Report**

Checking account balance as of March 31, 2006    \$161,326.53

#### **Payment of Current Bills**

Waubonsee submitted a bill for \$18,355.42. Charlie made a motion to pay the bill and Scott seconded it. All board members present voted yes.

#### **Collection of Quarterly Consortium Membership Fees**

4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005 fees will be sent out this month.

### **Old Business**

#### **Waubonsee Report**

None

#### **Others**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Waubonsee Report**

Jane reported that Mike is training 14 students from the Broadview Academy. She gave an updated report on the current senate and house bills on public access. Jane stated that the new bill in the house will increase the franchise fees by 1%. It's not clear what the outcome will be.

**Member Reports**

AT&T Lightspeed was discussed and Max will have Kevin Drendel attend the next consortium meeting to discuss the issues and what is being done in the communities through out the Fox Valley.

**Audience Comments**

Denham Reynolds presented his on going concerns on the quality of playback of his programs on FVTV17. (See Attachment A) Max will work with Mike and Denham to try and resolve this playback issue with Denham's DVD's. Denham requested that the minutes of the consortium be put up on the SWFVCTC website. It was agreed that once the minutes were approved they would be available on the website. It will be a rolling 12 month on minutes.

**Schedule next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 6:00 PM on May 4, 2006 at the Yorkville City Hall, 800 Game Farm Road, Yorkville, IL.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Charlie and seconded by Jane. All board members present voted yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Please direct any corrections or question on the above to Max Herwig via email or 630-697-5285.

Respectfully,

Max Herwig

Att: Attachment A

## Attachment A

April 6, 2006

I'm here again today to discuss issues with the playback system at FVTV. As you may recall when I was here last August I had two primary issues that I brought before the board – 1. Not allowing my series programs to air twice a week. 2. Quality issues with the playback system. The first issue has been resolved to my satisfaction – much thanks for allowing three airings per week now.

The quality problems with playback do continue and that's what I want to address again today. At the August board meeting, it was agreed that my DVD discs (which are produced outside of FVTV facilities) would be checked to make sure they would play before they were actually aired. I have never once been notified of any problems with the discs – yet problems with playback have occasionally continued to be observed. Most recently on March 8th my Valley Baptist Hour program played for 12 minutes, froze a few times and then jumped to the last chapter on the disc and ended 43 minutes early. The system then automatically started to play a disc from my Christian Perspectives series which abruptly ended at the top of the hour. I preview all my DVDs on my \$30 home player before I submit them for playback. Obviously this all looks very bad for me as the producer. In the eyes of the viewer these type problems are always credited to the producer. Before this incident there had also been several cases of pixelization, and stuttering video. On March 8 I requested Mike Rennels to stop airing all of my programs until I regain some confidence in the quality of the FVTV playback system.

As I reported before, the playback system also continues to display various artifacts that are not good – 1. Every program, at the beginning, plays for 2 seconds, freezes for 2 seconds and then plays normal. 2. The DVD player status indications continue to be seen when programs start to play (spinning wheel in upper right hand corner).

Laura Healy, another FVTV producer, has also posted comments on the FVTV bulletin board that she has spoken to viewers in the FVTV coverage area and they also notice poor quality on playback at times.

"I have heard (not seen - I live in Montgomery) from people in Oswego about the same problems, which is bad and removes potential partnership interest with local schools because they see the same bad quality on FVTV (pixelization, jittering, mismatched audio, skipped frames in playback). Perhaps it is a problem with the producers of the shows? Shows should be screened for problems unless it is the playback equipment. Either way, there are problems still."

Now, I do want to get my programs started up again on FVTV but I have received no information from Mike or Chris that anything has changed with the playback system or with the process to verify quality issues with my DVDs before they air. I am concerned that the playback system is still using a \$400, consumer quality DVD deck. It really is not designed for this environment where reliability is very important. I think we may be seeing signs of the wear and tear from just one year of usage. While some of the poor quality may be from problems in the Comcast distribution network, it very well could be triggered by problems in the signal that leaves FVTV.

I really think we should consider installing an industrial quality playback system. A hard disc based system is very affordable, would be more reliable and provide good consistent on air quality. Industrial quality DVD decks could also be added to this system. I would also suggest hiring an experienced consultant to help in identifying the correct equipment. From looking at the financials, FVTV has the money to purchase a high quality playback system. I would even suggest investing in getting an "on air" signal back out the FVTV (possibly via the WCC Microwave network) so that signal quality can be monitored by the staff.

In conclusion, I really hope that we can devote more time and money in creating a reliable and high quality playback system. Until we do, the image that the viewers in our towns see is that this is a toy and we are not really serious. Finally, when can I start submitting my programs with confidence that they will play back fine?

Somewhat unrelated – I would also like to request that all Meeting Minutes from FVTV Board meetings be posted on the FVTV web site after each meeting.

Denham Reynolds – FVTV Producer