

LETA EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

◆November 14, 2024◆ 12:00 PM ◆ LPB Board Room
◆7733 Perkins Road◆ Baton Rouge, LA

Members Present: Chris Wegmann, Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Dan Hare, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Tracie Woods.

Employees Present: Matt Tessier, Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Kathy Scherer, and Angela Bessix.

Others Present: Chris Pinell, Pinell & Martinez, LLC.

Call to Order: Chris Wegmann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: Dan Hare, Secretary, presented the minutes from the Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on September 13, 2024. A motion was made by Conrad Comeaux to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sonny Cranch. With all in favor the motion passed.

Audit Report: Chris Pinell, CPA with Pinell & Martinez, LLC, presented the independent audit report for the end of fiscal year 2024. He reported his firm is issuing an unmodified opinion certifying that LETA's financial statements are presented fairly and are materially correct. Mr. Pinell also reported that there were no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and no instances of noncompliance. Mr. Pinell noted that this is the thirteenth year his firm has prepared the audit.

Financial Report: Conrad Comeaux presented the LETA financial report. Conrad Comeaux made a motion to approve the financial report, which was seconded by Sonny Cranch. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Friends Report: Terri Crockett, Friends of LPB (FLPB) Executive Director, gave the FLPB report:

- Win the Wheels Raffle – Grand Prize is a 2025 Toyota Camry Hybrid with a value of \$29,840; Current revenue is \$14,500; Ends January 29, 2025.
- Dream Getaway Raffle – Will follow the Win the Wheels Raffle; Destination is unknown, but package will include a villa stay inclusive of day trips.
- A Very Merry Christmas Event with Daniel Tiger will take place at the LSU Rural Life and Burden Museum & Gardens, December 7, 2024, in conjunction with Louisiana Lights.

President's Report: Matt Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, presented the report for Clarence "C.C." Copeland, LPB President and CEO on the following:

- C.C. is attending APT (American Public Television) Fall Marketplace.
- The Precipice is being offered for national distribution at the APT Fall Marketplace and has received a good amount of commitments from APT member stations.
- Special tax session is currently underway in the Louisiana Legislature, and we are monitoring several movements underway:

- On the issue of the temporary .45% sales tax set to expire in 2025, the initial plan was to keep that tax in place, but an amendment was offered to reduce the tax to .40%.
- Loss of state revenue will result from the plan to reduce state income tax and corporate franchise tax.
- HB 7 is a constitutional amendment that among other things, would eliminate the Education Excellence Fund (EEF), which is used to enhance education across the state. We currently receive \$75,000 per year from the EEF, which will be lost under this constitutional amendment. The EEF money, under HB 7 will be re-allocated to pay off a portion of the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).
- Roof repair is underway, and solar panels will be installed soon. However, we're experiencing some leaking in the auditorium from water intrusion through the exterior side panels.
- Entergy came out to upgrade our powerlines so that we can convert to solar energy and save money on our power bill and to send electricity back to the grid, and several trees have been trimmed along our property.
- The HBCU short film about the Southern University Law Center was screened at the law center, and the event was a success. It premiered nationally on October 24, 2024, on Maryland Public Television's HBCU channel. It will also air again in February for Black History Month.
- LPB is working with the State Civil Service to update our specifications for jobs in the production, programming, and engineering departments to make those positions more attractive to candidates.
- We have three major large infrastructure projects currently ongoing: at KLPA (Alexandria) we're replacing the tower lighting system and painting the tower; at WLPB (Baton Rouge) we're also doing tower lighting and painting; and at KLTS (Shreveport) we're plumbing and tensioning the guy wires.
- Ethics and sexual harassment training must be completed by December 31, 2024.
- We have two board vacancies: David Tatman (LSBA Representative) resigned and Congressional District 5 has a vacancy to replace Irene Robinson.

Report of the Officer Nominating Committee: Dr. Laura Lindsay gave the following nominations for Louisiana Educational Television Authority officer positions:

- Chris Wegmann – Chair
- Tracie Woods – Vice Chair
- Dan Hare – Secretary
- Sonny Cranch – Treasurer

Chairman's Report: Chris Wegmann, Chair, reported the following items:

- Next LETA full board meeting will be December 12, 2024.
- Next Executive and Finance Committee Meeting will be January 9, 2025.
- 2025 board meeting dates are in members' binders.
- Members' pictures have been incorporated into the board roster.
- LETA Thanksgiving lunch is Thursday November 21st, 2024.
- The board should consider having an offsite meeting in Lafayette.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjournment: Chris Wegmann adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier