



EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2022

9:30 A.M.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Marta Bechtol, Executive Director

State Budget Update

ECB submitted its [biennial budget request](#) on September 15th. This request includes only standard budget adjustments for a biennial increase of just under \$800K.

FY21 – 23	GPR	\$ 11,970,200	FY23 – 25	GPR	\$ 12,190,600
Chapter 20	PR	\$ 30,066,900	Requested	PR	\$ 30,635,100
TOTAL		\$ 42,037,000	TOTAL		\$ 42,825,700

Our capital budget request was submitted on September 16th. It includes All Agency and small project requests for a total of \$5.3M. These projects have all been anticipated and planned as part of the agency’s 20-year rolling equipment forecast.

Federal Budget Update

The government is currently operating on a continuing resolution through December 16, 2022; there will be nothing new to report on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s (CPB) FY23 funding until after the midterm elections.

Last year, Congress provided FEMA’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) with \$40 million in the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act for a Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant program. This new competitive program will enable public media entities to replace equipment while at the same time enhancing critical alerting and warning capabilities in their communities.

Congress and FEMA have requested that CPB administer this grant program, with the intent that equipment funding be directed to small, rural and minority stations. More information will be distributed later this fall. The application process will open in the spring, and grants will be awarded in the summer of 2023.

ECB is evaluating our equipment and network needs in advance of the grant instructions so that we will be able to quickly assess our eligibility and prepare for opportunities that may be available to us through this new program.

Advocacy

We have completed eight transmitter/tower site open houses this summer. After two years of quarantine and limited travel, it was a pleasure to be connecting with staff in their respective regions again.



Milwaukee PBS Update

Renovations to accommodate the Milwaukee PBS equipment were completed in September. This work included minor space modifications along with new carpet and paint. With some uncommon-these-days supply chain serendipity, all was ready when the new console for WMVS arrived at the building. Final elements of technical work have been scheduled and we are prepared to meet our February deadline for go-live.

Broadband Access

I am participating in the third season of the Governor's Broadband Access Task Force. I will be attending the *Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off* on Tuesday, October 25 in Wausau to learn more about how ECB may assist in the statewide broadband efforts during this new phase of the taskforce.

Equity & Inclusion

The State of Wisconsin Bureau of Equity and Inclusion (BEI) shared a final report of their findings for ECB's equity and inclusion requirements and efforts. The report reiterated what they told us when the audit occurred: that the agency continues to make great progress on our Equity and Inclusion Plan.

BEI flagged two specific items: 1) two required employment posters that were missing in our agency workspaces; and 2) they asked us to write a new Veteran's Plan of Action which is underway. The first issue was quickly corrected, and the second will be completed no later than December of this year. ECB has exceeded the state's target for veterans employment since the goals were established in 2017.

ECB's internal Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee are reviewing the full report and addressing other recommendations to increase staff engagement in equity and inclusion in the agency.