

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)  
December 16, 2008, 6:30 PM

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**Call to Order**

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The meeting was called to order by Rick Saling, Executive Vice President. Six other members were present. Emily Baty, Mitch Miller, BJ Oriley, Jim Burdick, and Bill Montgomery were absent.

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**Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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The minutes of 11/11/08 were read and approved.

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**President's Report (Les French)**

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Les said he attended the AT&T Customer Service Professionals Conference in New Orleans. There he learned that CWA is well aware of the need for adjustments in AT&T monitoring techniques. He also spoke with representatives of CWA District 7, who told him they didn't know we hadn't received our CWA subsidy for 5 months. They said they would go to CWA VP Annie Hill to get this fixed and provide us with about \$50,000 for the 6 months through the end of December. When we get it, we will have the Finance Committee finalize the budget and the General Membership meeting approve the revisions, if any.

AT&T Mobility Human Resources gave us the go-ahead to hold SIF Training Jan. 5-9. Each person will be trained for one day, and we will shoot for 20 persons per day. The cost will be \$175 per day. The topics will be support of EFCA, the health care plan, and contract mobilization. Mitchell McMurry asked how the trainees will be identified. Les answered that the prime candidates are the 57 AT&T employees who answered our survey.

Regarding health care at AT&T, the arbitration decision was handed down today, and we expect some bad feelings about the result. For one thing, the co-pay went up from \$15 to \$20 per physician visit. Les will ask AT&T to do an orientation to explain it and re-enroll people.

Regarding officer training in late January, Les asked for input as to who thinks they need it the most. For budget reasons, he wants to limit it to 3 persons.

Les reported that contract negotiations just wound up for the Pierce County Management Group, and the contract will be drawn up in a few days. The automatic escalator clause ensures raises for the group for the next 3 years.

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**Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)**

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Mitchell presented the budget for November, showing a budget underrun and a checking account balance of \$59,089. The overrun is due to the CWA subsidy not coming in.

Mitchell was unhappy about a bill received from our contract accountant for \$4500 for 2½ years' work, and also the accountant's raise from a \$55 hourly rate to \$80. He suggested we might want to change our procedures for dealing with accountants and other professionals to avoid such surprises in the future.

Mitchell has created a calendar to pay our staff on the same schedule as AT&T's pay schedule. He expects that this will help the Finance Committee operate more rationally.

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**Membership Committee Report (BJ Oriley, Chair)**

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BJ was not here. Les said our at-large membership has stabilized at about 170. There was discussion of lowering the threshold at which we would elect an At-Large VP.

**Resolution:**

- The Membership Committee will study the question of lowering the threshold for electing an At-Large VP.

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**Communications Committee Report (Mitch Miller, Chair)**

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Mitch was not here. Rennie Sawade reported that Priyanka Joshi responded to an interview request from a French magazine. Radio station AM1090 asked if we were going to advertise with them in 2009, but Rennie told them he's not sure because the budget is not final yet. The proposed advertisements in The Nation are also undecided pending resolution of the budget problem.

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**Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)**

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Rennie reported that the new Facebook page is working very well. The problem with Les's e-mail has been fixed, and two new articles were posted on the new web site.

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**Legislative Committee Report (Curt Eidem, Chair)**

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Curt said he hasn't heard from CWA lobbyist Gail Love and thus does not know the current political positions of the State Labor Council. He mentioned that he is now Chair of the 38th District Democratic Committee, and Les asked if he had reported that to his employer (AT&T) as required in the AT&T Code of Business Conduct. Curt said he believed he was in compliance with the COBC but would recheck.

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**New Business**

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Secretary Brian Roberts asked if election of the committee chairs is a good idea considering many locals (if not most) staff their committees by appointment. A problem arises if chairs don't perform their duties: they can't be simply removed, but must be recalled in a special election. After discussion, the consensus was that, since the chairs each have a vote on the Planning Council, they must continue to be answerable to the general membership. Otherwise the President could "stack" the PC with his friends.

**Resolution:**

- Review the CWA Uniform Operating Procedures Manual (UOPM) to see if there are any good alternatives.

Mitchell asked how we determine if we have a quorum of the PC for making decisions. Curt replied that this is usually 50% under Robert's Rules of Order, but the consensus was that the PC meetings are not run according to Robert. Brian quoted the bylaws, which state that any number is a quorum for a general membership meeting if there is no call for a quorum count, and opined that this also applies to the PC.

**Resolution:**

- Review the CWA UOPM for guidance on the quorum question.

It was recommended that job descriptions be written for the committee chairs (more detailed than those now in the bylaws) so that candidates know, before putting their names on the ballot, what their duties will be.

**Resolution:**

- Brian volunteered to make first drafts of such job descriptions and share them with the PC.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary