

RECORD OF DECISIONS

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: April 20, 2012
Subject: **Decisions of Board at BBG Meeting of April 20, 2012**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today at OCB Headquarters in Miami, FL. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allows and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Alternate Presiding Governor Dennis Mulhaupt
Governor Victor Ashe
Governor Susan McCue
Governor Michael Meehan
Governor Enders S. Wimbush
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine

Presiding Governor Michael Lynton and Governor Dana Perino were not in attendance at the meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of March 8, 2012 Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the March 8, 2012 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 1.
2. Resolution Honoring Ambassador Kathleen Stephens. The Board adopted a draft resolution thanking and honoring Ambassador Kathleen Stephens for her service as Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs and the Secretary of State's designee to the BBG. The resolution is set forth in Attachment 2.
3. Adoption of Strategy and Budget Committee Recommendations. The Board heard a report from Governor Meehan regarding the Strategy and Budget Committee meeting held on April 10, 2012:
 - a. Governor Meehan noted that the Board had heard a briefing on April 19 from a working group formed at the request of the Strategy and Budget Committee to develop a holistic plan for broadcasting to China, including Tibet. The working group members included: David Ensor, the Director of the Voice of America

(VOA), Libby Liu, the President of Radio Free Asia (RFA), Bruce Sherman, the Director of Strategy and Development, Andre Mendes, the Director of Technology Services and Innovation, and Maryjean Buhler, the BBG Chief Financial Officer.

- b. Based on the Committee's recommendation, the Board agreed with the recommendation of the working group that funding in the Agency's proposed FY 2013 budget for broadcasting to China, including Tibet, should be restored to FY 2012 levels. The proposal also includes a VOA proposal for satellite television capability in China.
 - c. The Board directed the IBB Director to report at the next meeting of the Strategy and Budget Committee on ways to pay for the recommended restoration of funding for broadcasting to China through partial KU band migration, acceleration of the Poro Transmitting Station closure, and other means of transmission optimization. The IBB Director should also consider opportunities to reduce management costs.
4. Adoption of Governance Committee Recommendations. The Board heard a briefing from Governor Ashe on proposed amendments to the BBG By-Laws, the March 9, 2012 Governance Committee listening session, and a proposed change to the July 2012 Board meeting dates. The Board adopted the following recommendations by the Governance Committee:
- a. Amendments to BBG By-Laws. The Board adopted the following amendments to the BBG By-Laws:
 - i. An amendment to clarify that the Chair of the Board is a non-voting, ex officio member of all committees as set forth in Attachment 3.
 - ii. An amendment incorporating the statement of authorities of the Presiding Governor and alternate Presiding Governor as set forth in Attachment 4.
 - iii. An amendment incorporating the protocol for the release of materials from closed Board meetings as set forth in Attachment 5.
 - b. Change to July 2012 Board Meeting Date. The Board decided to change the date of the July 2012 meeting (as previously approved in December 2011). The Board requested Governors Lynton and Mulhaupt to select a new date for the July 2012 Board meeting with the Board's concurrence.
5. Decision on Grantee Consolidation. The Board received a briefing from Dick Lobo, the IBB Director, and Brian Conniff, the Board's designated Project Leader and President of Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), on the Grantee Consolidation Plan submitted to the Board as directed by the Board in January 2012. The Board adopted the following decisions:
- a. The Board noted the January 2012 decision announcing its intention to issue the three grants which BBG currently makes separately to Radio Free Europe/Radio

Liberty, RFA, and MBN to a single, consolidated grantee (when created) subject to Administration approval, Congressional consultation and guidance, and other due diligence and the implementation of a consolidation transaction plan.

- b. The Board noted the Grantee Consolidation Plan submitted by the IBB Director describing anticipated savings of approximately \$10 million beginning in FY 2014 with an initial upfront, one-time implementation cost of \$4.5 million.
- c. The Board requested that the Governance Committee examine the plan at its May 24, 2012 meeting with a view toward making a recommendation to the plenary Board at the appropriate time thereafter.
- d. The Board directed the IBB Director to begin, with the consultation and concurrence of the Governance Committee, the process of identifying professional advisers who may be necessary to implement the transaction if the Board decides to move forward. (Passed by a 5-1 vote. Governor Ashe voted 'no'.)
- e. The Board directed the IBB Director to prepare the Grantee Consolidation Plan for public release on the BBG's public website as soon as practicable.

Dennis Mulhaupt
Alternate Presiding Governor

Witnessed:

Paul Kollmer-Dorsey
Secretary

Attachments:

1. Minutes of March 8, 2012 Meeting
2. Resolution Honoring Ambassador Kathleen Stephens
3. By-Law Amendment Clarifying Board Chair as Non-Voting, Ex Officio Member of All Committees
4. By-Law Amendment Incorporating Statement of Authorities of Presiding and Alternate Presiding Governor
5. By-Law Amendment Incorporating the Protocol for the Release of Materials from Closed Board Meetings