



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: February 25, 2014
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of February 25, 2014**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today at the headquarters of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) Headquarters in Springfield, VA. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Susan McCue
Governor Michael Meehan
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel

Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

Chairman Shell noted that the meeting was being held at the headquarters of the Middle East Broadcast Networks in Springfield, Virginia. He thanked MBN President Brian Conniff for MBN's hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel, who was nominated to the position in September 2013 and confirmed by the Senate on February 11. He stated that Mr. Stengel is Secretary of State John Kerry's delegated representative to the Board and invited Mr. Stengel to introduce himself.

Chairman Shell noted the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, and that the Board may conduct business based on majority vote, a quorum being present.

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The Chairman said that today's meeting follows the new format consisting of a session on Board business, a panel discussion on the perceptions of the United States throughout the Middle East, and a 'deep dive' on MBN.

Chairman Shell stated that the BBG has had grim reminders of the many risks its journalists face in the line of their professional duties and noted that harassment, attempted intimidation and attacks on journalists have spiked in the wake of mass protests in Ukraine. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reporter Dmytro Barkar and cameraman Ihor Iskhakov were attacked by members of Ukraine's Berkut police force while reporting from Kyiv's Maidan. Other BBG journalists were also subject to attacks and smear campaigns after reporting on the Euromaidan protests. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman urged that perpetrators of these acts, as well as those who ordered such behavior, be held accountable for their actions.

At the Chairman's invitation, Governor Armstrong reported on his visit to Kyiv in late January where he and RFE/RL President Kevin Klose met brave Voice of America (VOA) and RFE/RL journalists working under the dangerous conditions. Governor Armstrong briefly described the fast-moving events in Ukraine and expressed his appreciation and respect to VOA and RFE/RL journalists for their courage and professionalism and for their collaboration and coverage of the protests and political instability, which provided a balanced look at the news of Ukraine for audiences who might not otherwise get an objective picture.

The Chairman highlighted the following threats to other BBG journalists: (1) In Cambodia, the government has restricted independent press, including denying expanded licensing for the independent Beehive Radio, which carried BBG programming, and issued a report falsely accusing Radio Free Asia and VOA of manipulating the news; (2) In Burma and in China, BBG journalists have been denied access to press briefings; (3) In the Democratic Republic of Congo, VOA stringer Austere Malivika was repeatedly harassed by a senior official of the DRC army; (4) In China, police officers pushed around VOA Mandarin correspondent Fred Wang while he was taking photos and shooting video; (5) In Azerbaijan, RFE/RL's Khadija Ismayilova is being criminally investigated on allegations of revealing state secrets in apparent retaliation for her reporting on government corruption and that ruling party members of the Azeri parliament have referred to Ismayilova and RFE/RL as a "spy network of the United States"; (6) Also in Azerbaijan, a reporter for VOA who was covering a student demonstration in Baku was attacked and beaten by a security officer; (7) In Russia, Russian State TV showed an anti-American film amidst wall-to-wall Olympics coverage that included comments that RFE/RL was created as an agreement between the U.S. Administration and former Nazi officials, and Dozhd TV, which carries some programming from VOA, has been pushed off cable and satellite TV channels; and (8) in Egypt, the government crackdown on foreign journalists continues and journalists remain under very heavy scrutiny such as four Al Jazeera staff members who were detained and three who are facing trial under terrorism-related charges. In closing, the Chairman stated that the Board is troubled over these ongoing efforts to suppress and discredit independent media.

Chairman Shell noted that, as the meeting was being held at MBN headquarters, it reminded everyone that Alhurra's Bashar Fahmi remains missing in Syria, following an August 2012

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reporting trip in Aleppo. On behalf of the Board, he called for anybody with information about Bashar's whereabouts or well-being to come forward.

Turning to BBG business, Chairman Shell described two items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: (1) Draft minutes of December 18, 2013 Board meeting, and (2) a resolution honoring Alhurra's 10th anniversary. There being no comments, Governor McCue made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Governor Armstrong seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the consent agenda.

The Chairman announced that Mr. Klose had informed the Board of his intention to end his term as RFE/RL President effective March 1, 2014. He thanked Mr. Klose for his service to this organization over the last year and commented that Mr. Klose's leadership has assured RFE/RL's place in the forefront of independent journalism in an area of the world where uncensored news and information is in short supply. He noted that the Board will discuss options regarding interim leadership for RFE/RL as the Board begins a search for a President, and that an announcement will be made in the near future. There followed remarks from Mr. Klose praising the staff of RFE/RL, both Prague and D.C., for their work and dedication in the mission and comments from the Governors thanking Mr. Klose for his service.

Chairman Shell recognized the attendance of two members of the public and that Ann Noonan, Executive Director of Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting, had registered to speak but was not able to attend due to a family matter. He said the Board is interested in hearing from members of the public and urged them to register to address the Board at future meetings.

In conclusion of BBG business, the Chairman said that the Board has been very pleased about the interim management structure thus far. Particularly, he noted the collaboration between the team and the various offices such as the Office of Chief Financial Officer, Office of General Counsel, and the BBG-sponsored grantees in the formulation and submission of the FY 2015 budget.

The Board took a short recess and reconvened in MBN's studio for a panel discussion on the perceptions of the United States throughout the Middle East, which was moderated by Governor Crocker. The panel included Hisham Melhem, Washington Bureau Chief of Al Arabiya News Channel, and Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief of Al-Jazeera International.

Upon conclusion of the panel discussion, the Board took a brief recess and reconvened in the same studio for an overview of MBN presented by Mr. Conniff and several MBN managers.

There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned 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 December 18, 2013 Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the December 18, 2013 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.

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2. Resolution Honoring Alhurra's 10th Anniversary. The Board adopted the resolution honoring Alhurra's 10th anniversary as set forth in Attachment 3.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) Director of Global Strategy, Robert Bole, Director of Global Communications and BBG Executive Director Suzie Carroll, Director of Global Operations Andre Mendes, General Counsel and Board Secretary Paul Kollmer-Dorsey, Chief Financial Officer Leslie Hyland, Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran, Board Operations and Policy Adviser Ashley Lancaster; David Ensor, Director of the Voice of America; Carlos Garcia-Perez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting; Kevin Klose, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Dan Sreebny, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; Dina Badawy, NEA Bureau, U.S. Department of State; and Robert Torres, Coordinator for International Broadcasting, Office of Inspector General.

Approved:

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

Paul Kollmer-Dorsey
Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for February 25, 2014 Meeting
2. Minutes of December 18, 2013 Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring Alhurra's 10th Anniversary

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ATTACHMENT 1

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS February 2014 Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 25

Location: Middle East Broadcasting Networks
Suite D
7600 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153
Contact: Deirdre Kline at 202-340-0351

9:30 – 1:30 Broadcasting Board of Governors’ Open Meeting (1st Floor Studio)

Chairman’s Remarks

A. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of December 18, 2013 Meeting
- Resolution Honoring Alhurra’s 10th Anniversary

B. Public Comments

10:00 Break

C. Panel Discussion – Perceptions of the U.S. throughout the Middle East

11:40 Break

A. MBN Overview

B. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

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ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: December 18, 2013
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of December 18, 2013**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today at BBG Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by members of the public and was also open for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Susan McCue
Governor Michael Meehan
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Douglas Frantz

Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

Chairman Shell noted the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, and that the Board may conduct business based on majority vote, a quorum being present.

The Chairman said that the Board had envisioned its primary functions as follows: 1) To prescribe governance; 2) to provide oversight; and 3) to set strategic directions. He added that, while the Board had focused its attention on governance in the past, today's meeting represents the debut of the new format, focusing more on providing oversight and strategic direction. He noted that this new format may evolve over time, but today, the meeting will begin with an in-depth review of Voice of America (VOA), followed by a panel discussion featuring Reed Hastings, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Netflix.

Chairman Shell highlighted threats to BBG journalists in recent months: (1) In November, Radio Free Asia's young reporter, Moe Thu Aung, passed away after he was severely injured in a traffic

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accident while on assignment; (2) On November 30, Elyas Dayee, an Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Afghan Service correspondent was detained for three hours by security forces on the order of the local governor in Helmand Province in Afghanistan because of a live report he made on a suicide bombing; and (3) Over the last few months, RFE/RL was targeted by cyber attacks.

The Chairman reported that while China, Cuba, Iran and other countries continue to keep their citizens from accessing news from our networks, BBG has innovated to keep news accessible using tools ranging from satellite transmissions to paper flash drives. This innovative spirit, coupled with high-quality, reliable news and information programming, has made it possible to grow BBG's global reach to an unprecedented level. BBG programming now reaches a weekly audience of more than 206 million people.

Turning to BBG business, Chairman Shell described two items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: (1) Draft minutes of October 23 Board meeting, and (2) a set of amended BBG By-Laws reflecting changes adopted by the Board and the proposed technical amendments to conform with the approved amendments. There being no comments, Governor Crocker made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Governor Armstrong seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the consent agenda.

The Chairman said that, with the departure of Dick Lobo and given the vacant IBB Director position, the Board would like to propose a resolution to create an interim management structure to manage the day-to-day operations of the Agency until such time as a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of U.S. international broadcasting (USIB) is selected. He stated that the process of identifying and hiring a CEO will take some time, and that the Board was not willing to wait to make needed reforms. He announced the interim leadership structure: Andre Mendes who will serve as Director of Global Operations; Suzie Carroll who will serve as Director of Global Communications; and Robert Bole, who will serve as Director of Global Strategy.

In addition, Governor Matt Armstrong will be designated as the Board's management liaison and work closely with this team. The Chairman stated that this interim team has been challenged by the Board to make improvements in advance of the arrival of a CEO.

The Chairman explained that a reprogramming notification will be submitted to the relevant Congressional oversight committees. He expressed his belief that the interim leadership team would be in place on/about January 6, 2014. Upon the Chairman's call for a Board vote, Governor McCue made a motion to adopt the resolution. Governor Crocker seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

The Chairman noted that, for more than 15 years, Jeffrey Trimble has served with distinction and success, as an editorial executive, manager and senior official in a variety of roles in U.S. international broadcasting – including as acting President of RFE/RL for a year and half, as BBG Executive Director for nearly four years, and as IBB Deputy Director for the last year. Chairman Shell noted that the Board was considering a number of options but plans to announce an important new role for Mr. Trimble in the near future.

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In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Ann Noonan, Executive Director of Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting, to address the Board for three minutes.

The Board took a short recess and reconvened in Studio 47 in the Cohen Building for an overview of VOA presented by VOA Director David Ensor. Upon conclusion, the Board took a brief recess and reconvened in the BBG-IBB Conference Room in the Cohen Building for a panel discussion on the transition of international media organizations in the digital age, which included a conversation between Chairman Shell and Netflix CEO Reed Hastings and a discussion moderated by Mr. Bole and participation by the following panelists: Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix; Tom Cochran, Chief Technology Officer of Atlantic Media; and Macon Phillips, Coordinator for the Bureau of International Information Programs of the U.S. Department of State.

There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned 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 October 23, 2013 Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the October 23, 2013 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Amended BBG By-Laws. The Board adopted the full set of amended By-Laws reflecting changes previously adopted by the Board and proposed technical amendments as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution to Create an Interim Agency Management Structure. The Board adopted the resolution, as amended, to create an interim management structure as set forth in Attachment 4.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) Deputy Director Jeffrey Trimble, Chief of Staff Marie Lennon, Executive Director Suzie Carroll, General Counsel and Board Secretary Paul Kollmer-Dorsey, Chief Financial Officer Leslie Hyland, Director of Communications & External Affairs Lynne Weil, Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran, Director of Strategy and Development Bruce Sherman, Director of Public Affairs Letitia King, Public Affairs Specialist Anastasia Kolobrodova, Writer-Editor (Multimedia) Laurie Moy, and Assistant General Counsel (Fiscal & Policy) David Kligerman; IBB Director of Performance Review Kelu Chao; IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services and Innovation Andre Mendes; IBB Director of Innovation Robert Bole; IBB Associate Director for Program Support Gary Thatcher; IBB Director of Marketing Doug Boynton; IBB Regional Marketing Officer for West and Central Africa Joyce Ngho; IBB Regional Marketing Officer for East & Southern Africa Paula Caffey; IBB Regional Marketing Officer for East and Southeast Asia Birgit Berg; IBB Regional Marketing Officer for

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Latin America Oscar Barcelo; IBB Regional Marketing Officer for Eurasia Adam Gartner; David Ensor, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Carlos Garcia-Perez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting; Kevin Klose, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Rebecca McMnamin, VOA Acting Associate Director for Language Programming; Benjamin Herman, RFE/RL Deputy General Counsel; Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Director of Corporate Strategy and Operations; Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Dan Sreebny, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; and Brett P. Bruen, Director of Global Engagement, National Security Council.

Approved:

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

Paul Kollmer-Dorsey
Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for December 18, 2013 Meeting
2. Minutes of October 23, 2013 Meeting
3. Amended BBG By-Laws
4. Resolution to Create an Interim Management Structure

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ATTACHMENT 3

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALHURRA TELEVISION OF THE MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS

February 25, 2014

WHEREAS, Alhurra Television was launched on February 14, 2004, is part of Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. and will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014;

WHEREAS, Alhurra broadcasts accurate and objective news and information to the Middle East and North Africa;

WHEREAS, Alhurra's dedicated and talented staff of journalists risk their lives every day to report from the region's most dangerous hotspots and provide viewers up-to-the-minute news;

WHEREAS, Alhurra operates a separate Iraq channel (Alhurra-Iraq) that is one of the top television news stations in that country, providing newscasts and current affairs programs produced by Iraqis and for Iraqis, which is also celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014;

WHEREAS, Alhurra explains U.S. foreign policy to millions of Arabic-speaking viewers and is the only Arabic-language channel with dedicated correspondents at the White House, U.S. Department of State, Congress and the Pentagon;

WHEREAS, Alhurra frequently covers topics not regularly addressed in the region's media, including human rights, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech;

WHEREAS, Alhurra expands the spectrum of ideas, opinions and perspectives available in the region's media;

WHEREAS, Alhurra provides extensive coverage of Americana, the American people and American values, and thereby builds understanding between the U.S. and the region; and

WHEREAS, Alhurra serves as a multi-media platform, reaching audiences through television, Alhurra.com and social media platforms, so that Arabic speakers can receive credible news in a way that is convenient to them.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 10th anniversary of Alhurra Television.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board applauds and thanks current and former members of the Alhurra team for their dedication to professional journalism for the past decade.