

operate through a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partnership. Board members expressed support for establishing the center, and Mr. Smith expressed his particular appreciation for PSC partnering with community organizations to help veterans. Chief Deputy Hobbs moved for approval, Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Action:** WSRE Transition Plan – Approved

a. Termination of PBS Affiliation

Dr. Meadows discussed the ongoing funding challenges facing WSRE. Dr. Meadows recommended that WSRE end its affiliation with PBS.

For information purposes only, Dr. Meadows explained that the College is in the very early stages of exploring potentially partnering with Dr. Meadows introduced a plan to transition from the current PBS affiliation to a new public network called ECHO-TV (Education, Community, Health, and Opportunity), which would allow the college greater control over programming and reduce overall operating costs by about half. He Dr. Meadows explained that the WSRE Foundation raises about \$660,000 annually to support the station, which covers only part of its expenses. A general discussion ensued about the continued amount of support the College would need to provide WSRE under the various pathways forward. There was also some discussion among the Trustees and staff about whether these amounts included or excluded overhead costs. Under the proposed plan, WSRE would still require \$900,000 in annual support from the College, in addition to insurance and utilities. Income generated through the use of WSRE's facilities for production services and other outside contracts is estimated to be \$250,000 annually. Dr. Meadows also recommended using all available grant funds for WSRE during the transition. Board members Dr. Tippet requested clearer information on WSRE's financial structure, including how much the college currently contributes and what costs would remain under the new plan. Mr. Smith added a question about the expected ongoing overhead costs.

Chief Deputy Hobbs expressed concerns about free public access to children's programs and community events such as Be My Neighbor Day. Mr. Smith expressed his concern with ECHO being a new public network with a limited online presence. He requested more information about the company and confirmation that it would be a sustainable path forward.

Upon concluding the discussions, Dr. Meadows recommended formally terminating the affiliation with PBS, effective June 30, 2026, which is the end of the current fiscal year, and pursuing a transition plan to ECHO-TV. Mr. Smith moved to approve the recommendation, and Dr. Tippet seconded the motion. Chief Deputy Hobbs voted no. The motion carried by a majority.

- b. Decertify the WSRE Foundation as a Direct Support Organization of the College;
- c. Begin the process of reducing select positions that support the WSRE Foundation by December 2025;
- d. End fundraising activities of the WSRE Foundation by December 2025; and
- e. Optimize all available grant funding to support WSRE during the transition.