

**Spokane Public Radio  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 20th, 2025 @ 5:30 pm  
SPR Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Board Members Present:** Steve Faust, Tony Flinn, Sally Winkle (Zoom), Dan Fratini, Sam Jennings (Zoom), Ira Amstadter (Zoom), Rick Shaffer (Zoom), John Decker, Heather Beebe (Zoom), Jess Ponikvar (Zoom)

Others Present: John Decker, Tom Lee, Robert Clauser (NETA)

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The chair offered an opportunity for public comment. There was none

**Minutes.** On motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the September board meeting were approved as presented.

**Financial report.** There was no financial report available for October.

Robert Clauser (NETA), explained that SPR and NETA are working on migrating to the new systems to “modernize” our financial reporting, bringing both technical and procedural improvements for efficiency and security. He stated SPR’s team has been extremely responsive and that NETA’s staff “are playing catchup”. He assured the board that he’ll have October financials for us tomorrow (Friday 11/21) or next week and added that all onboarding activity relative to payroll and HR are in a good position and that SPR appears to controlling expenses “very thoughtfully.”

Responding to a director’s question, Clauser stated it was reasonable to expect financials to be ready ten days after close in normal circumstances. He and John believe revenue is in good shape, but they’re considering the prospect that contributions may decline in future as the awareness fades of the impact of cuts in federal support.

Asked if we have controls over spending in excess of specific limits, such as requiring 2 signatures, John indicated we currently require 2 signatures for all checks and that once the SPR is used to the new system we will establish a single signature requirement for expenditures under a set limit – all to be determined.

Other financial news:

- We haven’t yet paid the 16K for the new batteries for the antennae
- NPR is forgiving a 12K debt, and 26K in pledge back from NPR
- SPR is well ahead of its goal for fundraising through October.
- We’re behind on underwriting, with a slow start to the year, but we won’t be keeping on delinquent underwriting clients anymore.

- John explains the holiday food matching funds: SPR raises the funds for SPR and then will donate half the raised amount to selected food banks. We're already at 17K of the 20K goal.
- Starting on giving Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we'll have one day of live pledging and then running spots for the rest of the month. The holiday fundraising goal is 200K.

**Operations.** John reported we have contracted a consultant who will be starting research on the needs and preferences of the rural audiences in January, with results to be presented in April. John intends to include the hiring of a reporter to focus on rural communities in the FY 2027 budget with the goal to hire that person in July, 2026. This is about when the current Murrow fellowship supporting Monica's reporting in rural communities will expire.

John is also looking into the development of an SPR app that will do "what our website can or should do" and carry all 3 streams of programming. He anticipates the cost will be from 4 to 6K *per year*; and is looking to contract with a firm that specializes in "public media apps" during the first quarter of FY 2026.

An SPR News Now podcast will see a "soft launch" in the first week of December. Owen Henderson is hosting and building content for this podcast.

We'll also be joining and contributing to the "Classical Life Newsletter" – an e-newsletter for classical listeners which SPR can customize to some degree with local content and sponsors. The only cost here is staff time, soft launch expected in December.

**Development committee.** Heather reported that we're considering an event in winter with Noelle King of "The Day Explained," but that's not confirmed yet. Jess Walter will be available for "an evening with..." in November 2026.

John thanked the board members for their gratitude calls to about 150 Sound circle members. SPR may also need help in preparing correspondence to distribute the tote bag premium from the Fall fund drive.

Steve then asked to move the meeting to Executive Session. This was done at 6:15 pm on motion duly made and seconded.

The board returned to regular session and adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm

Tony Flinn, Secretary