

KSUT Board Meeting

May 20, 2026

Attending: Kirsten, Susan, Beth, Robert, Mikki, Meg

Absent: James, Mike, Eddie

Non-excused absences: Mike, Eddie

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm

Agenda: A revision was called for to add discussion of the Round Dance to the agenda under an Executive Session to discuss the incident related to safety. Robert made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Susan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes for April 15: Kirsten would like to see documentation of excused/non-excused absences in future minutes.

Revision: Under the policy review section – TSI should be TIS. Meg made a motion to approve the minutes with revisions, seconded by Susan, and unanimously approved.

Q2 budget to actual – Midyear revisions will be presented at the June meeting. Tami reported we are in good shape: fundraising is going well and expenses are aligned or lower than prorated.

Robb pointed out the numbers under pledges/membership, which exceeds the projected goal by quite a bit. Other items – when they start working on the midyear budget adjustment, there may be some updates to grant income. An item that is not reflected in this report is the receipt of the ERT tax credit, which will appear in the next reporting period. Due to earned interest on the funds, the total received is greater than expected.

Robb said they are actively working to save money to add to the operational reserve. The budgeted amount is \$341,000 and he plans to increase this to \$400,000. Because the BIA grant is a one-time thing, they are planning for next year when there will be no federal funding. Tami added that there is a lot of discussion by legislators regarding restoring some funding to Tribal stations.

Susan asked where the print ad revenue was in the budget—perhaps rolled into another line item? Robb/Tami to investigate.

Accounting separation progress – Robb is working with Jamie and they have really ramped up preparation for this to occur. Starting in May, they will conduct a “soft burn-in” by taking on

some of the accounts payable (AP). Robb will begin writing checks and setting up electronic payments rather than submitting invoices to the Tribe. Jamie will track activities. This initial activity will help Robb and Jamie work out any issues in the transition. Jamie is working on importing payment data from the Tribe's records (payables process, vendors) and she and Robb have been reviewing/refining the chart of accounts and how banking activities are feeding to Quickbooks. This trial of taking over AP will give them a head start on ironing out any difficulties through the transition over the next year.

Jamie has expertise with grants and grant money tracking, so ultimately Jamie and her staff will handle the AP accounting. This will allow Robb to step back from the accounting functions he has performed in the past. Over the next year, his involvement with accounting will lessen and it will give him more time for business management responsibilities and budgeting. This will help take some pressure off Tami too.

Per Robb, the challenge will be payroll – they will stay with Tribe through Sept and shift Oct. 1 to The Payroll Department (TPD). They are having ongoing discussions with TPD regarding the transition. TPD has a new system that allows employees to enter their time on their phones (or a PC). KSUT will purchase a new time clock that integrates with the new system.

Tami added they will stay with the Tribe on their retirement program and the Workers Comp policy will move to the state from the Tribe. KSUT will stay under Tribe's property insurance (because building owned by the tribe). Tami and Robb are not sure how this will affect cost of worker's comp insurance yet. As for health insurance, that has been separated from the Tribe and KSUT received a refund on premiums from last year, so the cost has been less than when health insurance went through the Tribe.

ED Report – Tami expressed her thanks to those board members who attended the Round Dance. It was a positive experience, and Jessica already has a sponsor in mind for the next year. They hope to make it an annual event.

Repairs on the Towaoc site are moving forward. Some hard costs were incurred due to damaged equipment (~\$3,000), however, Meg is confident we will recoup those expenses.

Tami is excited about solar project. The Structural Engineer is coming next week and work could start in June. The station is allowed to generate up to 150% of their annual energy use, which should offset some expenses from other sites (through credit for excess power generated). KSUT is getting an EV plug-in as part of the deal.

Kirsten expressed her excitement regarding the news that Jill is training to pick up some airtime. That's been on her mind because of future retirement of staff. Tami added that succession will be a component of the strategic plan. Robert added he is happy with the recent additions (Ian and others) to Tribal radio.

Robert asked if there are any updates on NPR suit. Tami reported she's heard no word of an appeal being filed by the Trump administration.

Strategic planning: Tami reported she is coming to end of the stakeholder engagement (surveys) portion of the planning. The email newsletter going out will have a link to the survey and they will promote it through social media and the website. The staff and major donor survey will go out next week. By the next board meeting Tami will provide the board with a summary of the survey information and perhaps the 3-5 areas of focus.

Conforming the Board Retreat - Sept 18—The board will move forward with that date.

ED evaluation process – Kirsten reported the executive committee has finalized surveys for staff and board as well as Tami's self-evaluation. There's only one minor adjustment Kirsten is making to the board survey to accommodate the gap in time since the last ED evaluation. Surveys and compensation info will be sent out next week. Kirsten suggested Tami provide a report to the board that discusses goals/activities that have taken place since the last review. That will help give a picture of successes and provide some background for new board members.

----- *Executive Session – Event Discussion*

Tami reminded everyone of upcoming events: SKA, June 12. The board may be able to help by selling merchandise. Tami will let us know.

Next meeting June 17.

Motion to adjourn made by Meg; seconded by Robert. Unanimously passed

Adjourned 7:31 pm