

**Spokane Public Radio
Board of Directors Meeting
July 17, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
SPR Conference Room, 2nd floor**

Board Members Present: Elise Azara, Heather Beebe-Stevens, Steve Faust, Tony Flinn, Dan Fratini, David Funk, Sam Jennings, Catherine Kashork, and Jess Ponikvar.

Others Present: John Decker (GM), Sally Winkle, and Brandon Hollingsworth.

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Steve began the meeting noting he had agreed to a request of Brandon Hollingsworth to join the meeting by Zoom. Steve noted he did not wish to establish a precedent regarding members of the public attending board meetings by Zoom and that there were issues of security and potential disruption to work through before SPR should take that step. Until a policy is in place, Steve will deal with requests as they arise.

Steve then offered the opportunity for public comment. Brandon stated that he appreciated being allowed to attend by Zoom and that he hoped SPR would adopt some more general policy allowing for this in the future.

- 1) **Minutes.** On motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the May 8 regular meeting of the Board, both in public and executive session, were approved as submitted.
- 2) **Financial Report.** A financial report was provided in the board packet, consisting of balance sheet as of June 30, 2025, a profit & loss statement from July 2024 through June 2025, and a cash flow analysis.

John noted that revenue in May and June reflected strong response to SPR's on-line pledging for Public Media Giving days and through the end of the fiscal year. Corporate support for the year was 11% under budget but also consistent with the average level of underwriting sales over the past 5 years. We will need to do much better in FY 2026.

On the expense side, John's sense is that SPR over-estimated many of its expenses in the FY 2024 budget and managed to come in under budget on many expense items. A notable exception was rent, and rental payments for many of our transmitter/translator locations increased in FY 24.

After some additional, brief discussion, and on motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the directors voted to accept the financials report.

- 3) **Operations Report.** Staff Reports were included in the board packet.

Addressing questions from Board members, John indicated it was unlikely SPR would receive any federal funding through an exception in the bill that defunded the CPB, the exception being for tribally run stations. John added that the existing appropriations for CPB for both FY 2026 and 2027 have now been reversed, and that it is unclear what relevance the CPB will have to public media after these actions take effect. John added that with CPB funding gone, SPR's message will focus on what we can control.

On the status of SPR's plan to move to consistent program formats for each of our 3 stations, John indicated the changes will take effect on August 4, and that staff has been working hard to make sure implementation goes smoothly.

John also advised that with the pending resignation of Debbie Crocker, SPR has been working to outsource our finance, HR, and accounting functions to the National Educational Television Association (NETA), which provides similar services to KSPS and many other public media organizations. Steve added that the executive committee had reviewed NETA's proposal with John during its meeting on July 10, and was supportive of the move to retain NETA.

- 4) **Nominations.** The report of the Nominating Committee was included in the board packet. Committee chair Sam Jennings described the committee's process of receiving and reviewing applications and interviewing each person who applied. Sam reported that the committee recommends Ira Amstadter and Sally Winkle to serve on the board.
- 5) **Election of Directors.** Steve noted there are three positions to fill on the board, one of which is held by Tony Flinn, and that each position carries a 3 year term ending in July 2027.

After discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, Ira Amstadter, Tony Flinn, and Sally Winkle were unanimously elected to fill these positions. Sally then joined in the meeting as a director and participated in the remaining business of the meeting.

- 6) **Election of Officers.** After discussion, on motion made and duly seconded, the board unanimously elected a slate of officers for FY 2026:
 - Chair – Steve Faust
 - Vice Chair – Sam Jennings
 - Treasurer – Catherine Kashork
 - Secretary – Tony Flinn

Following the vote, John expressed his appreciation to the officers and the full Board for their support and assistance to him since he began as GM in January.

- 7) **Meeting Schedule for FY 2026.** A proposed meeting schedule was included in the board packet. On motion duly made and seconded, the board unanimously approved the meeting schedule as proposed. It is annexed to these minutes.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board then resolved to move to executive session at 6:03 pm to discuss matters relating to executive compensation and the proposed vendor relationship with NETA. The GM remained present for this discussion at the request of the Board.

The Board returned to public session at 6:31 pm.

- 8) **Budget for FY 2026.** A copy of the proposed budget for FY 26 was provided in the board packet. John noted that this budget includes some changes from the version presented on May 8. Among other things, the budget presented assumes no federal funding in FY 26, and assumes that SPR will contract with NETA to provide support in the areas of finance, accounting, and HR.

Responding to questions from the Board, John noted that the revenue goals from individual contributions for FY 26 (items 501-515) are essentially at the same levels SPR achieved in FY 25. Discussion followed regarding various ideas to generate revenue.

After discussion, on motion was made and seconded, the budget was approved as proposed.

- 9) **Development Committee Formed.** Building on the discussion of ideas to generate more revenue, on motion duly made and seconded, the Board established a Development Committee, consisting of Heather Beebe-Stevens (chair), Tony Flinn, Dan. Fratini, and Elise. The Committee, which will replace the Finance Committee, is tasked to work with John to plan and execute fund raising strategies and events, and to assist with building SPR's capacity for fund development through more effective use of its contributor database and other resources.
- 10) **Staff-Board Lunch.** The Board resolved to host a year-end lunch for board and staff to celebrate the end of the fiscal year, like the event held last August. Catherine and Steve will see to the arrangements and gather the necessary funds from the board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

Steve Faust, Chair

SPOKANE PUBLIC RADIO
SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FY 2025-2026

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors of Spokane Public Radio will take place on the following dates, each beginning at 5:30 pm, at the offices of Spokane Public Radio:

July 17, 2025

September 18, 2025

November 20, 2025

January 15, 2026

March 19, 2026

May 21, 2026

July 16, 2026