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**Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2026**

The Iowa Public Radio, Inc. Board of Directors met on March 26, 2026, at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, 1910 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines. Present for the meeting were Directors Ken Brown, Greg Schnirring, Alejandro Hernandez, Kaye Lozier, Susan Brennan, Katie Roth, Grant Veeder, Ardis Kelley, Renee Schaaf, Chris Martin, Helen Miller, Mark Nolte, Chuck Swanson, Andrea Welchans, David Yepsen and Nora Everett. Directors Libby Jacobs, Mary Rayburn, and Brian Waller were absent. Present at the meeting site from Iowa Public Radio were Myrna Johnson, Lynn Jones-Folsom, Andrea Hansen, Jason Burns, Michael Leland, Katherine Perkins and Jordan Bahnsen. Joining virtually for IPR were Keaton Scovel-Willett and Matt Sieren.

Co-Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Libby Jacobs – not present	Ken Brown – present at meeting site
Greg Schnirring – present at meeting site	Kaye Lozier – present at meeting site
Alejandro Hernandez – present at meeting site	Susan Brennan – virtual from Iowa City
Katie Roth – virtual from West Des Moines	Grant Veeder – present at meeting site
Ardis Kelley – virtual from Urbandale	Renee Schaaf – present at meeting site
Chris Martin – virtual from Cedar Falls	Helen Miller – virtual from Des Moines
Mark Nolte – virtual from Iowa City	Mary Rayburn – not present
Chuck Swanson – virtual from Coralville	Brian Waller – not present
Andrea Welchans – virtual from Humboldt	David Yepsen – present at meeting site
Nora Everett – present at meeting site	

Chuck Swanson joined the meeting at 1:35, Andrea Welchans joined at 1:36 and Mark Nolte joined at 2:03.

### **Agenda**

Co-Chair Brown asked if there were any changes to the agenda. As there were no changes, Co-Chair Brown requested a motion to approve the agenda. Director Everett moved to approve, and Director Yepsen seconded. Motion passed.

### **Minutes**

Co-Chair Brown asked if there were any changes to the December 18, 2025, minutes. As there were no changes, Co-Chair Brown requested a motion to approve the minutes. Director Schnirring moved to approve, and Director Veeder seconded. Motion passed.

## Chairman's Report

Chair Jacobs was not present for the meeting and there was no Chairman's Report.

## Old Business

Director Swanson inquired as to whether there were updates on the News awards that we were up for? News Director Leland shared that there was no update yet.

## Executive Director Report

Executive Director Johnson shared that FY26 fundraising is going very well and is ahead of budget by about \$1.5M. Salary increases were done in December. The Northeast Iowa reporter position will be filled, and Erin Fuller has been hired to replace Mark Simmet. We have also hired a new News Fellow, Maura Curran.

The new Studio One website will be going online on March 31.

IPR has joined the News Revenue Hub, an initiative through Greater Public and funded by the Knight Foundation, to help stations find revenue in the digital space. This is free to IPR in year one and we pay 50% in year two.

Schaaf, a creative agency specializing in brand strategy and campaigns, is working with IPR to assist with the rebranding of Studio One and other projects during the upcoming year.

IPR has signed a 10-year lease with five 5-year options to extend for the Master Control Relocation project in Ames and has engaged a design-build firm for renovations. The lease at the University of Iowa has been renewed with favorable rates going forward. We continue to reduce space at the University of Northern Iowa over a two-year period (August 2025 and June 2026). The Classical library is being reduced significantly and are looking to sell the collection to another station.

FY27 Budget development has begun. We are working through ways to sustain fundraising at current levels and effective investment strategies to augment fiscal stability in the future. Continuing evaluation of donor communications will be important to capitalize on the current momentum in fundraising and potential additional fundraising for capital projects such as the Master Control Relocation project. The development of a five-year capital plan and five-year budget planning document is in process. The FY27 budget will be presented at the June board meeting.

## **Financial Report – January Financials**

Lynn Jones-Folsom provided a review of January 2026, financials. We continue to widen the gap in a positive direction on fundraising for FY26 and as of January 31, we are ahead of budget by almost \$1.5M. Expenditures are slightly under budget, and it is anticipated that year-end expenditures will end close to the budgeted amount for FY27. While not budgeted for FY26, salary increases were provided on December 1.

We are looking at options for paying for the Master Control Relocation project including the use of reserves or financing a portion of the cost of this project.

990s and 990Ts are complete and in review. The final reports will be sent to Board members for review and need to be submitted to the IRS no later than May 15.

Co-Chair Brown requested a motion to approve January 31, 2026, financials. Director Everett moved to approve, and Director Roth seconded. Motion passed.

## **Development Committee Report**

Development Committee Chair Lozier provided an update from the March 12, 2026, meeting. The Development Dashboard for January fundraising was shared and things are going well. Fundraising sources and fundraising opportunities for FY27 are being discussed. There will be an event in Iowa City on May 7 with Ben Kieffer and the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council to discuss oligarchies and democracy at the Englert Theater. Spring 2026 thank-yous are in process.

## **Finance Committee Report**

Director Schnirring provided a report on the Finance Committee's March 12, 2026, meeting. The agenda included a quarterly investment review, an update on the Master Control Relocation project and a review of the January financials. Director Schnirring provided a more detailed update on investment performance and shared that the Finance Committee has been working with Morgan Stanley to develop a dashboard that provides a simple overview of investments held at Morgan Stanley.

## **Governance Committee Report**

Governance Committee Chair Brown shared a proposed revision of the by-laws to change the title of Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer. Chair Brown presented a motion to approve to amend the by-laws with this title change. Director Lozier seconded. Motion passed.

The Governance Committee is working on a board self-study which will allow an opportunity for feedback regarding the overall effectiveness and performance of the Board.

## News & Talk Updates

News Director Michael Leland provided an update on upcoming events & priorities for the News team. With primaries and the general election coming up later this year, reporters are working on in-depth stories regarding races for the governor, senate and congressional seats. This summer there will be an election outreach project in which small teams of reporters will gather in various community locations to speak to people about their questions, thoughts and concerns about the election cycle to inform stories in the coming months.

We are currently interviewing candidates for the Northeast Iowa reporter position, based in Cedar Falls. We recently hired Maura Curran as the News Fellow in the Des Moines location.

Leland provided updates on various news partnerships. Harvest Public Media is going very well and has expanded to cover seven states. The Midwest Newsroom is working to replace a news fellow position to cover immigration. Health reporter Natalie Krebs continues to work with the NPR/KFF Health News Reporting Partnership.

Leland shared the benefits of positions that the Board made possible. The addition of the Assistant News Director has been very helpful and has provided more consistent oversight of the newsroom and has freed Leland up to work on long-term strategies. The News Fellow position allows early-career journalists to receive mentoring and job shadow other reporters during their time at IPR.

Director Yepsen asked if there are positions that would be helpful in the newsroom for which the Board could provide future funding. Leland shared that a political editor position would be helpful in the future given the breadth of activity in the political landscape.

News & Talk Director Katherine Perkins shared an update regarding NexGen Journalism, an audio-focused digital journalism project. NexGen will be in Des Moines June 14-19 with this year's theme being 'Moments of Truth'. Individuals apply and compete to participate in the program. Once selected they are paired with a seasoned reporter from IPR or from the NexGen team. During their time in Des Moines, they produce a non-narrated audio piece plus multi-media reporting, including digital.

Perkins shared some upcoming events. On June 2, we will host a Talk of Iowa Book Club discussion of Founding Mothers, by Cokie Roberts, about the roles women played in the history of the founding of our nation. This event will be held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. IPR will have a table at the Cedar Rapids Farmers Market to promote the Garden Variety podcast and

newsletter. No date has been identified for this event at this time. NPR has recognized an episode of Hort Day titled 'Sowing Seeds of Knowledge' as part of the program flow through the NPR app, substantially boosting downloads of Garden Variety from the IPR website.

Perkins expressed gratitude to the Board for providing funding for the Digital Producer for the Talk Show team, producing and converting audio to a digital/video format for social media and the IPR website.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Adjourn**

Co-Chair Brown asked for a motion to adjourn to a closed session. Director Everett moved to adjourn, and Director Veeder seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43.