

KSUT Board Meeting

January 21, 2026

Attending: Robert, Kirsten, Mike, Susan, Mikki, James, Eddie, Meg

Absent: Beth

Called to order 5:38 pm.

Agenda revision: Added Strategic Planning for discussion. Motion to amend agenda made by Robert, Mike seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes: motion to approve by Mike, Susan seconded. Unanimously approved.

ED Report:

- Tami reported they are still waiting for the signed agreement between BIA and the Tribe for the distribution of funds. KSUT will invoice the Tribe monthly for 1/12th the amount to keep a record for future audits, however the full amount will be passed through to KSUT by the tribe.
- Insurance claim – The Tribe is asking Jaynes Construction to pay the \$25,000 deductible for the insurance claim made on the equipment damaged by the glycol leak. The Tribe's building maintenance department helped provide documentation for the request. Building maintenance is conducting frequent checks to be sure to catch any future problems. The Tribe is pursuing reimbursement for KSUT because they own the building.
- Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) is a federal entity that used to provide funds to ensure public access to public radio and television. It's possible the organization could be resurrected to fill the gap left by CPB. Rep. Bacon (R-Nebraska) is working on legislation to bring PTFP back to manage disbursement of funds (such as the NGWS grant). Tami sent information to Rep. Hurd's office asking him to co-sponsor the legislation.
- Susan and Tami met with Wyatt Bair, regional representative for Sen. Micheal Bennet regarding the NGWS funds that have not been disbursed. He will discuss the issue with the Senator's regional staff to determine if they can assist in getting the funds released to KSUT.

- It appears the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will take legal action against AT&T, which has not repaired the fallen tower in Towaoc. Tami recommended attorney Ernie Sanchez to Scott Clow, Environmental Programs Director, to assist as Ernie has strong knowledge regarding FCC requirements. Scott says the fallen AT&T tower is getting really dangerous.
- Tami said planning for the 50th anniversary is moving forward and she will keep the board posted. The first event will likely occur in the spring. Kirsten suggested an Indigenous band to Chris for one of the events. Tami said they will hold a staff meeting to flesh out an idea submitted by Jess for a multimedia Tribal event.
- Robb and Tami met with Jamie Mathews today. She advocates that in October, KSUT should begin handling their accounts payable directly, rather than through the Tribe. The Tribe would continue to process payroll. Tami said they have discussed internally taking on payables in the past. This change would incur minimal costs (hiring a bookkeeper to assist) and will provide for more timely financial information.
- Kirsten asked when the solar panels will be installed. Tami said probably in the summer as she is still gathering data to determine needs that would dictate system design. She is working with the Tribe's facilities people and working on getting bids.

Policies

- The board was reminded that if they have not signed the Conflict-of-Interest policy to please do so and send the signature page to Susan or Tami. Susan will scan the pages and upload them to Google Drive.
- Board Code of Conduct – Susan made a motion to approve the revised Code of Conduct policy. Mike seconded and it was unanimously approved.
- Susan will send out the revised Whistleblower Policy to the board for their review. The board will vote on approval at the February meeting.

Strategic Planning

- KSUT was accepted into a program through a Public Media Company initiative (Local News Catalyst) that provides access to software designed to assist with strategic planning. The one-year access is valued at \$4,800. Tami mentioned there is an opportunity for a board member or two to participate.

As a part of the process to create a new strategic plan, the staff and management team

will determine key areas and present that to the board for any additions or suggestions. Susan asked if that could be ready to present to the board at a board retreat in the spring, tentatively in April.

The board was asked to think about their availability to attend a retreat, and we will set a date at the February meeting. Tami will send the last strategic plan to the board.

- Robert was invited to be on the first reboot of the Feeding the Spirit program on Tribal radio to talk about music and sobriety. He shared that it was an interesting experience and well received. Feeding the Spirit is very important to the Indigenous community and highlights and speaks to community concerns. The program will air every Tuesday.
- Growth fund contribution – Sheila has met with Shane Seibel and others at the Growth Fund regarding a \$50,000 contribution to Tribal radio, with the potential of it becoming an annual contribution. These funds would likely go toward increasing staffing support for Tribal radio. The funds are not finalized yet. Tami will continue to update the board.
- Clark Adomitis will interview Eddie as a part of the interviews planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

Eddie made a motion to adjourn, seconded Susan. Unanimously approved. Adjourned 6:36 pm.

Next board meeting Feb. 18.