KSUT Board Meeting
Sept. 24, 2025

Attending Board Members: Mike, Kirsten, Wade, Susan

Guests: Meg Foley, James Temte, Beth Santistevan

Absent: Robert, Mikki, Eddie

Called to order at 5:30 pm

Agenda – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kirsten; Susan seconded, approved unanimously without revisions.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kirsten; Mike seconded, approved unanimously without revisions.

Board Candidates – Tami introduced board candidates James Temte (Community Member at Large), Meg Foley (Community Member at Large), and Beth Santistevan (Southern Ute Indian Tribe Member). The Board introduced themselves to the candidates.

James: previously lived in the area 10 years and recently moved back from Alaska. Currently pursuing his PhD in Rural and Indigenous Health through Montana State University. Works with the SUIT Environmental Programs Department as an Air Quality Scientist focusing on air pollution reduction and climate adaptation. He loves music and public radio because it connects to the community; loves the variety. Past nonprofit board experience with a science-based organization and he also worked with the New Arctic Community Office.

Beth Santistevan – born here, left in 2017 to pursue her master's at ASU (Communications with a focus on advocacy) and has recently returned to the area. She is interested in joining the board because her first exposure to radio was KSUT. She has a degree in broadcast journalism and did the weekend show on tribal radio for a time. She interned with PBS and Native America Calling. Her love language is community – volunteering. Has volunteered/worked for the SUIT Tribal Council and worked at DAC. She was also a member of the KSUT Board of Directors when Beth Warren was the ED. She is very excited about Tribal Radio and expanding its reach to the community and how it is aligned with traditional oral storytelling.

Meg Foley – is an attorney and has been here 13 years. Durango is her dream location and dream town. Feels fortunate to live here. She first became interested in KSUT when she worked in Grand Junction and streamed KSUT on her laptop. Listening helped her get to know the Four Corners Community. She is a member of the High Noon Rotary Club and has served on their board for the past 7-8 years. She also serves on the board for Shanta and she is a Bar Association officer. She grew up in a politically active family and was excited to hear about the station's decision to become a co-plaintiff in the NPR suit against the Trump administration. She enjoys legal arguments and procedural aspects of law.

Candidate Questions for the board?

Beth asked if the Board held a retreat. Tami replied they used to do a strategic planning retreat and we are due for a retreat. It would be great time to kickstart a strategic plan. The existing strategic plan went through 2023 or 2024 included feasibility study and capital campaign, establishing the tribal media center, expanding local news, and sustainability through the creation of an endowment fund and a planned giving program. We need to look at the next five years.

ED Report

Tami reported the pledge drive last week was very successful. The development report goes into some detail that shows what a strong fundraising season they've had. Member deposits for Sept. so far are $91,000. On Thursday, a caller offered a $25,000 match for pledges made on Thurs and Fri. Checks are still coming in.

Designated Fund - once there is 1 million it is called an endowment. Two $5,000 donations will establish this fund.

Tami said she has a donor interested in giving $25,000 to $30,000 toward the proposed solar addition. Tyson Thompson – head of facilities for the SUIT is on board for increasing solar capacity on the building. The installation would offset $27,000 annually in electricity costs.

CPB funding loss – Tami is cautiously optimistic they will receive money from a fund at BIA (see ED report) – these funds are reallocated from elsewhere. Also the Bridge fund might bring some funds to the station. She may have more information on these sources by next meeting.

The new fiscal year starts Oct 1. Working on the FY26 budget, but it will not be ready for approval until November or December as the financials for the previous fiscal year have not been completed yet.

Some other windfall funds – CPB sent $19,000 from some misc. funds they held. The promotion by Nine News in Denver will yield almost $50.000!!

NPR fee schedule – "recission relief" provides a 20% reduction in fees from NPR (tied to 20% loss of CPB funds).

Wade – how do you see the loss compared to recent bump in funds coming in? Tami – if one or both (BIA/Bridge) come through, they will get through FY2026 fine. There is a lot of conversation nationally about rural stations. She thinks congress will come through with some funding down the road. She is optimistic about raising 1 million for the endowment. There are many new potential donors to reach out to.

Kirsten asked if there was any input from the Tribe on the additional solar panels? She added there could be benefits to going before the Tribal Council. James said he could quantify greenhouse gas reductions, which would be of interest to the Tribal Council.

Designation Fund Application – Tami needs board minutes with approval of this. Mike and Robb and Briggan and Tami will meet to discuss any revs. Some organizations withdraw interest quarterly. Tami suggested waiting until the end of the year and ideally, never draw on the principle.

Bylaws Revision – Kirsten made a motion to approve the revised bylaws (related to when annual officer elections are held); Mike seconded. Approved unanimously.

Glycol leak deductible – Tami is going to meet with someone from the Tribe regarding the deductible for the repair. A claim for $36,000 has been submitted to the insurance company.

Wade called for a motion to amend agenda to add an executive session to discuss board candidates. Mike made a motion and Kirsten seconded. Unanimously approved.

Executive Session

Officer Elections – Slate

- Kirsten Langmade – President
- Mike May – Vice President
- Susan Kearns – Secretary
- James – Treasurer (if he accepts the position)

Susan made a motion to approve the slate; Mike seconded. Unanimously approved.

Timing of board meetings – Wade recommended we table that for now. When new board members are on board it can be discussed again.

Board Orientation – Susan will review materials and send info to Mike to conduct orientation of new board members.

Farewell beer with Wade October 16th.

Kirsten made a motion to adjourn, Mike seconded. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:35.

Next meeting Oct 15, 2025.