

KSUT Board Meeting

June 17, 2026

Attending: Susan, James, Mikki, Robert, Mike

Absent: Beth, Meg, Kirsten, Eddie (all excused)

Meeting called to order: 5:38 pm

Agenda: Motion to approve by James; Mike seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes: No revisions. Motion to approve by Robert; Mikki seconded. Unanimously approved.

Mid-year budget revision: items highlighted in green have been revised.

- The adjusted revenue total increased by approximately \$400,000, expenses increased by approximately \$100,000. The goal for the operational reserve is \$400,000.
 - Revenue goal for membership increased to \$650,000, which she and Chris feel they can meet based on current position and expected sustainer income.
 - Sponsorship revenue increased due to July 4th event, round dance, and SKA event.
 - Colten gained \$65,000 grant and merchandise revenue increased for 50th anniversary items.
 - The Federal Grant amount was increased due to BIA funding and \$22,300 received from CPB. The ERT funds received is reported under Miscellaneous Income.
- Expenses:
 - Bonus increase is related to a grant rec'd to pay Crystal to do social media; plus bonuses to Sheila and Jonathan for their work on Round Dance and Tico Time program (respectively); Payroll is on target (it is lower due to offset by grant money).
 - Meals and Entertainment & Lodging up due to Round Dance and Native Lens Symposium (the latter was over budget, Tami and Robb looking into this).
 - Outside services has a big increase – this is something that will be split up into multiple categories in the new accounting set up into categories such as special events and grant expenses. Some increase is due to the cost of new accounting services as well as the fee to Think, LLP for recouping the ERT funds. Elevate AI – is a pass-through grant that is a method to work with AI to develop social media tools that review podcasts and generate social media posts to promote the communications. This is new technology that could be used on a national level.

- Misc Expenses: Software license reduced; Donor Search cost was less than expected; advertising has a minor increase; youth concert film (offset by grant); Mountain West News Bureau increased (didn't invoice last quarter of last year); credit card fees increased arts in society is related to the film they re doing about the youth concert; credit card fees increased (more donations, higher credit card fees); NPR fees reduced (yay!).
- Below the line numbers:
 - Operational reserve increased to 400000; even with that increase the adjusted bottom line is \$70,755. At the end of the year KSUT expects to be more than \$500,000 ahead.
 - Missionary ridge transmitter more than expected and they had to hire an electrician to configure and connect the transmitter (another invoice expected).
 - Solar array – while some donations were targeted to solar array; income is in revenue – the expense for the project is below the line.
- Mike made a motion to approve the midyear budget; James seconded. Unanimously approved.

ED Report

Rob Rawls is working on getting the Tribal station back on air [in Towaoc](#).

The solar project continues to move forward. The goal is to pay for the equipment in June to receive a tax credit next year. June is the last month when projects are eligible for the tax credit.

The accounting transition is moving along well, thanks to Robb, Jamie and the Tribe.

No appeal received from the Trump admin yet...next week is the deadline to appeal

James asked about the Native Lens Symposium? Tami said they had around 55-60 attendees; Tami, Beth, and Colten attended. Next year there will be a bit more oversight on budget/expenses as it was more than expected. Major players like Sundance attended.

Robert asked about the solar project: years ago, there was concern about weight of the panels on the roof. Tami said that was related to concern about leaks from penetrations from the mounting hardware, however the mounting system is different so that is no longer a concern.

Strategic Planning

- Reviewed themes outlined by Tami; discussion regarding capacity and the need to prioritize goals.
- James asked for clarification regarding digital theme: is the goal to grow the audience consuming digital content or to grow digital offerings? This led to discussion regarding

increased local news. Tami commented that the members skew older and if younger listeners were surveyed, most get their news from their phones.

- A clear priority is to ensure KSUT is more resilient and fiscally strong. Solid funding is needed to increase local news and replace failing equipment (related to NGWS grant that was retracted). Tami expressed hope that funds may come through to replace the NGWS grant as there is discussion going on with NPR regarding possible funding through state governments for tribal stations. Since the NGWS grant was awarded and the parameters and equipment and software had been specified, should funding come through everything is in place to move forward on upgrading equipment.
- Tami and Susan will refine the findings and recommendations from Plan Perfect and present 3 to 5 prioritized focus areas. The recommendations will be discussed at the July Board Meeting.
- Robert commented that the survey showed what people want. There's no one looking for substantial change, only minor changes and improvements. The addition of local news and events and stories is NEW since Covid and community connection has always been a strong front
- James commented that it would be interesting to survey people who listen and are NOT members. Tami replied we had talked about reaching out to non-members but wondered if they would take the time to fill out a survey. Maybe a 3-question survey could be handed out at Party in the Park to reach non-members. Robert suggested perhaps providing some kind of incentive to respond to the survey. Tami and Susan commented that even though the survey response was small, there was a consistency in the comments, and most were aligned with what was anticipated. Tami ran the summary by the staff, and they had no additional comments or disagreement with the identified themes
- **ED Evaluation:** James reported the evaluation will be ready for board review at the next meeting. Any increase would be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Tami reminded all regarding upcoming events and asked for board assistance on July 25th – party in the park and July 4th.

Mikki made a motion to adjourn; James seconded. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:42 pm.