KSUT Board Meeting

August 20, 2025

Attending: Robert, Susan, Wade, Mike, Kirsten, Mikki, Eddie, and Robb Brantley

Called to order 5:32 pm

Wade expressed condolences for the loss of a member of the KSUT family, Susie B.

Agenda – Tami asked that we move the budget review to occur after agenda approval. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Susan, Mike seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes – No revisions. Robert made a motion to approve; Susan seconded.

Budget review as of June 30 - Robb commented that a note on the summary page needs to be updated. The "Due to Tribe" amount as of June 30, should be $62,000.

Tami: It's been a remarkable year. Solid progress paying down loan to Alpine. Also, they have made great progress on fundraising. Wade, asked for some historical context. Tami said the development report gets into year-to-year comparisons.

Robb – starting in August the new LOC with Alpine will include principle and interest in payments. They are on schedule to have the Tribe paid off in December of this year (about $30,000).

The adjusted bottom line shows a positive net gain of $8,507.

Robb pointed out that beverage sales and July events are not included (since budget reporting is through June). Membership is doing well. To date, in August so far, they have received $48,000 in membership contributions and they expect to exceed expectations. This is potentially a "one time" jump and we cannot count on this happening again next year.

Ticket sales for Party in the Park exceeded the budget estimate and they expect to meet all budget goals this year.

Expenses are in line with many travel expenses under budgeted amounts. However, July events and August costs (primarily lodging) will affect that number in the next reporting period. Some expenses with Party in the Park will show up in the next report as well.

Robb added that through the end of the fiscal year, there may be some additional expenses related to legal, plus outside services and the Native Lens symposium.

Wade commented that the dramatic increase in revenue has been helpful to pay down the debt and cover the shortfall previously expected. He asked if Robb could forecast the amount of surplus. Robb said no, while the revenue is exceeding what was expected, there has been a lot of activity since the end of the reporting period in June.

They are trying their best to leave the ERT money in the money market account to create the beginning of a reserve for the organization. Those funds are earning interest in that account.

At this point, they are focused on keeping up with financial obligations and staying on top of weekly expenses due to the tribe.

Mike made a motion to approve the budget report. Kirsten seconded. Unanimously approved.

FY 2026 budget – Tami said they are starting to develop the FY26 budget and as mentioned previously, they are looking at purchasing budgeting software. There is some discussion as to whether they will need to have a full audit or not. A full audit is required when federal funding is received. If they do not have to have a full audit, it would significantly decrease the cost of the audit.

Wade commented that Shanta audits every 5 years, however they have a CPA on staff and board. He added it makes sense to have audits every 3 years rather than every year due to the expense.

There is some discussion on the federal level regarding funding that would be awarded to the most vulnerable stations that have lost 30% or more (New Bridge) as well as other monies that could possibly be distributed to Tribal stations. If KSUT is a recipient of any of these federal funds, a full audit may still be required. There should be more information on this possible funding by the next board meeting.

Tami and Robb will talk to Michelle Saino about the possible reduction in the depth and cost of the audit.

ED Report

Tami reported that sustaining members are increasing their monthly contributions, and they have gained more legacy donors. Funding has come from all over the country. She added that it could be a good time to establish an endowment fund.

Wade suggested some type of special follow up with donors who convert from one-time giving to monthly sustained giving. Tami said she is working on a piece for the September donor event that will be similar to an annual report to give attendees an overview of the current financial situation. The theme for the donor event is about moving forward under the “new normal” without CPB funding.

NPR Lawsuit – there may be some movement on this in September. It was asked whether the suit is a moot point; Tami said, in principle, no—the suit could be precedent setting. She said they may see another bump in donations based on the outcome of the lawsuit.

Tami confirmed the equipment purchase of $46,000 (to replace equipment at Spring Creek and Missionary Ridge) will be funded through the Alpine LOC set up for NGWS improvements. If federal reimbursement does not take place, perhaps a specific fundraising campaign can cover the purchase.

A potential donor contacted Tami offering support for installing rooftop solar for the station.

Tami reported glycol from the AC leaked onto the Tribal Radio console. She is hopeful insurance will cover the cost of repair. In the meantime, they are using the Four Corners set up or using Zetta. Repairs are expected to be around $24,000.

Open Board Positions

Susan asked that the board review the document she updated with information about board terms and officer positions held.

Wade terms out end of this fiscal year, and he will step down to spend more time with his family. He would be happy to come back and serve again in a few years. He thanked Tami for the opportunity and for helping him grow as a board president. He has worked to recruit candidates for non-tribal seats. He has spoken to Jamie Mathews (CPA who works with Shanta) and Meg Foley (underwriter and an attorney). A third candidate is James Temte (Kirsten knows him), who is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe who is applying as a community member at larger.

Elections - Per the bylaws, elections take place at the October board meeting and then the new officers take over that meeting. Discussion was held regarding the recommendation that the elections take place in September so that new officers are in place to take on their roles at the October meeting. Susan will revise bylaws and send them out to the board for their review.

Mikki is willing to continue with a second term (yay!).

Regarding the open Southern Ute board seat—no firm commitment yet from Eddie Box III.

Officer discussion – if new slate is to be elected next meeting, Tami and Susan said we should discuss potential officers now. Kirsten will consider the position of President. Mike will consider taking the position of Vice President. Susan will continue as Secretary. Perhaps one of the board candidates (Jamie?) will serve as Treasurer.

Wade asked that everyone think about it and we can revisit in September. If needed, voting could be completed by email after the board meeting.

Tami asked about the possibility of holding board meetings during business hours to make attendance more accessible. Additionally, one of the potential board members had requested meeting during business hours.

It was suggested we meet at 4 pm instead of 5:30 pm. Wade offered an alternative to meet at noon (like the High Noon Rotary). Mike said a 4 pm meeting would be a little challenging, but not impossible. He would prefer that over noon. Mikki said 4 pm or noon would work but not the second week of the month. Kirsten said 4 pm would work for her and Robert said it could work for him with some difficulty, and he would be affected by the Drum's publication schedule. Susan said she is not available on Wednesdays at noon but could attend at 4 pm. Eddie said the meetings used to be 12 to 1 pm, but it was a challenge (and would be again) if it was moved to noon. He would prefer to stick to the 5:30 time

Wade asked everyone to think about it, and we will discuss again at the next meeting.

Sept board meeting – Due to the fall fund drive, it was suggested the next board meeting be moved to Sept 24th. That works for all. Board candidates will attend that meeting and we will also make decisions on the slate of officers.

Tami will let us know about when the celebration of life for Susie B. will take place.

Kirsten made a motion to adjourn; Eddie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 7:10 pm.