KUTE Inc.
KSUT Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting
March 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDING (via Zoom):Buz Bricca, Tami Graham, Trennie Collins, Gary Skiba, Ken Brott, Robert Ortiz, Bruce LeClaire, Michael May
ABSENT: Eddie Box Jr., Kree Lopez

KSUT is a community supported public broadcasting organization serving the communities of the Four Corners, providing diverse and eclectic entertainment, education, news, and information while promoting multicultural awareness and understanding.

1. Call to Order at 5:34

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Buz moved, Gary 2nd, unanimous approval

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (February 2021)

Buz moved, Gary 2nd, unanimous approval

4. Staff attendee: Ken "Kenny B" Brott

Highlights…excited about new building, hoping to get people back to work on site ASAP when it is safe, have been managing around COVID. It's sometimes strange to be the only one in the building.
Ken started with KSUT in 1991. Being a part of it for so long has been great, board has always been supportive. Being in old building was strange with nothing left.

<u>Ongoing collaborations and programming</u>

They are now plugging in last of the plugs in the new production rooms. Ready to move into the next phase, noted that remote working has worked pretty well. Having Sarah Flower and Mark Dugan on news is a big step forward. RMCOR (Rocky Mountain Community Radio) has stepped up on local content. Fossil Fuel series was just completed. Will probably need to eventually hire a content manager to handle everything that will be coming in. Local and regional news will be moving to Phase 2, working on how and where to get content, lots of loose ends to tie up. KSUT is collaborating with Hollis Walker at the Durango Herald which will allow for features and opinion pieces.

Native Lens is working well on the tribal side, lots of potential.

Buz asked about Rocky Mountain Community Radio Coalition. It's composed of about 15 radio stations, one in Moab and one in Wyoming are members. Mostly Colorado

Western Slope, also KUNC from Greeley. They hold an annual 3-4 ay conference, typically in the fall.

Rick asked if Ken knew the breakdown of listeners that stream versus traditional radio. Ken noted It's hard to track, would probably need to do a survey. Airpocket does analytics, but that's limited to the listeners using it, and doesn't do other online platforms (Alexa, iTunes, etc…)

Rick asked Tami if other stations (e.g., in Denver) have that kind of info. Tami wasn't sure but likely some of the bigger front range stations have info. Jessica could come to the next meeting and let us know what the website traffic is like. There have been more website hits as folks are at home more with COVID.

Rick asked about decisions to add or drop a program. Ken said it's very subjective and overall he tries to limit programming changes. NPR programming is very popular, easy to decide to keep it. Others are trickier, for example, Splendid Table. Ken thought that folks wanted more music on Sundays. There had been a host change, had become more of a philosophical discussion of food as opposed to a cooking show. Ken pulled Splendid Table, also some changes on Monday that moved Global Village to Sunday, and quickly got a phone call from long time listeners who wanted Splendid Table back, and Ken did that.

Once there is more regional content, Ken would like to see a local or regional magazine.

Mike asked if there's much feedback if we don't make changes.

Ken said most feedback is related to music. Ken answers as many phone calls as possible. But overall not a lot of feedback.

A listener survey would be great.

Robert asked about Ken learning Zetta (the new automation system). RCS, the software company, has an "academy" consisting of online courses to better understand the capabilities of the system, which Ken is working through.

Robert asked what the biggest challenge of the new building has been. Ken was very grateful for all of the help he received. There was an issue with the console hardware, staff didn't get adequate training there. Ken will check with Rob Ralls to see if more training can be done. There are some little tricks that need to be worked on, need more comfort with both the hardware and software.

Buz asked what the vision for collaboration with the Herald is. Ken noted that there have been coordination efforts in the past. The current effort with Hollis Walker is something that has been discussed for quite some time, there have been some past issues with the relationship. Tami noted that the Herald has not been all that willing to

work with KSUT. KSUT has not done much in the way of opinion in the past, and Hollis seemed to be a good one to work with. Will continue to explore the potential.

Bruce said it's great that Ken is pursuing Zetta certification, and that we appreciate the effort.

Ken noted that with remote access, he can help solve issues without being in the building. He will also be providing a manual to assist others with issues.

5. Executive Director Report

a. FZA Audit: Audit is done, Form 990 has been submitted, and grant reports are done. House passed the stimulus package, which will provide funding via CPB, it should be a little over $100,000.

b. COVID-19 Impacts Update: Most of the staff has had their 2nd dose of vaccine, and tribal restrictions may be relaxed soon. One staff member who had COVID did not get vaccinated.Bruce noted that there is a proposal to bring back all staff at the Permanent Fund at 50%, and all directors will be back at 50% starting next week. KSUT staff has been discussing how to phase on site personnel back in. Last week of March should be getting more folks back to in person work. There is some flexibility in working at home vs the office, will likely not have everyone in the office every day, more time working at home.

c. Media Center Update: Only a few little things are remaining in the old building, like some acoustic paneling and a few racks in the basement.

d. Four Corners: Folk and bluegrass festival is cancelled, refunds available. Looking at how to do as a 1-day event with no camping.

There was a great article in the Durango Herald, it was very accurate. Durango TV will be doing a story on the new building next week.

e. Tribal Radio: Native Lens will be live streamed, Trennie will be interviewed as a storyteller. Rocky Mountain PBS has been invited to participate. Also for Native Lens there are a couple of interviews being done to hire a digital editor who will work for KSUT and in partnership with RMPBS.

Robert asked about old building. Staff worked on doing some last cleanup this week.

Robert also asked about occupancy in new building. Tami said they will follow tribal guidelines, combined with some KSUT additional guidelines.

Buz asked about meeting in person for April meeting, may be able to do that. Bruce advocated for meeting in person, we should provide info on which board members and

staff have or haven't been vaccinated. Board members can share that info confidentially with Robert.

Mike asked about tribal guidance on non-tribal members in tribal buildings. Bruce said a lot is still be determined, and that will affect the possibility of in person meetings. April meeting (April 14) will be in the middle of the fund drive, it might work better via Zoom since there will be staff in the building due to the fund drive. Robert noted we could move the meeting. We can make decision of in person or not when we have more info.

6. Committees

a. Activities and Updates: None reported.

b. Finance (Rick, Mike, Tami):

FZA Audit: Report was finalized, and we got the CPB report in on time which was important to access new funding. The audit went better than last year, due to the work of Tami and Robb Brantley. There were few issues, everything is being done accurately. Rick had asked for a letter specifically from FZA regarding improved internal controls. Finance committee will meet next week to be sure that everything is working well and to determine if any changes are needed. The committee is also working on a revised bonus plan, and addressing depreciation in the budget, and if we get another $100K from CPB, how will we set priorities. They will have suggestions on all of this at the next board meeting.

Bruce suggested taking Tami's thoughts on how to use additional CPB funds.

Robert noted the FZA report had very few concerns identified. It's great that the finance committee has the knowledge to review the reports and make recommendations to the rest of us.

All agreed that the audit worked much better this year. Rick agreed that the process was more collaborative and it's likely to work better in the future.

Mike also felt that the audit went very smoothly.

Rick noted that we still have some room for improvement, and we should get the report earlier next year. Tami noted that FZA was on budget as well.

7. Board Document Storage and File Management update

Mike and Tami had looked at some options, one using Teams and the SUSS. Best option seems to be a shared Google drive. Tami thought that there is a need to have KSUT somewhat separate from the tribe and agrees that Google Drive would work well, it keeps the information in our control, and no other entity needs to be involved.

We only need something simple. Mike will create the login information and prep for transfer from Dropbox.

Motion: Bruce moved that we migrate our document sharing and storage to Google, 2nd by Buz. Unanimous approval.

8. Next Meeting Date (April 14, 2021) – Virtual meeting until further notice)

Gary noted he will not be at the next meeting, and someone else needs to take notes.

Robert asked about the 90.1 outage, it was down for just over 2 weeks. Turns out it was caused by a Visionary Broadband router repair, the crew got stuck and wrapped a winch around the KSUT tower, crimped a line that allowed a nitrogen bleed, and the transmitter shut down due to the leak. Visionary will cover all repair costs, including Robb's time on the repair. There was also some amplifier damage, all will be covered by Visionary, they are making it right. There's a bit of weakness in the signal now, but it's not that noticeable.

Rick asked if any underwriters had they asked for allowances due to the outage, only one mentioned it, there was no real issue.

Native Lens premiere is Sunday night at 5:30, board members are encouraged to to participate.

9. Adjournment Moved by Bruce 2ndd by Buz, unanimous approval.

Adjourned at 7:11 PM.