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.

Call to Order at 5:35 PM via Conference Call

KSUT Board and Staff Present (by phone): Robert Ortiz, Bruce LeClarire, Kree Lopez, Gary Skiba, Eddie Box Jr., Buz Bricca, Tami Graham, Richard Gore, Chris Aaland

Board Members absent: Amy Barry, Sara Sheeler

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Kree moved approval, seconded by Eddie. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (March 2020)

Moved by Buz, seconded by Eddie. Unanimously approved.

Development Report – Chris Aaland

See Chris’ written report for more details.

Coronavirus issues likely to affect membership numbers and underwriting. Not all impacts showing up yet, but expect noticeable impacts in the 2nd quarter (April – June)

Membership holding, some dip in March, membership drive was not as successful as in past. Some is due to success of sustaining memberships; sustainers don’t commonly add to pledges during drives. There have been some additional sustaining memberships coming in now with local coronavirus news coverage.

Will be difficult to get to the $305,000 budgeted pledge revenue. Only a couple of sustainer cancellations, but with additions, sustaining member numbers increased overall.

Some sustainers have postponed or cancelled due to lack of employment.
There have been some cancellations and changes to underwriting. Some changed messaging. Jessica has done a great job of selling things like local news coverage to keep underwriting going. Restaurants obviously have had to pause, some cancelled. Concern that some businesses may be permanently closed. Underwriting costs have been lowered, scripts changed due to business operation changes, moving some to higher listening times.

Tami solicited three major donors for $9,000 donation to hire the 2 new reporters. When things settle some, we may be able to do a general membership appeal to get more support for local news.

Near term special events obviously totally lost. No tickets on sale for events that may be cancelled or substantially postponed. Planning will be for events further down the line.

At this time, still planning to do beverage sales at Durango’s July 4 celebration, July 5 Lyle Lovett event and August 15 Party in Park.

Events through May 20 Eliza Gilkyson event are cancelled.

Henry Strater theater will be closing, need a different venue in future.

Tickets will go on sale for other planned events when we can ethically and medically.

Buz asked about Folk and Bluegrass festival. Chris replied that it will be cancelled, not rescheduled. Will announce on Monday 4-13. Options for those who have purchased tickets include a full refund, use a year down the road for 2021 Folk and Bluegrass festival, or donate to KSUT.

Will be reaching out to performers to try to lock in for 2021.

Robert asked what the expectation is for the choice ticket purchasers will make. Chris thinks many will request a refund just because of concerns.

Festivals are very important to Pagosa Springs, concern for local businesses.

Tami noted we have sold $70,000 for the June festival, if even 10% donated, that would be a 7K increase. She expects 10-20% of those who purchased tickets will donate the price to KSUT.

Cancellations have not yet been announced publicly, please keep confidential until next week.

Announcement will go out via all methods on Monday. All email lists, on air, facebook twitter, press releases.
Robert asked about the ability of staff to handle refunds, Tami noted all is through Eventbrite so should be relatively easy.

Chris noted Rob Brantley will be in on Monday. Should be pretty easy.

Robert noted that people may be leery about being in crowds regardless of official views once events are permitted again.

Those who purchased tickets will be encouraged to act within 2 weeks. Not a hard deadline but will be pushed.

Buz noted that as a retired physician, he fully supports cancellation of Folk and Bluegrass, at least partly because we don’t know how long folks will be contagious. Clearly a good decision.

**Executive Director Report**

**COVID-19 Impacts**

Supporters and listeners will understand why cancellations is needed, will accept that it is a good decision. Expected revenue was $50,000 or so. There are some grants that will help, Tami has been working on those that are available.

Station has kept minimal staffing in building, 2 on-air and 1 administrative person. Still working on new building, which gives some additional space to keep staff separated. Preparing for possibility of needing to go 100% remote. Can’t imagine KSUT going dark. Tribe is relying on KSUT now. May be opportunities for some additional on-air events, such as an LPEA forum.

**Media Center Update**

Jaynes mostly done, some contractors finishing up with appropriate safety protocols. Still need engineering work, good chance move-in will be over a few months with old building staying as broadcast center. Can distribute staff better with both buildings.

**Audit Update**

Final audit should be delivered to KSUT soon, hopefully by end of week. Recognize that no one is in business as usual mode, so delays are understandable.

**Tribal Council Work Session (see packet distributed with Board documents)**

Trying to get Rob Ralls onto Ute Mtn to get that signal live.
Several items approved by Council, including installation of solar array and additional lease area to put in more solar generation. LPEA looking at expanding Oxford solar garden, which could include KSUT.

Department of Housing and Construction Services will put in landscaping fabric and gravel, which will be savings over having Jaynes do it.

**Festivals/Fourth of July/Lyle Lovett**

Still planning on both, but not completely certain. Tami has talked with Charles Leslie at concert hall about ways to make folks more comfortable at a large event (bandanas?).

It may also be possible to push Lyle Lovett out to the fall if July 5 doesn't work.

Robert expressed his appreciation for the efforts to keep KSUT operations as normal as possible. Good to see planning to go remote if needed. Thanks to staff for all their efforts.

**Four Corners Radio**

No further information.

**Tribal Radio**

No further information

**Committees**

**Activities and Updates**

**Development Committee (Buz, Kree, Bruce)**

Nothing to add. Lots of progress on retreat, and in spite of postponement will be able to get it up again easily.

**Tribal Radio (Amy, Buz, Robert)**

No updates. Skeleton crew in place.

**Finance (Rick, Amy, Tami)**

Nothing to add to Tami’s report. Will be excited to get final audit report later this week. Will also have better idea of effects of cancellations of events.

**Board retreat (Buz, Tami, Bruce, Robert) – Postponed**
The retreat planning was a good effort, and will be useful when we can make the retreat happen.

*Ad hoc executive committee for bylaws review.*

Need to look into details. Executive committee should still address.

Part of that is a need to address leave of absence, Sara’s absence is coming up on the agreed 6-month time frame. Robert will discuss with Sara; we need to decide if we should start looking for another board. Both Robert and Tami have left messages with no response from Sara. If there are ideas of potential board members, let them know we may be looking soon. Buz has one potential member in mind.

**Next Meeting Date (May 13, 2020)** – Planned for Eddie Box Jr. Media Center, could change depending on coronavirus situation.

We should be set to do WEBx or Zoom by next meeting regardless.

**Adjournment**

Rick moved approval, seconded by Kree. Unanimously approved.

**Adjourn at 6:52 PM**