



WJFF Radio Catskill Board of Trustees - DRAFT

Meeting Minutes for April 27th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas (6:15), Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

Staff Present: Tim Bruno, Mimi Bradley

Board Members Absent: Jeff Barnes

A quorum being present, Pete called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Audit

The first item was a presentation of the draft Audit by Mary Ann Novak of the auditing firm MMQ. MaryAnn reported that all required information was provided and questions answered by the Radio Catskill staff and that her firm was offering an unmodified opinion on the financial statement. She then provided highlights of the financial statement circulated with the board packet.

MOTION to approve the draft audit (Blagrove/Madden) at 6:13pm

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

Dale noted that the audit will be finalized today and that the 990 will be coming in a few weeks. The board thanked Mary Ann for her work.

Consent Agenda

MOTION to approve the Minutes in the consent agenda of the following meetings .

(Demarest/Almquist):

- 4/15/26 Nom and Gov minutes

- 4/16/26 Executive Committee
- 4/20/26 Finance Committee minutes
- 4/21/26 Outreach Committee minutes

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

Fund drive

Mimi reported on the recently concluded fund drive. It concluded in record time with a “close out the drive” donation from a new donor on the morning of Day 8.

A substantial starting fund/challenges was accumulated before the start of the drive and the goal was \$70k. Fund reconciliation is not yet complete but thanks to the challenges that had not been issued and funds that came in after the drive, there will be a significant starting amount carried forward to the Summer Drive in July.

The mailing for the drive went out closer to the drive’s start than normal because it contained news on the WIOX merger and could not be released until the MOU was signed.

This drive had a higher average gift/lower number than in the past. The drop off in smaller donations might be due to the early end, mail still coming in, and/or economic strains.

Greater Board participation is needed both in gifts and assistance in the upcoming drive.

Messaging is no longer centered around the crisis of lost CPB funding but that the station is healthy and growing. The WIOX news has been received with excitement. Reserves are in place. We will need to continually calibrate support and adjust our approach accordingly. A donor cultivation event took place 4/19 with more planned.

We strongly believe that there are new donors to find who will be interested in supporting the station. Planned summer events cover a wide range of geography and interests and also include events put together by friends of the station. As of now, plans are for:

- May 17, 2-6pm: Pints for Public Media at The Common Good (after Ellenville Run Like the Wind)
- May 23, 3-6pm: Joint fundraising event with WIOX/Roxbury Arts Group (live music)
- May 23: Music Yard Sale
- May 30, 5pm: "History of a Brief Time" fundraiser at Lew Beach Community House
- June 13: Trout Parade
- June 20: Lew Beach Community House Music Fundraiser
- June 27: Cohecton Pump House Dance Party
- July 6-17: Summer Fund Drive
- July 12: Blue Fox Motel Pool Party
- July 25: Callicoon Country Fair
- July 26: Riverfest
- September 20: WJFFest at New Memories

Also note that there is a May 4, 2-5pm: Town Hall at WIOX to meet with members of the volunteers and community.

Programming

Tim reviewed program changes with some shows moving from podcast to regular programs and others moving from programs to podcasts. In addition, new podcasts are being added. The majority of the changes affect the Monday Night lineup.

Election coverage is busy already. In addition to purely local races, there are nationally significant races in the area (NY and PA). Primaries take place in May in PA and June in NY with the mid-term congressional elections in November. Note also that all NY elections for local seats will be held this year.

There was a discussion about whether there are adequate reporting resources/when additional staff might be brought on under the merged WIOX budget.

Finance

Don reported on the financial results through March 2026 (1st Quarter)

Revenues

- Performing over budget by \$178,612 and over prior YTD by \$123,417.
- Membership (\$63,525.33) is up 34% over budget and 39% compared to YTD 2025.

- \$22,300 of overage was a one time final funding from the CPB (which was unbudgeted)
- \$50,000 of overage also due to funds from WIOX, to cover upgrades in anticipation of merger
- Grants: \$9,000 over budget from NewsMatch grant (totaling \$26,000)
- Underwriting at \$22,439.52 is up 50% from budget but down 11% from 2025 YTD
- Benefit income is significantly (3x) over budget: Liberation Station success (an ongoing event?)
- Merch sales down, but new special design t-shirt planned for summer, hoping to bring that up.

Expenses

- We are performing over budget by \$10,155.
- Programming fees are 16% under budget and 53% to previous year, mostly due to timing
- Utilities are 11% over budget (~\$800). This is unlikely to mitigate
- Repairs/Independent contractors are significantly higher than budgeted, due to the most part to the beginning of renovations to the “Substation” (the annex, “white building”) and the Community Room, which was approved at last BOT meeting.
- Benefit/Fundraising and supplies/office expenses up, mostly due to timing.

Investments

Money Market Account down ~3.9% from 2/28/26 due to market uncertainty. That corresponded with the lowest dip in the markets, which have at present turned around. We should expect fluctuations in this account, but as we are not leaning on these funds for short term needs, this shouldn't be of concern.

Board Giving

Don reminded the Board about the adoption of a Board Give/Get model which includes: Personal donation, New donor cultivation, New business underwriters (Mimi has a spreadsheet of businesses to approach), Grant writing. The goal is \$1,500/Board member with a total BOT goal of \$22,500

Nominating and Governance

There will be 3 vacancies on the Board as of June. Ilya referred to information in the Board packet on two possible candidates. Anyone who has other candidates to suggest should do so. We will be holding one seat for an individual from the WIOX community as soon as we accomplish the next step in the merger process (PSOA). Ilya will

schedule discussions with each candidate and will make the meeting information available to the full board.

The committee needs to perform the annual Board self assessment. Leif has the format that was used previously and will furnish it to Ilya. Responses will be anonymous.

Ilya is working on some by-law changes to move the responsibilities for the annual review of insurance coverage from the Finance Committee to several other committees:

- Executive - D&O
- Personnel - Health insurance
- Nom and Governance - Media Libel
- Audit - General Liability

The changes in their final form will be presented to the Board for adoption.

Strategic Planning

Leif circulated the updated Strategic Plan with all feedback and comments incorporated in the Board packet. The plan will be accessible via a link from the website and perhaps referenced in an upcoming newsletter.

MOTION: Accept the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan as presented (Johansen/Fruchter)

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

Outreach

Jill urged the Board to vote daily in the Chronogram poll for the best radio station and to link to the voting on social media. There is a direct link now so it is easy to do.

Chronogram will provide us with free advertising to a demographic we believe is interested in finding us.

MOTION to enter a closed session discuss a confidential financial matter –
(Madden/Fruchter) at 7:17pm

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

MOTION to exit a closed session discuss a confidential matter (Madden/Fruchter) at 7:23pm

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Dale Blagrove, Amy Brightfield, Katie Childs, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

MOTION to adjourn (Madden/Johansen) at 7:25 pm

Submitted by Barb Demarest