



WJFF Radio Catskill Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes for March 9th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Online meeting

Minutes approved on: 4/27/2026

Board Members Present: Don Almquist (remote), Jeff Barnes (remote), Katie Childs (remote), Barb Demarest (remote), Jill Fruchter (remote), Matthew Goldman (remote), Brett Hogencamp (remote), Tanya Kalivas (remote), Leif Johansen (remote), Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz (remote), Elizabeth Hope Williams

Staff Present: Tim Bruno, Mimi Bradley

Members of the Public Present: Rosie Starr

Board Members Absent: none

A quorum being present, Pete called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

MOTION to approve the Minutes in the consent agenda of the following meetings (Almquist/Williams):

- 8/22/25 Strategic Planning minutes
- 9/22/25 Strategic Planning minutes
- 1/26/26 BOT Minutes
- 2/9/26 Special Meeting of the BOT Minutes
- 2/26/26 Executive Committee Minutes

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Jeff Barnes, 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 reappoint Neal Hitch and Jill Carlettti as members of the Community Advisory board. (Demarest/ Johansen)

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

OPPOSED: none

Tim updated the board on the fundraising efforts. The Spring Fund Drive is April 6-17th with a \$70K goal. Two large challenges have already been confirmed, which will roll out on Local News Day, April 9th. King Pizza Records (a not-for-profit record label) which donated \$5000 last year, has donated \$5000 again. We are feeling very good going into the drive.

Mimi gave updates on the two winter sound supporter/volunteer engagement events that were quite successful: Song Sung Blue at the Callicoon Theater and an Open Mic night at the Catskill Brewery. There are two more upcoming events remaining: March 13th, two singer/songwriters performing at Big Eddy Brewing and on March 29th, a jazz concert at the Cooperage. There are a number of upcoming fundraising events for spring/summer:

March 27th Liberation Station Live at the Parlor in Narrowsburg, with Callison

April 11th – Live Music Day in studios

April 19th – Major donor cultivation event at Bethel Woods with Garrison Keeler Live, Bethel Woods donated 10 tickets and will cover dinners for high level donors.

May 17th, Pints for Public Media at the Common Good in Ellenville

May 23-24 – TBC Joint fundraising event WIOX/Roxbury arts group

May 23 - Music Yard Sale

May 30 - Bill Williams will perform his monologue History of a Brief Time at Lew Beach Community House

June 20 – Lew Beach Community House music fundraiser

It is looking to be a busy spring and summer.

Katie asked Mimi if we have enough money budgeted for all these events. Mimi is keeping a spreadsheet and will update.

Tim updated the board on the progress of the app and gave a preview. It has a lot of exciting capabilities. It is still in development and the plan is to keep tweaking it. We are in the process of updating the website now. Katie asked if we will be able to get statics, metrics on downloads and usage. Tim said we will, it's being run by Public Media Apps.

Tim gave updates on the Stations' programming. Farm and Country is expanding to an hour long – 10am-11am Rosie Starr is going to more involved and add more programming. Kaatscast with Brett Barry is shrinking to 30 mins from an hour. We

have added a new show – Jazz After Hours at Sunday 8pm-midnight. It has half the programming cost and we get more hours of programming.

Tim also brought up the Chronogram Readers' Choice Award nomination which open and asked everyone to nominate the Station.

Katie presented the Treasurer's report. She gave a quick rundown of the statement of accounts. The Jeff Bank Operating Account is \$228,430.91, Jeff Bank Capital Campaign is \$30,196.32, Total Jeff Bank Cash Accounts are \$258,627.23. The CFOS&R Investment Account is at \$386,970.02, we have seen over \$7k growth since January. Wayne Investment Account is \$24,352.00, with Total Investments being: \$411,322.02.

As Katie noted, in working on 2026 budget, we want to ensure the budget is reactive and responsive. To that point, she said that we have some unbudgeted needs: insulation of our doors, upgrading windows, capital improvement to the annex building so it can be occupied and main studio. Katie said the improvement expenses were going to be \$34,500. It was discussed in the Finance Committee, and they recommend approving the expenditure and that we liquidate the capital account to go toward improvements. The balance would come from the Jeff operating account.

MOTION to approve un-budgeted capital improvement expenses in the amount of \$34,500 with \$30,196.32 to be funded from the Jeff Bank Capital Campaign account and the balance from the Jeff Bank Operating Account. (Childs/Johansen)

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Jeff Barnes, 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 approve an increase in the salary budget for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of \$5,000. (Childs/Williams)

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Jeff Barnes, 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 approve two previous motions in the Finance section of the minutes (Childs/Madden)

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

OPPOSED: none

Pete announced that regarding WIOX: we have the MOU, our attorney has said that WIOX is ready to sign it, as is. It is on their board meeting agenda for this Friday and expected to be approved. It addresses many of our earlier concerns. The plan is to do a single broadcast on both frequencies. He said it is an exciting opportunity for both stations. He invited a discussion of any questions or concerns regarding the MOU and the path forward. WIOX is all locally produced shows, so there are no competing national shows we need to be concerned with. We are and have been looking for opportunities where things will go within the programming or podcasts. Tim said that it will be a bit more work, but he's confident we can handle it. The merger would expand our audience, donor base, and we could hire another reporter. PMBF has given us a coach (a 30+ year veteran of public media) and this merger could open another stream of funding for the station from the Bridge Fund. We are working to expand our reach, solidifying our future. Pete feels there are a lot of concrete opportunities this merger will create. Leif said he has been involved with the Station for 17 years and this is one of the best and most exciting times for the Station, now we're not treating water, but going forward. He is incredibly excited about this prospect and thanked everyone for all of their work on this thus far.

MOTION for the BOT to authorize Pete Madden to sign the MOU with WIOX in order to proceed. (Madden/Childs)

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Jeff Barnes, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

Pete will sign it this week and send it back to the lawyers. Hopefully, we will have it fully signed by Friday.

Leif gave Strategic Planning updates. He included the Google form feedback from the community about the strategic plan. There were 13 replies which showed some useful trends. Overall, very positive feedback. Feedback was shared with the board. Next steps, Leif will propose a few tweaks and see if a meeting is necessary and will share with the committee. Katie offered help in adding some slides for the financial side.

Ilya gave Nom and Gov updates. They will be meeting soon, going forward with some bylaw changes. Yael Feinerman has resigned from the board. We have a number of openings on the board coming up for next year, that we need to plan for.

MOTION to accept the resignation of Yael Feinerman (Madden/Ilya)

IN FAVOR: Don Almquist, Jeff Barnes, Barb Demarest, Jill Fruchter, Matthew Goldman, Brett Hogencamp, Tanya Kalivas, Leif Johansen, Pete Madden, Ilya Marritz, Elizabeth Hope Williams

OPPOSED: none

Pete asked everyone to make suggestions of any one that might be interested in joining the board. There is an application form on website. There was a priority for candidates with a finance/business background. People who are local, civic minded, and news background.

Pete made a disclosure that he is leaving ABC and is now accepting a job as a senior producer on Freakanomics. He wanted to announce it to the board, to see if anyone had any concerns or questions regarding conflict of interest.

Jill gave updates from Outreach. Chronogram readers' choice awards are coming up. She shared the link to nominate the Station and reminded the board to continue nominations. The final vote will be in April.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:22pm (Madden/Williams)

Submitted by Donald Almquist