



Talkeetna Community Radio, Inc.
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General Manager's Report to the Board

by Charlie Loeb

January, 2010

Fiscal Issues

It was a month of good news on the fiscal front. First, we received notice that public radio was receiving a slice of federal fiscal stabilization funding. The grant to CPB is \$25 million, but I don't think they will send it all to us. I have heard no further word on the amount or timing of payments to stations. Next, APBI awarded us the \$29,300 in the Round 5 Capital Grant for work on the transmitter site. This grant will require a match of \$6,100 from us. Fortunately, I believe we already have the money in hand, in part because of the 3rd piece of good news. When we submitted our report to the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation, we asked the foundation to increase the amount of our grant from \$5,000 to \$7,500 since we had raised additional matching funds. They awarded \$7,250, which is \$2,250 more than we had counted on. This should give us enough in the JSCF money to match the entire grant. We will also be using a generous \$500 donation from R.G. Denny that we were able to cite as matching funds for both grants.

One note on the Round 5 grant: the grant committee strongly recommended that we remove the diesel generator instead of replacing the fuel system. APBI is willing to consider a budget amendment if the cost varies as a result.

It has also come to my attention that the \$10,500 match for the Round 3 Capital Grant is not budgeted. In order to address these grants and matching funds, we will need to do a minor budget revision which the Finance Committee will consider prior to the Jan. 6 board meeting.

Organizational/Programming Issues

Misty Herlehey has started a new classical music show on Mondays at 1:00pm in Cari Sayre's former spot on the schedule. She is very enthused, and we have received at least 3 positive comments on her show, which debuted Dec. 14.

Suvan Sterling and Laura Stahl, students at Su Valley, put together a Christmas memories Nugget featuring interviews with and Christmas music suggestions from other students.

We did a lot of shuffling with the automation system to cover the holidays, and ran one holiday special during the noon news/informazine hour on Christmas Day. Many thanks to Sharon Montagnino who came in to read the evening news on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Holly Stinson prerecorded Patchwork Hour for Christmas and did both midday news and her show on New Year's Day. Stu Carnegie did his evening program on New Year's. Skip Merkeley pre-recorded an hour of his show to play on Christmas Eve and did his show on New Years Eve.

All the automation programming focused my attention on the volunteer programs and the music that



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plays when they don't show up. We had a lot of absences during this period, not unexpectedly. However, the number of syndicated shows that play in the event a host doesn't show up is relatively small, and I worry about too much World Cafe over the holidays. The scrutiny also highlighted that we don't really have a system for tracking volunteer hours, even though we brag all the time about how much volunteer support we have. I am going to initiate three changes:

- We will be emphasizing to show hosts that it is important to let us know if they won't be making their show. Usually, we have no idea until they aren't there, although a few are good about advance notification (or, in some cases, providing us with pre-recorded shows).
- I will encourage hosts to work with us to find substitutes rather than abandoning their show to the automation system. We have some folks who don't have shows that love to do them.
- I am going to start accounting for on-air volunteer hours. This is a prelude to accounting for all volunteer hours, and can be done with little effort. I will include the statistics in my board report in future months.

I will be advertising the fundraising position starting the week of Jan. 11.

Technical Issues

Ron Zastrow rebuilt the backup ENCO machine and will be reinstalling on Jan. 5. If I have the money, we will do a similar upgrade and rebuild on the active unit.

I have someone interested in contracting to provide technical support at the transmitter site. I will be following up this month.

We had dead air at midnight on Christmas, and automatically switched to KUAC until Laura noticed Saturday morning. We were off for about 9 hours, 45 minutes.

John Proffitt vanished again after his brief reappearance last month, still without RSS feeds and podcasts happening. I have not been able to find someone else to advise on this work, but hope to have some time to focus on it later this month.

Michael Vaughn is acting station manager at KSKO in McGrath for three weeks.

Regional/State Issues

I firmed up a process for reporting on the CRA PFTP grant with the station managers at Haines, Galena, and McGrath, and submitted the long-overdue reports. I have no other regional news.