



Talkeetna Community Radio, Inc.
Box 300, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676
(907) 733-1700 (fax) 733-1781
www.ktna.org

General Manager's Report to the Board

by Charlie Loeb

March, 2010

The time between meetings is passing all too quickly. As a reminder, I will be singing It's A Small World for a week between March 5 and March 14, returning to the office March 15. Deb will be acting General Manager in my absence. I am working out methods for assuring that my e-mail and voicemail are checked for GM application inquiries in my absence.

Fiscal Issues

I have been trying to get out amendments for both the APBI Round 3 and Round 5 capital grants for 2 or 3 weeks now. The Round 5 grant needs an amendment for removing the diesel generator from the building rather than replacing the fueling system. I have found someone willing and able to get the generator out of the building, and a potential buyer for it. The Round 3 grant needs an amendment regarding the phone system project, and possibly the entrance area mezzanine floor. Robert had included a small amount of the grant for adding voice mail capability to our phone system, but as it turns out the manufacturer has been bought out, the phone line discontinued, and everyone has ceased supporting it. Since the ventilation system is costing less than anticipated, I am looking into reprogramming some of the funds for a new phone and voice mail system.

Organizational/Programming Issues

Recruitment for the Development Coordinator position closed on March 1. We received 5 applications, some of which are very promising. I intend to set up interviews for the week after I return from my brief break.

We have received 6 applications so far for the General Manager position and several other inquiries. The position has been well-advertised in the realms where it is mostly likely to catch attention of qualified applicants, but there may be some more we can do in the way of personal outreach.

The Listener Survey had 161 responses in the end. I hope to consolidate a final report before I leave on my trip so that it can be provided to the CAB, which has a tentative first meeting date of March 22. I also intend to propose some program schedule modifications at that time.

The staff is collectively attending a long-sought training for Wordpress on Tuesday, March 2. I anticipate that this will greatly enhance our ability to manage the station's website.

We had a total of 121 ballots cast in the board election. Congratulations to Bruce and Todd on winning their seats!



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Technical Issues

The new acoustic panels for the studios arrived and may be installed by the time of our meeting. I signed a contract for purchase of ventilation equipment for the studios from Mat-Su Mechanical. This equipment will be installed in May after the ground has thawed enough to put down a concrete pad for the exterior unit. Both of these are Round 3 capital grant projects.

Mike Figley continues to improve the building network on the Round 3 capital grant. We are with some trepidation hooking the automation system to the network. This will enable much easier file transfers, clock calibration, regular software updating, and conceivably remote diagnostics and support from the manufacturer's help desk. Several of the other pieces of equipment will also benefit by being networked; we can more easily troubleshoot the Content Depot equipment, for example, as they have graphical interfaces that can be accessed using a web browser if, in fact, you have them connected to a machine with a web browser.

The arrangement with Brad Rich to look after the transmitter site is working out wonderfully. He is visiting the site weekly to keep the snow shoveled and an eye on building temperatures and propane levels. Michael Vaughn and I met with him the week of Feb. 22 to do an overview of routine maintenance and longer-term projects, most of which are on our APBI Round 5 list. We should have more consistent oversight and ongoing improvement at the transmitter site than we have had in a long time.

External

I attended the APBC quarterly meeting by teleconference on Feb. 26. It was a short meeting with little substance. Ongoing financial distress in at KSKO in McGrath caused, in part, by the GAR process dominated much of the station-based discussion. There was a brief update on the G3 process - the collaboration between the Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage stations. This collaboration has now formally grown by 2 to include Bethel and Coast Alaska.