The Iowa Public Radio Board of Directors met on April 24, 2012, at IPR Studios in Des Moines, IA. Present for the meeting were Chairman Art Neu, Vice Chairwoman Kay Runge, Director Warren Madden and IPR Executive Director Mary Grace Herrington. Director Tysen Kendig and Asst. Director Christopher Martin joined the meeting by phone. Present from the IPR leadership team were Kelly Edmister and Jonathan Ahl.

Chair Neu called the meeting to order at 1:00 and welcomed Assistant Director Martin to the group.

April 24, 2012 Agenda Approval:

Vice Chair Runge moved and Director Madden seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion of changing the date of the June meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, the date of the June meeting was changed to June 20.

Chairman’s Report

Chair Neu reported that he, Madden and Herrington held a discussion recently with Meg Miller, the counsel from Dow Lohnes, Washington, D.C. who represents our stations for all matters related to FCC compliance. Chair Neu and Herrington confirmed the role of the IPR board as a governing board with authorities outlined in the PSOA along with Miller’s clarification that the Board of Regents/Universities are the controlling entity. Chair Neu shared Miller’s view that adding additional community directors was not required but that it could provide both continuity and the ability to stagger terms, bringing new members on and increasing exposure for IPR throughout the state.

Chair Neu asked for feedback and all agreed that adding two additional community directors was a good approach. Chair Neu committed to further discussion at the June board meeting.

February 22, 2012 Minutes Approval:

Herrington called attention to two errors in the February 22, 2012 minutes as presented. On the first page, the minutes should reflect that the February 22, 2012 agenda was presented for approval and that the December 15, 2011 minutes were approved. Vice Chair Runge pointed out that the motion under Programming Changes on page two should read “moved to accept” rather than “moved to accepted.”

Runge moved and Madden seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.
Finance Update:

Edmister reviewed the financial report as submitted in the board book and responded to questions regarding underwriting positions, the Insights Series, and Friends of KUNI.

Assistant Director Martin moved and Director Madden seconded to approve the financial report as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

FY13 Operating Budget:

Edmister reviewed the draft FY2013 budget (Attachment A) and answered questions about the Friends of KUNI group and the upcoming transition to Merit Resources.

Herrington and Edmister presented the opportunities to fill a frozen position, promote one employee and add several more truly balancing the news and development staffs. These efforts would allow Herrington to resume a fundraising role about 50% of the time.

Director Madden moved to accept the FY13 budget as presented and Director Kendig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IPR Single Class Employment Plan Update

Edmister presented an update regarding the transition from ISU benefits and payroll administration for IPR employees to Merit Resources. Next steps include obtaining statements of health from all employees in order to determine final rates. Once final rates are received, benefits packages can be compiled and open enrollment sessions will be scheduled. University HR leadership will be updated on this progress. Edmister reminded everyone that university P&S employees will have an opportunity to opt-in to IPR employment after July 2012.

Network Expansion Plan Update

Herrington and Ahl shared the Network Expansion Plan Update (Attachment B). The Perry construction plan experienced some delays due to tower compliance issues. Tower improvements will push back the date for completion to January, 2013. The report indicated that leasing option – despite the required tower improvements and delay – continues to be more favorable because of reduced costs and quicker construction.

Communications Plan

Herrington shared the staggered timing, the graphics, and the scripts for the IPR advertising campaign that will guide the listener through signal and program changes beginning in September. (Attachment C). She also highlighted Connect (Attachment D), which will be a new electronic newsletter which will allow the Chair to connect with VIP Stakeholders on a quarterly basis.
A Leadership Luncheon is being planned for September for our major donors and other influential supporters. Herrington has an invitation out to NPR’s CEO, Gary Knell, to be the keynote speaker.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Director Madden moved to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chair Runge. Motion carried and Chair Neu adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre Giesler
Executive Administrative Assistant