

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 30, 2006

The Iowa Public Radio Board of Directors convened at 1:05 p.m. March 30, 2006, at the Pappajohn Higher Education Center in Des Moines.

Members present: Art Neu, chair; Kay Runge, Steve Carignan, Warren Madden, Steve Parrott and executive director Cindy Brown. Other attendees: Don Wirth (ISU), Diana Gonzalez (Board of Regents office).

Chair Neu called the Board meeting to order. Madden moved and Carignan seconded approval of the minutes of the Feb. 28 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial report

Wirth reviewed the financial statements from the stations, noting that expenses and revenue are consistent with the percentage of the fiscal year completed. Revenues will increase with the spring fundraisers conducted by the stations, he added. Browne noted that projections for the FY06 year suggest that the stations will be at 100 percent of budgeted revenue and 97 percent of budgeted expenses.

Looking ahead to the FY07 budgets, Wirth said potential capital investments would reduce reserves, depending on whether IPR receives FCC approval to construct stations in Ottumwa, Perry and Bettendorf. Once FCC approval is obtained, IPR will have two years to build and finance the new stations, Browne explained.

Neu asked if there are plans to raise funds in local communities to help with the costs of building the stations. Browne and Wirth said that preliminary talks have already been held with the Wapello County Board of Supervisors for the Ottumwa station. In addition, it may be advantageous to approach Indian Hills Community College about creating a production studio at that facility, Browne said.

Browne thanked Wirth for working with the other stations to create a template for a single, common IPR budget. However, for FY07, budgets will be kept for each university's stations, she said.

Transition update

Based on e-mail approval from Board members, Roxanne Rogers of Des Moines has been hired to develop job descriptions that comply with both FCC and ADA rules for the senior leadership team positions and an administrative assistant position, Browne noted. Those positions will include content and media, network operations, finance and administration, and development. All positions will be advertised nationally. Board members urged Browne to develop a search process that involves wide consultation with staff members while retaining the final decision for herself. Browne said she would consult with Roxanne Rogers to craft a search process. She also said that the jobs should be posted within two weeks.

Browne shared copies of proposed public service agreement between IPR, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and the three universities. Copies will be sent to the Board of Regents office for review. Among the portions of the agreements yet to be worked out are final arrangements for fund-raising, including relationships with the foundations of the University of Iowa and Iowa State University and the Friends of KUNI. In addition, each university's financial support for IPR must be negotiated.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 30, 2006

Browne updated the Board on her investigation of potential space in Des Moines should it become necessary to move the IPR offices out of the Pappajohn Center. The existing WOI radio studio will not be moved from the Pappajohn Center and there may be the possibility of obtaining sufficient space in that building. However, she continues to investigate other possibilities for an estimated 2,000-3,000 square feet.

Evaluation

Browne thanked the Board for its support expressed as part of the recent evaluation completed after her first six months as IPR executive director. She noted that the creation of Iowa Public Radio is a complicated project and that the employees of the three stations have been expressing concerns that are to be expected in times of transition. She said it is important to acknowledge employees' discomfort but noted that completion of the upcoming strategic planning sessions should help reduce uncertainty and discomfort.

Management team compensation

Browne asked the Board to approve a proposal to equalize the compensation of the three interim station managers during the transition period. Under her proposal, Joan Kjaer of WSUI/KSUI, Don Wirth of WOI, and Wayne Jarvis of KUNI will all be paid an annual salary of \$72,840, retroactive to Sept. 1, 2005. The interim positions will be phased out once the new leadership team is hired, Browne noted.

Parrott moved to approve the request; Runge seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At Runge's invitation, the April meeting of the Board will be held in the new Des Moines Public Library. The meeting will include a presentation by Tom Thomas of the Station Resource Group, which will be aimed at helping the Board develop mission and vision statements as part of the strategic plan. The 1 p.m. meeting will be preceded by a 12:30 p.m. tour of the library.

Tentative plans for holding future meetings at the universities were approved. The May 25 meeting will be at Cedar Falls; the June 29 meeting at Iowa City; and the July 26 meeting in Ames.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Parrott, Secretary