

The meeting was called to order by board president Rich Liebert on the Zoom platform at 6a:30 p.m. Board members present were Lonnie Hill, Joe Moll, Thomas Risberg, Mattias Schalper, and Diane Stinger. Guests present were Dan Manella, volunteer program coordinator Gabe Vasichek, radio host Matt Donnelly, and from Montana Public Radio (MTPR) Ray Ekness and staff from MTPR: Ann Hosler, Corin Cates Carney, Saxon Holbrook, and Michael Marsolek.

GFPR board members introduced themselves briefly, then Ray Ekness asked each MTPR staff member to introduce themselves.

Ann Hosler, development director, stated the fall campaign tally was \$300,000, just short of the goal of \$350,000 for fall fundraising, but other revenue streams were over so MTPR is only \$130,000 to raise till year end goal of \$2.125 million is met, a robust year end campaign is being planned.

Corin Cates Carney reported the Otto Brehmer grant has funded a reporter for Butte and Great Falls to bring in stories on rural issues, veterans, Native American affairs and anything of interest in those areas. The reporter will be based in Great Falls. The newsroom is working on 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Amplified America, 20 stations working with Corporation for Public Broadcasting to make sure the voices brought in are reflective of the communities they are reporting on (source auditing).

Ray said MTPR is contemplating expansion to more communities. Technical Director Saxon Holbrook reported the last visits to transmitter sights prior to winter are being made, In the last year Tim Martin wrapped up the Murdock Grant, transitioned to a new traffic system, built a complete automation replacement in parallel with current broadcast chain. Tim Martin retired, after working with Greg Muir many times over the year.

Saxon stated that during the recent noncommercial/ educational FCC licensing window MTPR prepared applications for licenses in Browning, Eureka, Philipsburg, Deer Lodge Thompson Falls, filed to repair the lost translator in White Sulphur Springs, and filed to protect translator license in Dillon. It appears most will be granted.

Michael Marsolek reviewed pandemic programming and other recent programming and some new programming changes. Michael mentioned the recent host of the childrens' programming, Annie Gard retired, and so did Beth Ann Austein, producer. Michael said they are bringing back live sessions and remote broadcasting, bringing Story Corps mobile booth back to Missoula Public Library for one month June and July, looking at a presence at Montana Folk Festival in Butte next summer, has quite a bit planned at International Choral Festival next summer in Missoula. Working with programming in order to run the new content and delivery automation system will require in tandem with what is currently going on before automation is implemented at the end of the year. Several shows have been picked up by PRX. Michael suggested KGPR consider putting special programming up on PRX if it has a broader appeal. Ray complimented the MTPR staff for their hard work and resiliency. He said they are waiting for some new podcasts, including Shared State, (Justin Engle's show), Threshold and Words Out West. Dan Manella joined the meeting and was introduced to the MTPR staff. Dan commented on the resiliency of the staff in Missoula and his continued amazement at the energy coming out of Great Falls. Dan Manella works for Stevens Media Group overseeing the Tri Cities and Spokane market in the state of Washington.

Rich solicited questions for Ray's team, Diane asked about Words Out West. Michael Marsolek explained it is a literary and theatrical podcast put together by Jake Kettering and Cole Grant starting its second season, drawing from writers and theatrical productions in the region and featuring audio plays, poetry, fiction, non fiction, pulling primarily from the region. They are planning 13 episodes this season. They put together specials for the radio which KUFM drops into the Sunday 4:00 p.m. slot.

Joe asked how they upload shows to PRX. Michael explained one can become a producer there, initially, and said "you just have to poke around at PRX.org and look at the different ways to participate." There is a fee to become a producer, about \$50 per year, and then can upload audio to PRX. To become a station uploading is a different level of fees. An individual can put up content as a producer. Michael said it is a good source for "putting stuff up."

Rich asked Corin whether there are any prospects for a reporter, Corin said no.

Diane asked Saxon about the process involved for applying for a license in new communities. Saxon explained it is a footprint that fits in the current stations that are there in the non-educational band, and universities, public radio stations, and religious s can file for those. KUFM did that application there were 50 in Montana to sort through. Diane asked whether public radio is competing with religious stations for that band. Saxon said yes, and the opportunity for filing for additional licenses is rare, the band width is essentially gone, a lot of that happened because of religious organizations filing for multiple licenses in many communities. Saxon is excited to have filed in Browning and Eureka. The next step is approval, then raising the money to put up transmitters. The window is open for three years or the frequency will be lost.

Rich asked Anne whether she can identify new donors v.s. returning donors, Anne said the database tracks every person's account, giving history, new or sustaining, ability to add personal notes.

Joe asked Saxon about a transmitter to Choteau. Saxon said that window is closed, the choices are wait for the next window, which may not occur, or purchase a license that covers that community. Those opportunities are rare and are typically commercial licenses, but MTRP is watching for an opportunity to cover the gap between Browning and Great Falls, including Choteau.

Ray thanked GFPR for having the team on to give their reports, thanked GFPR for being partners with MTPR.

Secretary's report from October was read, Matthias moved to approve as written, Thomas seconded, motion passed. September was circulated online, to be approved online.

The financial spreadsheet was presented. Total in the local account was \$11,639.40, total in the GFPR account at UM was \$41,179.12.

Accounts payable November 21: Total \$2750.47

Vertical Bridge \$1,081.37 (transmitter tower rental)

Wofram Engineering \$860.37 (Heritage Hall upgrades)

Century Link 1 \$630.08 ( 2 months past, current)

Century Link 2 \$170.63 (3 months past, current)

Accounts receivable November 21: Total \$2,700

MT Dept. of Parks \$2,040 (renewed annually)

Big Sky Country NHA \$360 (renewed quarterly, new 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payment)

Brian's Piano Service \$300 (second, third quarters)

It was explained the Wolfram Engineering work was in enhancing Heritage Hall for direct feed to the studio. The Century Link delay was due to the accountant being ill. Rich has spoken with Greg about replacing the T1 line with a Vision Net T1 line, the initial investment would be close to \$2,000 but generate substantial savings each month, down from \$360 to \$90 per month. State Parks sponsors Front Range Outdoors. Kellergeist's sponsorship payment of \$270 was notes. Rich reviewed sponsorship times with Gabe. It was noted the MTPR GFPR broadcast agreement is pending for resolution and approval in December, with estimated first half payment of \$14,015 due December 21. Expenses have been stabilized at approximately \$3,000 per month. Gabe mentioned there is about \$60 cash in the studio from the Listener Appreciation Party, Rich asked him to use it for petty cash.

Matthias mentioned he still has KGPR cd's at the Kellergeist for sale, with about \$30 from sales so far. Gabe thanked Matthias for hosting the CD's and the brochures, Matthias said he would sell them at the Christmas market.

Station manager's report: Gabe will include sponsorships in the podcast, mentioned having had Tim Hodges on the air, will offer Tim a Friday night if he wants it, Matt and TC and Elizabeth are consistent, Marty and Amy with Front Range Outdoors are consistent, Vets for Vets is going well. Local media is great. Gabe got a call from NY Times to use studio to record an interview with a local detective for a podcast series on cold cases, they were pleased with quality and will make a donation to the station. Joe noted the BBC used our studio in 2006 to record coverage of the John Tester campaign and paid GFPR \$100 per hour. Thomas noted the "live local" is helping listenership, that the City Commission debate got 55 downloads, the most since we began posting podcasts. Thomas feels that is where we are getting new listeners. Rich thanked everyone for the Veteran's Day show and the Listener's party. Lonnie reported on the success of the party. Matthias noted that following the party the Ebb and Flow band has become the regular band at the Kellergeist. Lonnie feels the impact of the night was much greater than the cash donations reflect. Gabe noted many people were introduced to public radio through the party.

A Hot Ticket type of publication through public radio was discussed. Dan suggested more people on the board could add to the ideas and the people who could do the work, he suggested extending invitations to more people to be on the board. Gabe noted it was younger people who had not heard of public radio. Dan suggested the State Fair is a great place to pull in listeners, gain exposure, build up awareness and "plant the flag." Thomas suggested Jayson Oltoff for the board. Thomas said he would invite Jason to the next board meeting. Gabe suggested we come up with a list that a volunteer could do, whether on the board or not, such as being a collating force to coordinate the events websites various people host, forming a one "go-to" place. Dan suggested asking Art Taft to be on the board. Rich said he would work on asking Art Raft. Rich asked for suggestions for next year, perhaps a bigger venue. Diane said she thinks what we do is just right. Matthias suggested doing it earlier in the fall or late summer to take advantage of the beer garden. Joe pointed out he spoke to people at the party recently moved from San Francisco, our population is changing.

Rich pointed out the station ownership report was completed by Greg Muir.

New Business: receive nominations for the board. Diane made a motion to nominate everyone who is currently on the board to remain on the board. Rich called for a vote: all were in favor. Gabe voted "aye" as a member, and pointed out he would not have been energized to be back involved without such an involved board. Diane asked whether Dan Manella would consider being on the board. Dan said yes, absolutely. Diane nominated Dan Manella to be on the board, Thomas seconded, motion passed unanimously. Thomas asked about hosts being on the board. Gabe noted when there were 15 people on the board there was one position for a host, but it was agreed the board is now limited to 9 members and hosts remain solely hosts.

Rich brought up the JCCS charity offer, statewide any nonprofit can apply for a \$7500 grant, 10 will be awarded statewide. Thomas suggested it was not worth our time to try to get people to write enough letters, and there will be big organizations doing drives to submit letters.

Diane asked Dan about Vista computers and radio. Dan said older software in many radio stations are antiquated systems and require an older computer, such as XP or Vista, to run. Dan said his Spokane operation is an "XP Farm", with many old computers sitting around. He may be able to help us out if we needed one.

Rich asked Thomas about the Greater Montana Foundation. Thomas noted Art Taft has been involved with the Greater Montana Foundation and they might be a funding source for a show we wanted to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.