

Minutes WBAI LSB 9-13-23

Present: Rachel Barr, Doc Shya Bey, John Brinkley, Jack De Palma, Jim Dingeman, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Dee Dee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallman, Bounubti Kamenthou, R. Paul Martin, Katherine O'Sullivan, Hazel Pinder, Matthew Reiss, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Max Schmid, Michael D.D. White (acting chair)

Absent: Scottye Battle, Priscilla Cancar, Jack DeVine, Basir MChawi, Sharonne Salaam, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Andre Ward

Also Present: Berthold Reimers, General Manager, Linda Perry, Programming Director, M. Kay Williams, Secretary.

Final Agenda:

1. Convene meeting- (Ask for recording of the meeting to be started and confirm designated time keeper. Note how chat is to be used.)
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences -(5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: July 26, 2023 and August 9, 2023 Meetings (5 minutes)
6. Reporting of General Manager and Program Director. (20 Minutes report, 20 minutes discussion) - Berthold Reimers and Linda Perry
7. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including election updates. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) - Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
8. Treasurer's Report. - (7 Minutes report, 5 minutes discussion) - R. Paul Martin
9. Management Evaluation Committee Report (Requests to Furnish Assessments have been requested- Submission due next month). (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White.
10. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) - Neale Vos
11. Resolution Reflecting Proposal Generated by LOFT Committee Re Fund Raising Data Allocations To Programs. (10 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - Jim Dingeman
12. Discussion, Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g. Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now On Ukranian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted By US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing. (15 minutes) -Michael D. D. White.
13. Resolution regarding functionality of email address for public to contact members of the LSB. (10 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
14. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand.- (10 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
15. Resolution To Set Up A Process Whereby The LSB Will, On a Case by Case Basis, Between Now and June 30, 2023, Act To Grant By-law Hardship Waivers To Certain Listeners Allowing Them To Vote In WBAI Elections Without Donating The Otherwise Required \$25 or Volunteer Work Minimum. (8 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman]
16. Competing Successfully With the Internet vs And/or Becoming Internet Successful and Recent Anti-Trust Litigation Against Corporate Legacy Media's "Trusted News Initiative" + Restrict Act- (5 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
17. Report on Town Hall Discussions: - (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White/Jim Dingeman/Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.
18. Discussion: Adjournment Time of LSB meeting(s)-(5 minutes) Dr. Shya Bey
19. Public Comment. (30 minutes) 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.
20. New Business. (Until end of meeting, if required)
21. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

7:10 pm ET Call to Order, a Quorum, the chair, and secretary being present

7:16 pm ET Motion (Dee Dee Halleck) To adopt the agenda as read. Seconded.

7:16 pm ET Amendment (R. Paul Martin) To extend the time of the Treasurer's Report to 7 min report and 5 min discussion. Seconded. Passed without objection.

Then original motion passed without objection

7:18 pm ET Roll Call (Results as above)

7:23 pm ET Motion (Jack De Palma) To excuse all absences. Seconded. Passed without objection.

7:25 pm ET New member Matthew Reiss seated and introduced himself.

7:26 pm ET Motion (Jack De Palma) To waive the reading and approve minutes from 7-26-23 and 8-9-23. Seconded. Passed without objection.

7:28 pm ET Joint Report General Manager (Berthold Reimers) and Program Director (Linda Perry)

Highlights:

- Received part of a bequest Arthur (WBAI's counsel) has been working on. It allowed us to pay \$60K toward the Tower Rent and \$10,600 toward the 388 Rent (2 mos.) which was then matched by a donor for 2 more months. Paid \$120K (\$10K per mo) to Central Services which will cover Health Benefits, Archives, and Payroll.
- The ACD Call Center - \$41K – is not being paid. Would save \$7K per month if moved call answering back to the station with volunteers.
- \$60,844 in PSA's is coming
- More producers are participating in pitching Fund Drive one day and BAI Buddies the next day; however, there is a disturbing trend of making less on Fund Drive days, possibly related to lack of new premiums.
- Had varying success with getting national shows to pitch for WBAI. Will work on this for next fund drive.
- Have gotten business plans from some producers how to raise \$1K per month.
- Lost their room with computers to edit new programs after the Vernile case.
- Shawn Rhodes is putting together something on the March Against Fossil Fuels.
- To do better street reporting, need Sony recorders (\$40) which can be fed directly into BAI's computers. Cellphone recordings require IMAC computers which we don't have.
- Radio Mindflight will move to Friday nights before Harlem Midnight Ravers
- Latino Voices of Resistance will move to before Con Sabor Latino
- The Broadcast clock is 55 min, and the last 5 min used to be used for news, now being used for candidate carts. They are grouped in the order they came in and rotated 5 times per day.
- The Board Ops initialize exactly what's been played when, which is true of all PSA's.

The Board discussed the Report

8:09 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To extend discussion 5 min. Seconded. Passed without objection

8:15 pm ET Pacifica National Board Report (James Sagurton, Jim Dingeman, Sharonne Salaam, Shawn Rhodes)

Highlights:

- We are in arrears with both the EIDL loan and the FJC loan and are at risk they can confiscate property we are using as collateral, then we can't even benefit from the selling of it. May get a raid from the Treasury Dept.
- We need to raise BAI's income by \$344K per year.
- All the stations have declined 400-700% in audience. Analog radio decreased 10% even after the Pandemic.
- WBAI's license is always at risk to be either swapped or just sold outright.
- Considering repeating programs that we know make money, syndicating.
- The highest rated shows in the network are Gary Null, Democracy Now (1 million listeners each morning), and the KPFA morning show.
- KPFA has 6 paid staffers doing their morning show.
- Need to incorporate podcasts and social media for younger people. Katie Halpern may help with this. She has a younger audience.

The Board discussed the Report

8:28 pm ET Treasurer's Report (R. Paul Martin)

Highlights:

- WBAI makes \$2500 per day if no premiums.
- The GM wants to make \$300K per year from PSA's.
- The latest tranche of money from the Bolton Family Trust came through and we paid \$60 K to Central Services, plus some more bills with the help of matching funds.
- We pay \$300K per year in consultants but this is less than 10% of our deficit. We had to cut 75% of our staff in 2013 and we need our consultants to keep the station on the air.
- The ED wants a list of our consultants, with job descriptions, and wants to cut \$45K in consultant fees.
- Accounts payable are at \$2 million, with \$888K listed as "urgent." We had a \$257K deficit by May, '23.
- The NFC wants our FY24 budget by 10-24-23.
- All the stations except for KPFT are now running deficits. KPFT is also the only station paying its Central Services fees monthly, however it is also the station with the most repeat programs. What people like about WBAI is our eclectic group of voices. And KPFT will need to purchase a new transmitter soon.
- The ED wants to consolidate all bank accounts into Bank of America. This will make it easier to track finances and make transfers when necessary.

The Board discussed the Report

8:41 pm ET Management Evaluation Committee Report (Michael D.D. White)

8:41 pm ET Katherine O'Sullivan took over as temporary chair so Michael D. D. White could present his report.

Highlights:

- LSB member participation in the evaluation is being requested. A topic guide and suggested rating scale has been sent around. Please send responses to the Secretary.
- The final report is due at the next LSB meeting.

The Board discussed the Report

8:46 pm ET Michael D.D. White took back chairing the meeting.

8:46 pm ET Community Advisory Board Report (Neale Vos)

Highlights:

- WBAI should go to 30-minute shows to allow for new shows. And we need to list procedures on the website for proposals for new shows.
- We need to bring back the personal computer show to teach older folks how to use and troubleshoot computers.
- We need labels on the archives what the shows were about, who were the guests.
- The palm cards we have could easily be converted to postcards. We could hand out several at a time to people who say they will send them to people they know to increase our outreach for new listeners/members.
- We need more live shows.
- We need a cheat sheet on the website to remind listeners how to sign for Good Search and Good Shop in order to increase the options for passive donations to WBAI.
- We need to bring back the Pacifica App.
- We need to create a podcast.

The Board discussed the Report

8:48 pm ET Resolution Reflecting Proposal Generated by LOFT Committee Re Fund Raising Data Allocations To Programs. (Jim Dingeman)

The Board discussed the resolution, which was never seconded.

9:02 pm ET Discussion, Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g. Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now On Ukrainian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted By US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing (Michael D. D. White)

9:02 pm ET – Katherine O’Sullivan took over as temporary chair so Michael D.D. White could present his resolution.

The Board discussed the Resolution, which was never seconded. Doc Shya Bey attempted to second the motion but not in time before the discussion had closed and public comment was already beginning 3 minutes late.

9:18 pm ET – Michael D.D. White took over being chair again. Public Comment began.

Highlights:

- Have to self-air check the last 5 min of every hour which isn’t archived.
- There is no plan for how to increase listeners.
- If 30-40% of shows went to 30 minutes to allow for new shows, it might bring in new listeners.
- Why was there no vote on Michael D.D. White’s Resolution re the Ukraine journalist kill list?
- Are we negotiating with 4 Times Square for credit for time lost due to “transmitter maintenance?”
- Constant pitching from crisis to crisis is “chaffing” to listeners.
- Listener volunteers need access to the physical plant.
- We need more of a public presence, attend public forums, demonstrations, hand out literature.
- Can we put signs on buses and trains advertising WBAI?
- Can we have the mayor on air as a guest?
- The Fifth Circuit found the Biden Administration illegally violated free speech when it pressured social media to remove what it considered disinformation about Covid treatment and vaccines.
- Want more coverage about asylum seekers destroying New York.
- Want more live shows like covering the [Anti-Fossil Fuels] March.

9:46 pm ET – Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by M. Kay Williams, Secretary