

**WEFT PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE [PC]
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING - JULY 24, 2007, 6:15 PM**
at WEFT, 113 N. Market St., Champaign IL

-- FINAL (Approved 8/14/2007) --

Jason greenly, Committee Chair

PC MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Member	Abbreviation	Position	Present	Absent
Jason Greenly	(Jg)	Chair	X	
Carol Ammons	(CA)			X
Tish McCarthy	(TM)		X	
Vicki Niswander	(VN)		X	
Stan Waggoner	(SW)		X	
Mark Bee	(MB)		X	
Frank Ridgway	(FR)	Sub coordinator	X	
Bill Saylor	(WS)	Notetaker	X	

GUESTS ATTENDING:

Ed Mandel, Board of Directors (EM)
Rev. Zernial Bogan (ZB), invited guest

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 PM

GUESTS [moved to first item due to guest's schedule]

*** REV. BOGAN "SPEAK UP!" (THURSDAY 6-9AM) PROBATIONARY REVIEW**

Jg introduces review process. This item is moved first in agenda to accommodate ZB's schedule.

ZB: Happy to report the show is going well. Since moving to Thursday morning they get 3-4 calls per show. Callers are often interested in the provocative topics. It also leads to off-air interaction. ZB says they have been good at airing the drop-ins on schedule and including two Public Service Announcements per hour on the show. He is hoping Imani Bazell can train to become an airshifter to host when the others are absent. She is on board for that.

Jg: Imani is registered for the orientation tomorrow [7/25].

ZB: He and [cohost] Robert understand 'the show must go on,' and Imani is willing and supportive of that goal.

Jg: That response actually addresses the PC's biggest question.

Jg: How about a plan when only a single host can do the show on a particular week? Obviously there is a different dynamic on the show with more people there.

ZB: As a Baptist minister, I don't give it a second thought -- I can talk. When solo, I invite callers, and listeners do call in when invited to dialogue.

Jg: Probably you could foster a few additional people to be on the show too.

ZB: We've had guests, will have more guests -- the Ammons, for example, say to reprise a topic from their Saturday show. Would even like even to have four voices on the show, not to argue with each other but to discuss different perspectives.

Jg: The participants tend to be very respectful of each other.

Jg: Comments?

EM: Helping out during pledge drive on the show, heard from callers who complained that the hosts were hammering on a particular issue that was the planned topic; listeners were interested in hearing additional topics. Recommend having several topics or a Plan B ready. Granted, it was just a one week sample.

ZB: Actually we prepare for three topics, then will stay with the one of most interest to the community that week. Or will add as the discussion goes.

MB: It's a good show.

FR: I wasn't here for the vote for moving "Speak Up!" to the Morning Menu. But the original discussion was about conforming to the Morning Menu format. I have awoken on Thursday to "Speak Up!" and I enjoy it, but I don't hear much music, and it is different from the other Morning Menu programs. Is the show in the form you expect it to be in, or is it in process yet to become more similar to the other Morning Menu shows?

ZB: For the morning format, the first hour is dedicated to music. We will fill more music if there is not enough to discussion to fill a slot, but if there is interest in a discussion we will let it continue. For the music, we draw from jazz gospel and inspirational gospel. Ben Tankard is a favorite. Brings in a lot from his own collection.

Jg: Again, the variety approach in Morning Menu has proven to work very well. The idea is to seek to bring in as wide a range of listeners as possible. Playing a lot of selections from the same genres might lose people after five or six songs.

ZB: On the topic of music, has a prospective new provider of music. Approval needed from the PC to get/play it?

Jg: Actually, coordinate with the Music Committee, specifically the jazz or gospel genre directors.

VN: How far out do you plan topics?

ZB: I wait until Wednesday night to decide, in order to consider emails or calls received up until then. Or someone might come up at the last minute who is available -- like VN had herself on the show, discussing disabilities.

FR: Glad that Imani is participating. Makes the show lively.

ZB: Imani provides an essence to the show that is nowhere else. In fact, in order to propose for the three-hour show, they wanted her to be able to do an hour of it. They disagree sometimes, but that's what it's like. She adds great class and intelligence.

FR: I was skeptical about a public affairs focus in that slot. But its success is attributable a lot to the mix of voices.

Jg: I like diversity. It works for WEFT.

VN: I had a blast the day I came in.

ZB: We do too. You'd be surprised how many people are interested in what you might think is not important.

WS: Seconds FR's comments and concurs with ZB that the mutual respect comes across. Recommends watching and adjusting relative microphone levels when the three hosts are on together, by the meters and headphones rather than by the slider positions on the board, as ZB & Robert tend to be faded in the mix. (FR and MB concur.) Or listen to a recording of the show to check it out. Also, WS further encourages more short music breaks when the discussion is slow, especially in the second hour.

Jg: ZB's Associate Status is obviously good (from Associates Executive Committee participation).

No further comments. PC thanks & ZB leaves.

MISSION MOMENT

FR: Was running late Wednesday and Ben Stephens put on Tango music until FR arrived.

MAIL CALL! - REPORTS

Jg hands out peanut butter pretzels.

TM: The Sierra Club CD sampler she reviewed has 24 half-hour programs on it. It is a national production out of San Francisco. They interview authors, experts, scientists...good topics, really well done. TM called the originator of the promotional letter sent to WEFT with the sample CD and talked with local Sierra Club Prairie Chapter executive committee member Don Davis. TM explained to Don the proposal procedure and WEFT's mission and focus on community issues. Don is interested in becoming a member of WEFT, and Tish and Don are developing a proposal that would combine the national radio program with local issues about the environment that affect our community. The plans for the program would be to interview local experts, scientists, journalists, etc. and have a call-in show. TM feels we don't know much about local environmental issues; e.g., (to name just a few) the drainage district management plan to cut down trees along the Middle Fork Vermilion River, the bicycle plan for the city, the Mahomet Aquifer, the proposed ethanol plant, etc. TM thinks it would be a really good program and a good fit for the Tuesday opening in the Courier (5:30 pm to 6:00 pm).

ADDITIONS TO / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jg reviews items moved/to move from their previous homes in the agenda. Such as the OIW [Ongoing Indecency Waiver] Probationary Period to be moved from Old Business to Pending so as to not have to consider discussing every meeting going down through the agenda. Summarizes tonight's order.

WS: Please correct "PSA Proposal Form" to "Public Affairs Proposal Form".

MAIL CALL! - DISTRIBUTION

Jg: Received promotional correspondence from "Earthbeat" producers; they are interested in WEFT's interest in it. No PC takers to review.

MB: Potential webcast material.

Jg to file.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S [7/10/2007] MINUTES

Draft was posted to the PC to review just late yesterday.

Some discussion/corrections provided to WS.

WS suggests postponing until remaining PC members respond, corrections are made, and draft reposted and reviewed on weftp for release as preliminary.

PC concurs.

PENDING GUESTS

*** [PROBATIONARY REVIEWS; ROUGH DATE]**

VICKI NISWANDER "DISABILITY BEAT" (SATURDAY 7-8AM; AUGUST 14);

MARISA MANRIQUEZ "EL RITMO DE PACHAMAMA" (TUESDAY 2-4PM; AUGUST 28);

ALAN ANGELL AND JESSICA KRINKE "BENDER BREAKERS" (FRIDAY 2-6AM; SEPT 11);

ALEX LAZAREVICH "MODBIT" (SATURDAY 10PM-MIDNIGHT; SEPTEMBER 11);

ISAIAH JOHNSON "MR. SENSATION'S MONDAY MORNING JAZZ JAM"

(MONDAY JAZZ 9-11:30AM; SEPTEMBER 11--ONLY CHECK UP FOR ASSOCIATE STATUS)

SHOW INFO

*** [NEW] WEDNESDAYS 6-8PM; DEADLINE AUGUST 10**

Discussion.

Peter Normand has announced by email that his last "Queer Voice" show in this slot will be this week 7/25. SW volunteers to interim sub. Jg & FR agreed.

*** TUESDAY 2-6AM (DEADLINE PASSED)**

*** TUESDAY MIDNIGHT-2AM (DEADLINE PASSED)**

*** MONDAY MIDNIGHT-2AM (DEADLINE JULY 26)**

*** MONDAY 2AM-5AM/6AM (DEADLINE JULY 26)**

*** "SOCIAL JUSTICE RADIO" (TUESDAYS 5:30-6PM) CHANGE -- UPDATE / MAKE PLAN**

Jg: The program is done. We need a plan. There is an added issue since it is a Courier slot. Jg will announce that the slot is open. We will consider at minimum "Making Contact" and "Sierra Club Radio" for this slot.

Jg: The idea for the show by the support group is not going to happen. They didn't make the training sign-up cut-off; they couldn't fit without pushing out someone who had already signed up, which wouldn't be fair. We had corresponded and encouraged them.

*** THURSDAY MIDNIGHT-2AM (DEADLINE PASSED);
PROPOSAL IN FROM VINCE, INTERIM HOSTING**

Jg: Every PC member should have a copy of Vince Parker's proposal for "The Mix Tape" handed out last meeting. It was the only proposal meeting the deadline. He is currently making the demo. Vince is a former airshifter, he did a mixed hip-hop show. We haven't had one in a while.

JOB REPORTS

CAROL AMMONS: OUTREACH

Absent.

**MARK BEE: BOD [Board of Directors] LIAISON & PSA COORDINATOR
(I& PUBLIC AFFAIRS) PROPOSAL FORM)**

MB: Didn't post the draft form, mostly forgot.

Jg: Wants it available for the September Associates Meeting. And for training if there are attendees in the upcoming class with Public Affairs interest.

MB's BoD report: The webcasting plan was approved. A dedicated computer (PC) has been ordered for it and the service signed up for. The target is to have the webcasting operational when students arrive in town. The PC should plan to proceed as planned.

TISH MCCARTHY: ATC [Airshifter Training Committee] LIAISON

TM and MB discuss the previously requested training update material on Cassette deck operation. MB had misunderstood that the plan was for documentation, but he has been missing a camera cable needed to take photos to do that. Apparent confusion about deliverables discussed, resolved. MB to draft text on Cassette deck operation for a monthly training email post by TM.

TM: Reminds FR that he volunteered to draft the next training reminder post, on headphone use. FR suggests using WS minutes from that discussion. Reassigned to WS.

Jg to PC: Post drafts on weftp.

MB and WS still to review TM draft of a handout for training Class 2 lecture.

VICKI NISWANDER: PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT INITIATIVE
STAN WAGGONER: PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Jg: Wants the PC to determine the next step of this process. Tonight the PC needs to talk about editorial standards for Public Affairs programs.

VN: Didn't hear from [website support] Steve Severinghaus yet. Also, posted draft documents to weftp but they got stuck pending the list moderator's approval.

Jg: It went through later.

VN: ...Thereafter realized the documents wouldn't be easy to look at that way, so VN sent requests to Steve to set up a working non-public website for the PC to visit to review the work (and after review and approval, to go live). Steve has not responded to the requests yet.

Jg: Ask Mick [Woolf, Station Manager] for Steve's phone number; FR & Jg also need to reach him.

Jg: Has any one read SW & VN's public affairs documents yet?

PC: [No.]

Jg: Couldn't open one of the emailed document attachments.

VN: Had the same trouble, hence the idea for another means to distribute. Attachment 1 was a shortened version of attachment 2 anyway.

Jg: Loved the Ethics draft. And liked Stan's "Editorial Standards for Public Affairs Programming" draft a lot. However, some of the language is somewhat harsh. A few adjustments and it would be fine [and one correction describing PC procedures that Jg notes]. Plus, add (cite) your sources.

Jg: Also we need to add a consideration of context, especially when shows are Public Affairs but not news per se, such as commentary shows. Most WEFT shows already adhere to a lot of the specifications in the draft, but it is good to codify.

Jg: "K: Production methods that are unacceptable..." Be the news not just report the news is an approach considered valid at the IMC. Jg disagrees with that personally. But it is to some a possible legitimate approach.

Jg: It seems that this [extent of review] is where we are at for now.

FRANK RIDGWAY: SUB-COORDINATOR

FR: Has himself vacated the "Sunday" night slot midnight-2am [Sunday into Monday]. Master D is subbing but we are still going off-air at 2am, with Nick Henry's departure from the 2am slot. FR has had zero responses for subs, and no response from Steve Severinghaus about FR & Jg's request for a sub email list.

Jg: Will pursue.

Jg: TM and Jg to attend at least part of the airshifter training orientation tomorrow and will promote the slots that are open. We need to receive some ideas on paper in order to establish a better timeline for arranging review of proposals.

FR: Wishes the sub list were ready, to have a handout ready. Including specifications on it that would identify what level/times of subbing will qualify as a volunteer commitment

Jg: Has scheduled that discussion at the end of the Standard Operating Procedure redraft schedule, so that the PC can finally codify something.

BILL SAYLOR: COMMUNICATIONS

WS: No report.

DISCUSSION

*** WEBCASTING INITIATIVE (FILLING PROGRAMMING FOR WHEN NOT WEBCASTING)**

*** WHERE TO GO FROM HERE...?**

Jg emailed webcasting coordinator Jason Croft, conveying that having diverse music for the automated webcast backup depends on the Music Committee, but Music Committee interest and individual airshifter interest are not there. However, absence of back programming may end up inspiring more airshifter interest. Interestingly enough, the RIAA webcasting rules, while seemingly draconian to us, actually do promote diversity. Doubts that was intentional....

Jg: In any case, it will be a lot of work for the PC.

MB: The requirements make it easier to decide what to do. Listeners' expectations will be that the webcast should be programs similar to what is on the air at a given time. Believes that most airshifters do record their shows. We can tell airshifters that if they plan to violate the RIAA webcasting rules, they themselves need to provide the back programming alternative for the webcast. If they don't want to do that [in order to shut off the air feed to the webcast], then they can't violate the RIAA rules on their show. The archive programming would need to be a 3-month unique rotation.

Jg recaps the RIAA rules webcasting rules: essentially one cannot webcast selections from the same artist within 3 hours, or 3 cuts from the same album.

MB: As far as webcasting during unfilled airshifts, we can run the Public Affairs programs we have sitting on file. With an announcement that this slot is open for proposals.

SW: Will the webcast continue when the transmitter is off?

MB: Yes.

SW: Given that only 100 people can listen online at any given time due to the server capacity, conversely if an airshifter is going to violate the RIAA rules, they could shut off the webcasting and just lose the online listeners.

PC: More discussion, including audio logistics.

Jg to ask Jason Croft about who is expected to do the audio/file transfers.

*** SOP [Standard Operating Procedure] RE-DRAFT (SECTION D2-3)**

SOP Section D2: Strip programming identified

WS wants to add a reference explicitly that modification of strip definition requires not just PC SOP revision as stated, but also BoD approval. Or, at VN's suggestion, reference to the By-laws. Jg to follow up with the By-Laws subcommittee.

PC deletes "upbeat" from the World Beat strip description.

FR: "Jazz," "blues," etc. should not be capitalized. Certainly not a mix of capitalized and not capitalized, as it is written now.

"I fear Frank and his pen."

- Jg

SOP Section D3: Strip program proposal review

WS: Wants to replace the reference to volunteer hours logged with "productive volunteer contribution provided." Also to add "commitment" in addition to ability to host the strip.

TM: Looking ahead, both strip and non-strip requirements can refer to a section describing "global" criteria for considering proposals.

Jg to edit; next time we will consider rearrangement of these sections accordingly.

*** PROBATIONARY REVIEWS WHEN SHOWS ARE MOVED:
* WHEN REVIEW IS PENDING / WHEN REVIEW HAS PASSED**

[This discussion is continued from last meeting.]

Jg: FR's move of "El Otro Sur" is an example of a show that moved that has had a review. Opinions?

PC discusses, concludes that when a host is granted to move a show which had previously completed a probationary review, the PC need not require another probation period/review.

Jg: "Modbit" is an example of a show moved during the probationary period, before the 13-week review.

Options to consider:

Keep the originally scheduled review date the same,

vs. push the review date back to 13 weeks after the move is approved,

vs. accept the interview for the proposal to move as fulfilling the probationary review.

Jg : Consider that many fewer weeks than the original 13 weeks may be in between the show move and the review, and also that there are other purposes for the review including checking up on Associates status.

MB: Reminds that the 13-week length for the probationary period was meant to give the new host a chance to attend two Associates Committee meetings before the review.

Discussion rounds:

SW: Accept the reproposal as the review. But, contemplating the opportunity for dialog, suggests we could change the policy and always change it back if desired.

WS prefers guaranteeing the opportunity for review discussion.

Jg likes the two different reasons that PC has people in. The dynamic is different when proposing one's show vs discussing.

MB sees few reasons to shorten the review period, but many more to leave it at 13 weeks.

VN tends to agree with SW. There are other means for PC-host communication.

Jg: With any new airshifter we will have their review after they get Associate status. We want to impress the need to attend the Associate meetings. Also Jg wants the PC to keep communications with people.

MB points out that compared to 13 weeks a shorter period such as a month doesn't bring out needs to address like technical problems encountered, or variance from genre, or give the airshifter a chance to develop feedback of the PC/proposal process.

FR argues that 13 weeks is essentially arbitrary; MB argues that it isn't.

PC discusses utility of the review for the potential need to decide to remove a program.

Jg: The PC can always call people in for a review/discussion with cause.

MB argues that convenience is not sufficient reason to shorten the probationary period; FR argues that it is. SW agrees with FR.

TM: 13 weeks is a good length of time to get acquainted with a show before a review.

JG: Let's ask Alex [Lazarevich, host of "modbit"] directly for his opinion when he comes in for his scheduled review.

FR suggests reviews could be voluntary at the airshifter's discretion.

Jg suggests the SOP could be revised to state that the PC could consider requiring reviews at the PC's discretion on a case-by-case basis.

[Discussion to be continued at a later date.]

UPDATES / OLD BUSINESS

* FRIDAY FORUM [summer hiatus openings - Mondays 6pm-7pm]

* BOOKED THROUGH AUGUST 27; WAITING FOR NEW START DATE

Jg to take this up next month when the "Friday Forum" contact at the University YMCA has the series schedule. Jg then to visit again to actually install the recording equipment [in the space available].

* CPB FY07 [CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FY 2007 FUNDING]

Jg: Still awaiting information on the numbers.

* NEW COMPUTER PURCHASE

MB: The webcasting computer will be dedicated to webcasting, so we still need a Great Hall PC.

- * [AUTUMN] "VOICE OF THE VOICELESS" CO-HOST (X2) REQUEST
- * [SEPTEMBER 11] FRIDAY JAZZ LOA [SHOW TRADES]
- * [NOVEMBER 13] TUESDAY BLUES LOA REVIEW

No discussion.

PENDING PROJECTS (FORGET THEM NOT!)

- * OIW [Ongoing Indecency Waiver] PROBATION PERIOD?
- * WRFU "FIELD TRIP"
- * CHAIR DOCUMENT STORAGE [JG]
- * "MAKING CONTACT" RETURN

No discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

- * PENDING PROPOSALS / REVIEWS

Brief discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:07 PM

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007, 6:15 PM IN THE GREAT HALL AT WEFT