

Held 5 June 2024, 7-9 PM CDT online via Zoom <https://zoom.us> ID: 811 895 6459

7:07 Call to Order

Evelyn Underwood (Chair) called the meeting to order.

7:11 Introductions

Chair introduced herself then called attendees to do so. The order was haphazard because Zoom resorts the participants list as people join and leave, and some join late. We had quorum.

7:27 Approval of the Agenda

Jeff Zolitor moved to approve, Kevin Elliott seconded; Gina Pagliuso corrected the end of term date for Tim Burnett's PC seat, and Craig Koslofsky's Board seat. Without further corrections the agenda was approved as amended.

7:32 Approval of the Minutes

There were two sets of minutes to approve. Dave Vollenweider submitted the December 2023 meeting minutes and Mike Feldman provided the March 2024 minutes. Jeff Machota moved that we accept the December 2023 minutes as presented, and Rich Schoell seconded. Todd Hunter pointed out there were typographic errors in the spelling of names. Also Bob Paleczny also had a correction. The December minutes were approved as corrected.

Todd Hunter suggested a rewording of the March 2024 minutes and moved to accept; Jeff Machota seconded, and the minutes were approved as amended.

7:40 Reports

7:40 Station Manager's Report

Eric Bohlen (Station Manager) reported that the new owners of Dave Monk's building had stalled in the renovation process but still plan a retail space with apartment above. The first "The Beat" event, which includes an hour longer "Friday Nite Live" was well attended (with lots of City employees present). The Friday Nite Live bands perform in Market street, not the new stage. At 9 PM Pour Brothers has a band in their beer garden, and after a late band on the new stage. Plans were unclear for Saturday nights.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of Prairie Air, Incorporated, so WEFT should take the occasion for celebration and publicity. It took 6 years of organization prior to the first broadcast in 1981. During that time WEFT did produce audio content for cable channels.

Paul Mueth asked about security glass for the front windows; Eric reported the even "shatterproof" glass was prohibitively expensive, and bulletproof glass was way more expensive. Gina Pagliuso asked about soundproofing for the front booth vs Market Street live music. Andrew Cardinal reported that with the door closed, the music outside was barely audible. He did mention that he had to pass through a security check carrying his music collection. Eric said that security checks start at 9 PM. Gina suggested that we request security passes.

7:57 Board of Directors' Report

Vicki Niswander (Board Chair) reported that for the first time in several years there are two candidates for member-elected seats for the Board of Directors. They are Mitch Marlow, who has

director experience with the Virginia Theater and 40 North and is also a musician who has played WEFT Fest, and Dante “ZENtheRapper” Winslow, who is active in the Uofl rap initiative and has recently performed on WEFT Sessions.

8:00 Treasurer's Report

Mark Niswander shared his treasurer's report (attached below). Mark reported total assets including cash, stock and CDs of \$344,000. He summarized income and expenses for the quarter.

Paul Mueth asked if Community Shares income was stable; Mark said that they have an elaborate payout formula which requires WEFT to participate, for example to send representatives to their Board Meetings, and to link to them on the web site. WEFT's participation has been more off than on in recent years. Jeff Machota explained that more than half of the donors who designate WEFT in their payroll deduction donations are marked “anonymous” (the default), and most are long-time WEFT donors with few new donors. Recently WEFT has been submitting the required paperwork to Community Shares which accounts for increased payout.

8:07 Governance and HR Committee Reports

Vicki Niswander said that Dave Witzany had reviewed the proposed new bylaws but that they need more review. She said she would publish the Google Drive link to the current draft.

Vicki said there was nothing to report for HR.

8:09 Programming Committee Report

Gina Pagliuso provided a written report (attached below). It summarizes new and moved shows and open slots. There was a cheer when she mentioned that Britta Langsjoen was returning to jazz strip programming. Gina also mentioned new trainees, work on the airshifter tracking tool, and that the PC was considering making a 90 second available to airshifters.

8:15 Music Committee Report

Anthony Santarelli was away so Rick Schoell gave a quick report mentioning that the MC meets once a month via Zoom but had met in person once over the holidays. They are focusing on managing the space in the Great Hall. Bob Paleczny mentioned that Kevin Elliott did a massive cull that freed up shelf space that can be put to good use. Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts said she was processing incoming new music, and Bob said new blues and jazz were coming in.

Denise Curia said that there had been no new rock processed in several years. Bob pointed out we haven't had a rock genre director in the past 4 years. There was some discussion of if there was any new rock that isn't already covered in the local radio market. WXRT in Chicago was playing a wider variety of rock than other local stations. Denise offered to help if anyone were to volunteer as rock genre director.

Kurt Eilbracht asked if there was any '40 through '60s pop in the collection; Todd Hunter said that he played some but mostly from his private collection.

Rick mentioned that the late Bob Selby's estate had donated his extensive jazz collection to WEFT.

8:22 Digital Library Report

Bob Paleczny provided a written report (attached below). He mentioned the new hotel in downtown Champaign hopes to be completed by next June forcing WEFT to re-route the microwave link to the transmitter (STL). The committee is considering relocating the STL to the Inman Hotel and submitting a grant proposal for new equipment.

Bob reported problems with the front studio mixing board following a downtown power outage. The board is now on an Uninterruptible Power Supply. Also included in Bob's report were Sound Exchange reporting, the ongoing static issue with WEFT's signal, the ongoing reflected power issue at the transmitter, the Emergency Alert System's firmware upgrade. Dave Vollenweider reported that he now gets a weekly email report from the EAS system.

Bob reported that he received a lot of ripped music for the digital library from Ian Hammond and Juliette Younger.

The committee is looking into security cameras for WEFT, getting a security certificate for the web site (so browsers can use https instead of http protocols), Paul Mueth asked if there was internet service at the transmitter site for a temporary audio feed during static testing and STL moves. Bob said he photographed a utility post at the driveway to the transmitter, but neither he nor Dave know who owned it.

8:36 Financial Development Report

Vicki Niswander reported that a new underwriting flier and process is nearly ready. Tee shirt premiums from the spring pledge drive have all been delivered and there are more available. The summer appeal letter is being prepared.

WEFT Fest is set for Saturday, September 28th and will be part of "The Beat" Market Street entertainment program. Grants are available from the City and another organization to pay the musicians and proposals are being submitted. There is also a grant request in process for the Illinois Arts Council.

The Financial Development committee is considering holding a WEFT Garage Sale to help clear out the 2nd floor and basement.

8:41 Remote Access Team Report

Gina Pagliuso provided a written report (attached below). Gina said remote operations continued in a stable fashion. Bob Paleczny reminded us to renew WEFT's VNC subscription, and keep up the good work.

8:43 Community Outreach Report

Todd Hunter reports that the committee hasn't met recently but they all see each other at the summer tabling events.

8:46 Voting**8:47 Voting - Board of Directors**

Vicki Niswander described the duties of board members and made a call for candidates. There were no nominations.

8:51 Voting - Programming Committee

The Chair opened the floor for PC nominations. Gina Pagliuso nominated Evelyn Underwood to retain her seat on the PC and Kevin Elliott seconded her nomination. Evelyn made a brief statement in support of her continuing her seat.

8:55 AEC Voting

Mike Feldman nominated Ben Theobald for an at-large seat on the AEC, after explaining that Ben had been improperly nominated at the March meeting. Todd Hunter seconded the nomination, and Ben accepted the nomination. Voting proceeded by Zoom private message to Vicki.

8:59 New Business

Evelyn mentioned that the AEC was working, along with the Station Manager, on a return to in-person meetings, perhaps as early as September, but more likely for the December meeting in conjunction with a holiday party. No other business or announcements were offered.

9:00 Election Results

Vicki reported that Evelyn Underwood was re-elected to the PC 23-0, term ending June 2026. Ben Theobald was newly elected to the AEC 20-0, term ending March 2025.

9:01 Agenda Complete - adjourn

The meeting adjourned at the completion of the agenda. The meeting ended more or less on time.

The next Associates meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 5 September 2024, 7-9 PM online via Zoom.

WEFT treasurer report - June 2024 Associates meeting**Current balances**

Savings account			\$79,896 (earns 0.02% interest)
Checking account			\$19,314 (0% interest)
Schwab cash			\$1,396 (earns 0.45% interest)
Schwab CD (Flagstar Bank)			\$37,850 1.5 year @ 4.75%, 7/7/25
PNC CD1			\$5,193 8 mo @5%, 9/5/24
PayPal			\$169
		<i>Total</i>	\$143,818

Stock

AAPL	936	\$195.87	\$183,334
PSEC	3000	\$5.64	\$16,920
		<i>Total stock value</i>	\$200,254
		<i>Total assets</i>	\$344,072

Monthly activity*Income*

Donations-April		\$7,846
May		\$2,853
Attributed to Spring Fundraising Drive		\$10,935
Community Shares (recvd 5/30/24)		\$1,160

Bills paid

American Tower	\$829	
Ameren (trnsmt)	\$754	
Ameren (studio)	\$132	
Constellation	\$80	
Comcast	\$355	
AT&T	\$110	
DonorSnap	\$79	
Eric Bohlen (health ins stipend)	\$250	
Paychex TPS taxes	\$666	
Paychex EIB invoice	\$62	
Paychex payroll	\$1,689	
	<i>Total</i>	\$5,006

Notes

Bold indicates relatively steady amount from month to month.

We are working with PNC bank to establish a brokerage account and transfer \$25,000 from savings into a 24 month CD that will earn 5.05% interest.

With any luck, this should be complete within one week from now.

PC Report for June 5, 2024 Associates' MeetingNew/Time Change Shows:

Catch the Beat – 5:30-6pm May 1, 8, 15 – Cope Cumpston limited run. More shows to follow?
On the Ground/Magical Mystery Tour/Behind the News Wednesdays – 6-7pm May 8
WoodSongs – 4-5pm Saturday May 11
Wait, What? – 5-6pm Saturday May 11 – Eric Bohlen
Lovely Lofi – 6-8pm Saturday May 11 – Kaitrin Higbee
WMW – Sunday 1-3pm. New Collective member Lora G
Roots & All – Monday 8-10pm. Jeff Zolitor will be moving out of state, but will upload files
Jazz Silhouette – Friday 9-11:30am – Britta Langsjoen

Special Programming:

Catch the Beat – see above

Ended Shows:

Friday Forum – Wednesday 6-7pm (until fall semester)
Saturday Zara Jazz 4-5pm

PC Membership/Open Seats:

Two Associate-elected seats are available for election this evening and three BOD elected seats are available – please see Gina for BOD election procedure if interested. Tim Burnett re-elected to the PC at the May BOD meeting.

PC working on:

The PC has continued holding meetings via Zoom. Meetings have been held regularly throughout the quarter.

Airshifter tracking tool – reminder emails went out to any Airshifter that has not attended two Associates' meetings in the past year (6 Airshifters) and all Airshifters in arrears with their membership dues (3 folks) on June 3 (18 meeting/5 dues prior to March 2024 meeting).

Airshifter training – approx. 10 trainees attended March 24 FCC training. Booth trainings have been completed for most of the trainees. Two additional folks expressed interest after the fact – Vicki arranging out-of-cycle trainings.

Preliminary discussions regarding the broadcast of 90 second “good news” drop-ins. Possible Pacifica programming “GoodNews GoodPlanet”(new clips twice/week)

Probationary Reviews:

None required during Q2

Current Open Show Time Slots:**Sunday**

Open Format 4-6am

Open Format 11am-noon

Celtic Music Go Bragh Go Bragh 6-8pm (alternating weeks)

Monday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am

Monday Morning Menu 6-9am

Monday Morning Jazz 9-11:30am

World Beat 2-4pm

Tuesday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6:30am

World Beat 2-4pm

Courier coverage (assist Kirk Hard) every other week in-studio 2-4pm

Wednesday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am

Morning Menu 6-9am

The Courier 4-5:30pm (Excellent volunteer opportunity)

Open Format 8-10pm (2nd week) – currently Zara RPM

Thursday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am

World Beat 2-4pm

Informational Format 5:30-6pm

Roots, Rock Reggae collective (3 weeks/month open)

Friday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am ****Britta Langsjoen****

The Courier 4-6pm (Excellent volunteer opportunity)

Blues Live Collective 8-10pm (2 weeks/month open)

Open Format 10pm-midnight (2nd, 4th and 5th weeks) – currently Zara RPM

Saturday

Freeform Overnight midnight-8a

Open Format 8-10am (1st, 3rd and 5th weeks alternating with Higher Ground) – currently Peace Talk Radio,

Economic Update, Counterspin

Program proposal forms (hard copies) are in PC binder in the back studio. Digital versions found at http://new.weft.org/about/show_proposal.html and may be emailed to programming@weft.org.

Digital Library Associate Report Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 06/05/2024

1. News-Gazette article 5/23/24, 7-story Marriott Aloft hotel on Neil St. back in planning, will potentially block WEFT's STL signal to transmitter. Looking into reroute through Inman Bldg. Vicki beginning work to get hardware through Grants
2. Power Outage Sunday 6/2/24 12:55 am
Front Studio mixing board VU meters pegged
Mixing Board now plugged into Front Studio UPS
Great Hall systems - Streaming/Recording and Zara/Spintron computer hooked up
Comcast/Xfinity Modem/Router/Phone hooked up
Basement monitoring computer hooked up to Basement UPS
3. Sound Exchange 1st Qtr. reporting period 2/6/24 thru 2/19/24
1st Qtr. '24 results email from Jeff Cabiness - Compliant and ATH = 1660
Just completed 2nd. Qtr. '24 2-week reporting period - files in place w/NPR-Sound Exchange
Next reporting period August 4 – 17
4. Intermittent Static in over-the-air signal, comes & goes (not hearing recently 6/1/24)
Have monitoring laptop setup with SDR # on 944 MHz.
Possibly STL or Optimod? Vicki working on Grants to replace both
5. Still concerns about elevated Transmitter Reflected Power readings
Reflected Power took another jump to 62.5 (was in 51 – 55 range for a couple months)
highs of 68.6 Watts 2/27/24 now seeing highs in the 71 range 4/15/24
6. FCC: Public File Issue & Programs Q2 '24 due 7/10/24
Q1 '24 Final version uploaded 10:00 AM 4/09/24
7. Updated EAS to Rev96 2/6/24, reloaded local customizations
new version of EndecSetD 2/6/24 - on Great Hall computer
8. Collection of audio tracks from DL Collecting computer in basement
grabbed RPM, submission from Celtic
Next collecting period begins early July
9. Lots of 2024 projects – STL reroute, security camera, RDS, <https://> for website

RAT (Remote Access Team) Report for June 5, 2023 Associates' Meeting

As of May 29, 2024, 13 shows per week were being home-produced and 49 shows per week were being produced in-studio. The balance of 20 shows per week was being covered by RAT member remote operations (Courier/Informational programming/Zara).

As of April 22, 2024 13/48/21

As of March 26, 2024 13/48/21

WEFT RAT continues to support Airshiffters who choose to remain at home via remote Zara coverage or through facilitation of the broadcast of home-produced programming.

2024-06-05 WEFT Associates Meeting attendees:

Herbert Burnett
Eric Bohlen
Andrew Cardinal
Jeannie Covert
Denise Curia
Kurt Eilbracht
Kevin Elliott
Rick Esbenshade
Mike Feldman
Jason Finkelman
Lora Goodnight
Indranil Gupta
Edwin Hadley
Ian Hammond
Marleen Hendrickx
Don Hittle
Todd Hunter
Craig Koslofsky
Jeff Machota
Paul Mueth
Mark Niswander
Vicki Niswander
Gina Pagliuso
Bob Paleczny
Richard Schoell
Ben Theobald
Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts
Evelyn Underwood
Dave Vollenweider
Zack Widup
Dave Witzany
Jeff Zolitor

Excused absences:

Przemyslaw Bosak
Lorri Coey
Cope Cumpston
Kristy Rice