

KSPS Community Advisory Board (Regular Meeting)

10 September 2026 16:00 PT via Zoom

CAB members present: James Albrecht (Chair), Bob Morrison (Vice Chair), Marianne Patton (Secretary), Chris McGoldrick, Chris Powell, Patty Crone

Regrets: Ann Dyer

KSPS staff members present: Skyler Reep (President & General Manager), Debbie Brennan (Programming Director), Shawn Claypool (Chief Administrative Officer)

A quorum being present, James called the meeting to order at 16:03 PDT.

Minutes of 11 June 2026 were approved and Shawn will post them.

Annual Elections of CAB Members

Patty Crone and Ann Dyer were unanimously elected to new terms. James explained that under the new CAB Bylaws, members may be reappointed to one additional consecutive 3-year term beyond the customary 2 terms if confirmed by the Board of Directors. Patty's continuation was approved over the summer.

Leadership positions (Chair: James Albrecht; Vice Chair: Bob Morrison; Secretary: Marianne Patton) were unanimously retained for another one-year term.

Reports From KSPS staff

President & General Manager: Skyler referred to his weekly Executive Dispatches for the most current station news.

He then reported that the station turned a projected \$1.2M loss into a \$1.5M gain, finishing the year in the black. They were pacing only very slightly behind their goals until the final month. A \$140,000 bequest and other fiscal-year-end gifts took them beyond their fundraising goal.

Audited financials including expenses are not yet complete. The largest group of donors were existing supporters who gave extra; the second largest were lapsed donors who returned; new donors were the third group. The station is hiring additional development staff specifically to convert one-time emergency giving into sustained relationships. The station now has a larger contact list.

The on-site accountant has been in place for half this fiscal year. The audit can be expected shortly and production of the annual report will soon follow. A version of the strategic plan focused on external audiences is also planned. A fundraising dinner was a success with plans for similar dinners for major givers.

Bob asked about the prospects for restoring PBS and CPB federal funding after the November mid-term election. Federal PBS/CPB funding restoration is not expected within the current presidential term; the station is planning accordingly. Longer term, Skyler is more optimistic

about partial restoration, but noted that public media must now plan for years without federal funding regardless.

Patty noted that the “Travel Interest” survey on the website allows only one destination selection and suggested allowing multiple selections. Skylar will adjust the survey.

Skyler reported on a September 7 CBC Radio Calgary interview he gave about Canadian viewers and donors who continue to support KSPS despite political tensions between Canada and the U.S. The segment can be accessed at this link: [Checking in with KSPS Spokane one year after the Corporation for Public Broadcasting dissolved in the U.S.](#)

A meet-and-greet in-person event with Alice herself of “Alice’s Adventures” is confirmed for July 22, 2027.

Chief Administrative Officer: Shawn reported that Larry Gross has retired from the membership department and replacement hiring has commenced. On the topic of the KSPS/PBS Travel Club, Skylar announced that Shawn will be representing KSPS Travel Club on the trip to Iceland as enough participants have signed up to allow a staff member to go. Africa and Ireland are coming up in 2027.

Programming Director: Debbie noted that Fall is when PBS launches major new seasons of signature series; those include Nature Nova, Masterpiece, and Secrets of the Dead. PBS has secured rights to classic episodes of American Experience as well, including Billy the Kid, Bonnie and Clyde, Butch and the Sundance Kid, Annie Oakley, and Jesse James.

PBS is digging deep into archives and bringing back some programs more than 20 years old because funding cuts limit the revenue for new productions.

Debbie listed and described some upcoming broadcasts, including:

September 21 & 22: “New York” documentary, showing two hours on each of two nights. It is produced by Ken Burns’ brother, Rick

Already airing: Masterpiece dramas “The Marlowe Murder Club” and “Marble Hall Murder Club.” Both are season 3 and air Sunday nights.

She noted that Memorial Day and 4th of July live programs historically are the most popular music programs for viewers everywhere. James observed that they both function as “comfort” traditions and could provoke strong audience reactions if there were any attempt to change them.

Round Table Discussion by CAB Members

Both Bob and Marianne have conversed with grocery store clerks about KSPS / PBS programming. Skylar noted that KSPS focuses on pre-school programs (the US is the only developed country without universal preschool) so teens can be pointed to Civics Bowl and interesting “adult” programs such as Nature, Nova, and Secrets of the Dead.

Chris Mc raised the topic of AM radio, noting its use for sports, NPR, and emergency broadcasting, particularly for tornado warnings. Skylar confirmed AM radio's value as both a

primary and a redundant information source for many rural Americans without access to modern technology. He emphasized its role during wildfires and other emergencies when digital systems may be overloaded. It is a critical emergency and community information resource and must be maintained. James recently drove through rural eastern Oregon and saw that AM radio would likely be the only available broadcast medium for many residents.

Marianne commended KSPS for its use of an emergency information ticker/crawler during the Spokane fire. She was pleased and proud to see it, noting it reflected well on the station and conveyed that KSPS looks out for its entire viewing area. Skyler confirmed the ticker was a brand-new feature and it worked effectively.

Chris Mc raised the topic of planned giving tools such as Free Will and Giving Docs. Skyler confirmed that both are used but the station deliberately uses a different month than other nonprofits to avoid mailbox saturation. Members can access GivingDocs via kspss.org to create or update their wills for free. Free Will also proactively suggests KSPS to users based on their location.

Bob suggested PBS might consider acquiring content such as Tom Hanks' World War II series and A Roman Empire series.

Skyler also announced a planned giving educational seminar on the evening of October 8th, in partnership with the station's bank, to educate people about remembering organizations in their wills. Board members are invited.

Especially appreciated programs:

Martin Clunes' Islands, Professor T, Good Karma Hospital, Dagleish, Mary Oliver documentary, After Ike: A Journey That Changed America, PBS News Hour, Alice's Adventures, Dolly Parton: Here I Am, Rick Steves, Secret Mission: Hanford, Once Upon a Time in Space, In the Americas

Masterpiece (Marble Hall Murders)

American Experience (Henry Kissinger, Bonnie & Clyde, Billy the Kid)

Frontline (FBI episode on Agent O'Neill)

Nova (Anchor)

Great Performances (Scott Hughes on Brahms, Streisand Timeless concert, Carpenters special)

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Next meeting is 8 October (second Thursday) at 16:00 PT.

The meeting adjourned at 17:12 PT.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Patton, Secretary