



MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON ACCESS BROADCASTING SOCIETY, INC. (TRADING AS WELLINGTON ACCESS RADIO) COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022, 6 PM ONLINE VIA THE ZOOM PLATFORM

The minutes of the meeting were recorded by John Saunders.

1. Apologies: (Council members) Eddie O’Strange and Julie Lamb. (Staff member Minute Taker) Esther Gedye Taylor

The Council agreed to the apologies.		
Moved: John	Seconded: Dorai	Carried

2. Present: (Council members) John Saunders, Dorai Gounder, Fa’anu’u Anitere’a, Shahram Aryan and Simon Howard. (Staff member) Kristen Paterson – Station Manager

3. Minutes of the last Council meetings

Council agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 as a true and accurate records of those meetings.		
Moved: John	Seconded: Dorai	Carried

4. Allocation of sub-committee membership

It was agreed by Council the allocation of membership to the sub-committees will be on as required basis.

5. Financial Report

Kristen tabled the report - due to Covid restrictions, second-quarter income from programme airtime fees was down on the projected income compared to the last quarter. The total income was higher than projected, but any loss with the current programme fee income offset by Covid-19 advertising. Expenditure is slightly over budget but with no alarming increases.

Council agreed that the current accounts as presented for the period ending 31 December 2021 are accepted as a true and accurate .		
Moved: John	Seconded: Dorai	Carried

6. Station Manager's Report

Kristen tabled her report.

In summary: Station staff have spent the last quarter initially welcoming people back to the Station at Covid Alert Level Two and in a "business as usual" mode where possible: training, supporting, broadcasting, podcasting, and marketing programmes.

Staffing: Frank Eggleton, technician, left Wellington Access Radio in January and was replaced by Jonny Marks. Also, at the end of the second quarter Louise Maxwell, marketing and communications left the Station, and Esther Gedye Taylor, community liaison and programme development, leaving in February 2022.

Programming: the second quarter programme schedule represented around 66 hours and 15 minutes per week of first-run 36C programming as of the end of the quarter. The broadcast output against the target of 63 hours first run and 111 hours total of 36C per week was for the first-run programming an average of 58 hours per week and for a total average of 74 hours of programming per week. Some programme-makers were still uncomfortable under the Covid alert levels leading to a couple of programmes taking a break until the Station could host their whole group and guests in the studios at once. Three Pacific Language Weeks featured in October. The total number of languages broadcast on Wellington Access Radio, including English, is 22. Seven new programmes started during the quarter. The Station saw 11 programmes end, reduced hours, or go on hiatus during the quarter. There are six programmes under training in production and close to starting with a further 11 programmes under conversation/planning/negotiation.

Social media: Station engagement on Facebook is still trending lower than the previous year due to Facebook limiting the reach to encourage pages to advertise/boost posts. Using Instagram stories to increase reach has been successful, as a growing number of people seem to be interested in watching a story rather than clicking on and liking posts. Followers on Instagram are growing marginally faster than Facebook followers, with the majority of accounts being local groups, NGOs, community services, and arts and cultural organisations. According to web and social media metrics, most of the stations' online audience is New Zealand based, which means we are successfully serving our local content to a local audience.

Community Outreach: due to Covid Alert Level Two a number of regular community meetings were not held, so external networking was limited.

2022 CAMA Conference: due to the threat posed by the Omicron variant of Covid-19 the conference is cancelled. The conference was to be hosted by the Station in Wellington.

For the next quarter: Health and Safety planning for the Covid traffic light settings, including hiring a health and safety specialist to review the Station operations and the replacement of air conditioning in studios.

7. General Business

7.1 Society constitution update

Due to the Covid alert settings, the Council agreed to hold off the Society membership consultation process for the moment. However, care needs to be exercised, in seeking feedback, especially for simplifying why the changes have been made to the Society Rules.

7.2 General Discussion

The meeting concluded with a general round table discussion by members.

8. Date of Next Meeting

6 PM on 11 May 2022, online via Zoom.

Meeting called to a close at 6.52 PM