

WOMR/WFMR Program Committee

Minutes – September 16, 2026

Attendees: John Braden, Matthew “Matty” Dunn, Paula Erickson, Mike Fee (Chair), Denya LeVine, Bud Pyatak, Andy Rahracsak, Jon Rimbach, Fran Sullivan, Ira Wood.

Regrets: Maureen “Moe” Keane-Bottino, Georgene “Gigi” Riedl

Meeting called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Prior Minutes

The committee approved the August 19, 2026 minutes upon motion duly made and seconded.

Program Transitions

- Muir Music – Nancy Muir and Melissa Yeaw will conclude their program with a farewell broadcast Friday, September 25, at 5:00 p.m., following an extended leave.
- Rachel Ferer – Rachel began her newly approved twice-monthly Saturday evening schedule on September 12 and hosted a trainee during that show.
- Rich Willecke – Rich began an indefinite leave of absence from his alternating Wednesday afternoon program. Substitute coverage will be arranged as needed until Gary returns for his seasonal Wednesday shifts, expected in November.
- Rhonda – Rhonda has submitted her resignation; her final alternating Wednesday show is scheduled for November 11. The committee favored advertising this prominent opening for a dependable long-term programmer rather than rushing an appointment.
- Sam Holmstock – Sam plans to conclude his monthly Sunday 6:00–9:00 p.m. African music program. He is willing to continue through December if needed while a replacement is sought.

New DJs and Training

- Robert Brissett – Has completed early orientation and training sessions with Matty and Mike; musical knowledge is strong, with additional experience and engagement to be assessed.
- Chris Nodle – Referred by Seth Rolbein; attended initial training sessions. Further participation and availability remain to be determined.
- Mike Murray – Completed orientation and began station visits. Weekend availability is most practical while he continues working; training will continue.
- Tom Guerra and Michael Borum – Both have submitted initial inquiries; first contact remains pending. Michael was referred by Scott Burau.
- Zoe Simmons – Has begun taking Saturday morning shifts and may volunteer for other openings as her schedule allows.

Programming Proposals and Decisions

Mosquito Story Hour – Ethan Hirschenfeld and Vanessa Vartabedian: The proposed storytelling program remains under development. Staff continue to request a prerecorded pilot. Discussion focused on adapting a live-stage format to radio and the editing resources required; no regular slot was approved.

Cape Current – Scott Burau: The committee reviewed two produced interview episodes and discussed a weekly, half-hour community interview format, potentially supplemented by reporting from the Provincetown Independent. Sustainability and the production workload remain considerations. Bud moved to award Cape Current the Friday 9:00 a.m. slot and relocate the existing Ukraine program to an overnight Tuesday slot; Jon seconded. The motion carried without opposition. Staff identified an available Tuesday early-morning slot for the Ukraine program.

International Women's Day – March 8, 2027

The committee reaffirmed support for the annual special programming and discussed earlier planning, volunteer production support, backup content and stronger publicity. The proposed schedule is to begin recruiting and organizing in November, establish a program schedule by January, and complete production and publicity preparations during February. Paula Erickson agreed to contact Dinah, who has historically coordinated the effort, to discuss what assistance would be welcome. Moe Keane-Bottino has also expressed interest in helping. Staff may assist with outreach and promotion in coordination with the organizers.

Program Reviews

Matty reported continuing progress on programmer self-evaluations, committee reviews and response letters, with the goal of completing the process before the November annual meeting. Committee members were asked to help with outstanding reviews, including Joel Shaw, Quinn Cox, Rachel Ferer, Susan Blood and Rossi. Paula will coordinate with Matty regarding assignments; Jon offered to take an additional review if helpful.

The committee reaffirmed that feedback should emphasize technical performance, station practices and constructive observations rather than personal taste or presentation style. After reviewing a draft letter that addressed the balance of talk and music, members agreed the topic was appropriate but recommended constructive wording. Matty will revise the letter accordingly. Members also noted the need to account for programmers hosting multiple shows when completing evaluations.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:09 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jon Rimbach, Program Committee Clerk, with AI-assisted transcription review and drafting.