

WOMR/WFMR Program Committee

Minutes – July 15, 2026

Attendees:

John Braden, Matthew “Matty” Dunn, Mike Fee (Chair), Maureen “Moe” Keane-Bottino, Denya LeVine, Bud Pyatak, Georgene “Gigi” Riedl, Jon Rimbach, Fran Sullivan, Ira Wood

Via Zoom:

John Braden, Maureen “Moe” Keane-Bottino, Georgene “Gigi” Riedl

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

Approval of Prior Minutes

The committee reviewed the May 20, 2026 minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved. There was no June meeting.

Program Updates

Pandora Peoples / Healing Wisdom

Pandora Peoples has resigned from her Thursday 9:00 a.m. *Healing Wisdom* program. Her time slot will not be held should she choose to return in the future. *Café International*, a syndicated mix of international music and interviews, is airing temporarily in the slot while other programming options are considered.

The committee recognized Pandora’s long service to the station. Ira volunteered to send her an email of appreciation.

Cape Cod Baseball League Broadcasts

The committee reviewed the first several weeks of Cape Cod Baseball League broadcasts. Technical and scheduling difficulties have included problems with the tape-delay system, inconsistent game start times, field equipment issues, and limited advance scheduling information from the league. Recent technical work by the station engineer resulted in a successful tape-delayed broadcast.

Despite the first-year challenges, the committee was generally positive about the broadcasts themselves. Members praised the quality of the announcers and noted that, when the technical systems function properly, the broadcasts provide an engaging listening experience. The technical and scheduling issues were viewed as largely surmountable and as useful lessons should the station continue the partnership next

season. The committee discussed lessons that should inform any decision to continue the partnership next season, including:

- Earlier and more reliable scheduling information from the league.
- Improved coordination regarding technical requirements and game start times.
- Better advance planning for games that may affect regularly scheduled programmers.
- The difficulty of promoting broadcasts or securing underwriting without a predictable schedule.
- The need to better understand listener interest before committing to another season.

Three broadcasts remain in the current season following the All-Star break.

Saturday Programming / Opera Season

The Metropolitan Opera season concluded May 30, opening additional Saturday airtime. Saturday morning shifts are currently divided into 9:00–11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., providing additional opportunities for student and developing programmers.

Zoe Simmons, a rising senior at Nauset Regional High School, has expressed interest in programming. Matty plans to fast-track her training for a Saturday morning opportunity, with the possibility of additional shifts once she is trained.

The Metropolitan Opera season is expected to resume in December. In the interim, WOMR is carrying WFMT opera programming on Saturday afternoons.

Mary Jane Byrne

Mary Jane Byrne has retired from her involvement with the station's opera programming. John volunteered to prepare a note thanking her for her service.

The committee also discussed the need to develop additional volunteer backup for classical programming, which is currently heavily dependent on Felice and Reed.

Rich Willecke

Rich Willecke returned to the air July 8 and will host his regular alternating Wednesday 1:00–4:00 p.m. shift through the seasonal transition in November.

New DJs and Training

- **Phil Fournier** – Phil completed his first shift July 1 and another shift July 11, including a show operated independently. His music selection and preparation received positive feedback. Continued coaching will focus primarily on microphone presence, projection, and studio levels.
- **C. Sean Horton** – Initial contact has been made by email. An office visit and further discussion are pending.

- **Richard Arsenault** – Initial contact has been made by email. An office visit and further discussion are pending.
- **Robert Brissett** – Matty recently completed an orientation interview with Robert, a year-round resident with experience as a musician and in the music industry. Training and follow-up will continue.
- **Madhavi Venkatesan** – Madhavi previously submitted a proposal for *Globally Local* and expressed interest in returning to the station. Follow-up and scheduled training opportunities have stalled. No further Program Committee action is required unless she reinitiates contact.

Program Reviews

The committee reviewed the current group of draft programmer evaluation letters. Sixteen letters have been prepared using the previously established format and incorporating both programmer self-evaluations and committee feedback where available.

Discussion included the importance of keeping feedback constructive and focused on matters the station can reasonably evaluate, particularly technical competence and adherence to station expectations. Committee members reaffirmed that individual on-air presentation styles are inherently subjective and generally should not become the focus of formal evaluations.

Approximately 18 completed self-evaluations are still awaiting committee reviews, while approximately 13 committee reviews are awaiting corresponding self-evaluations. Matty will circulate an updated list of outstanding assignments.

The committee would like to make substantial progress on the remaining evaluations by September, with completion targeted no later than the annual business meeting. Members were encouraged to complete outstanding reviews before additional rounds of self-evaluations are solicited.

Expanded News and Local Issues Coverage

The committee continued its discussion of expanding WOMR's coverage of local news and community issues. Matty emphasized that stronger local coverage is both consistent with WOMR's mission and an important service distinguishing the station from other media.

Several possible partnerships and contributors have been explored, including the *Provincetown Independent*, former CAI news director Steve Junker, and individuals with experience producing community-oriented radio content. Discussions have focused on what would be required to create sustainable local news or interview programming without placing an unreasonable production burden on a small number of staff or volunteers.

Scott Burau has expressed interest in developing a community-focused interview program. Matty, John and Mike will continue discussions with him regarding the concept and its production requirements.

The committee also discussed other approaches to increasing local coverage, including short-form news aggregation and making greater use of existing programs that address locally relevant issues.

No specific programming proposal or expenditure was recommended. Expanded local coverage will remain an ongoing committee priority.

Public Media and Growth Conference

John and Matty reported on their attendance at the recent NFCB and Public Media conferences in Chicago.

The NFCB sessions included research and discussion regarding rural and community media, public awareness of community radio, outreach, and ways stations can strengthen their relationships with the communities they serve. WOMR qualifies as a rural station by population measures, although its seasonal audience and community characteristics differ from many other rural stations.

Public Media Conference sessions placed greater emphasis on fundraising, donor retention, sustaining increased support for public media, and tailoring communications to different categories of donors.

John and Matty noted that larger public media organizations are increasingly emphasizing the importance of local programming and community connection. WOMR's predominantly live, locally produced programming represents an existing strength that the station should continue to develop.

The committee also discussed the Cape's seasonal population and whether programming and local-content strategies should reflect differences between year-round and seasonal audiences.

Other Business

International Women's Day

The committee revisited plans for International Women's Day programming. Previous discussions had identified a need to provide greater support to the volunteer producers and to begin planning earlier for the next event.

Moe expressed interest in participating in the effort, and Paula Erickson had previously indicated that she would also like to be involved. Paula was inadvertently omitted from recent Program Committee email communications; Matty will correct the committee distribution list and follow up with her.

International Women's Day planning will be placed on a future agenda, with the intent of beginning substantive discussion by September.

Next Meeting

The next Program Committee meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026. Because the meeting falls during Carnival week, the committee agreed that the meeting will be held remotely.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:11 p.m.

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