Friends of KDLG — Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: DCSD District Office and Google meet.

CALL TO ORDER : 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Cindy Tripp Johnson
Nick Schollmeier
Denise Lisac
Janice Larsen
Rose Fisher- online

KDLG Staff: Margaret Sutherland, Interim General Manager

Public: Bryce Edgmon; Fritz Johnson, Sue Flensburg, Char Lopez, and Deven Lisac participating online.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Denise, second by Janice.
Passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes deferred until Oct 27th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryce Edgmon expressed support for efforts to reconnect KDLG with the community. He said his time in Bethel had highlighted how closely its radio station is integrated into community life. He attended to support KDLG's reemergence.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Margaret reminded the board of her contract expiration on November 28 and the transition to remote work as early as November 1. She updated the board on finishing fund drive merch

mailouts with the help of volunteer support. She said she is still putting together a membership list.

Margaret informed the board the GM job listing had been sent out to a network of contacts and advertised on KDLG.

Margaret said that because of contract restrictions under the school, Nushagak was not an option for the new internet, according to our tech department. She said they moved forward with Starlink and are in the process of installing it.

Margaret provided the board with a list of action items to weigh in on.
The group expressed support for maintaining Xponential radio from 12 a.m. to 4 a.m.

The group expressed support for livestreaming the Alaska Federation of Natives conference and the November 3rd election night.

Nick supported budget transparency but questioned whether providing more detailed financial information should be a top priority. He said basic information would be sufficient for now and identified website updates as a more immediate need. He noted that the past General Manager was still listed as general manager and that reports from 2024 remained on the website.

Cindy said Phil would provide an updated budget report at the next meeting. Denise suggested highlighting the station's underwriters on the website.

Group expressed support for listing FCC licenses on website.

OLD BUSINESS

Fundraising

Cindy said there was not much of a fundraising update, and we were still looking for the donation documents. Nick asked how much had been raised over the summer. Cindy said she had requested that Phil provide that figure at the next meeting.

Later in the meeting, Cindy relayed a text from Char reporting $52,000 in donations and $18,000 for the four-wheeler raffle.

General Manager Hiring

Cindy said there were three applications and interviews were being set for Monday. She confirmed Board members Rose Fisher, Janise Larson, and herself, as well as Margaret and DCSH HR would conduct the interviews. She said interview questions had been written.

Denise asked where the applicants were from. Cindy said that information was not available.

Janice asked whether interviews would be in person or online. Cindy said they would be online. Bryce said managers at KUCB and KYUK wanted to support the new station manager. He also suggested that Margaret seek input from former KDLG reporters.

Internet Service

Denise asked why the station had selected Starlink rather than Nushagak. Denise emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses and the community. Margaret said she would get more information for the board on the contract conflict under the school.

Open House

Members discussed scheduling an open house around AFN and other community activities. Bryce noted a scheduling conflict with AFN week and said university representatives would be visiting October 28–29.

The open house was scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, from 3–6 p.m. Denise said early-voting responsibilities would prevent her from helping. Janice said she would be at the post office from 4–5:30 p.m. but could help before and afterward.

Nick asked what volunteer support Margaret needed. Margaret said she would email possible meeting times for the following week and distribute an open-house task list in advance. Members also suggested projecting the website on a wall during the event.

Website and Underwriter Outreach

Bryce suggested asking donors what they would like to see on the website and what information would help them with tax documentation. He said some donors were reluctant to contribute because they viewed KDLG as a repeater station. He encouraged a more interactive website that would engage donors.

Nick pointed to KYUK's online underwriter listing as an example. Members discussed highlighting KDLG's underwriters and making station programming easier to find online.

Listener Survey and Local Programming

Members discussed staffing a survey table, involving high school students and offering prizes to encourage participation.

Janice proposed a listener-survey booth at the grocery store. Janice and Cindy suggested adding a website question to the survey. Cindy recommended asking how people wanted to engage with KDLG, including through the website, social media and radio.

Bryce expressed concern about diminished listenership and said local news and the Fisheries Report remained important reasons people tuned in. He identified Open Line as a way to bring listeners back.

Janice said Open Line was especially important to village listeners and suggested working with BBEDC or schools to encourage participation. Bryce recommended contacting BBEDC's community liaisons and asking listeners about interest in bilingual programming. "The Messenger" program was also mentioned.

Fritz agreed that Open Line had more potential and emphasized the importance of local news. He said a fisheries information app had changed some fishermen's listening habits and reported that BBRSDA board members had said they no longer listened to KDLG because of the app. He also referenced roughly half a million dollars in BBRSDA support over the years.

Bryce said nine of 10 fishermen he had informally interviewed reported not listening during the summer. Bryce recommended changing the air times to more listener friendly times such as midday. Fritz suggested airing the Fisheries Report more frequently or at additional times. Nick suggested making it more widely available online.

Bryce suggested adding a question about bilingual programming on the survey.

Nick suggested posting children's Christmas stories on the website. Denise raised copyright concerns about reading entire books on the air and said she had discussed having students read portions of books with the elementary school.

Nick suggested inviting students to read their own stories and promoting that opportunity on the air. He said Christmas stories were a station tradition worth preserving and suggested airing other stories throughout the year. Fritz expressed support for full-book readings.

Members discussed adapting DNN video content for radio. Denise suggested releasing audio first. Margaret said extracting the audio would be straightforward and raised the possibility of a Spotify podcast. Nick said Suzy had taken on the work and cautioned against adding responsibilities while staff were already busy.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals and Transition to a Community Radio Station

Cindy introduced discussion of goals for the next fiscal year and asked whether underwriters had been informed about the proposed transition to a community radio station. Margaret said they had not.

Nick reported that the school board had authorized the superintendent to continue moving forward and laying the groundwork for the transition.

Nick suggested sharing a summary with listeners and providing information at the open house. Denise questioned whether broader transition work should wait until a permanent general manager was hired. She suggested focusing for now on advertising the vacant board position. Nick said underwriters could be informed in the meantime.

Denise said the vacant seat should be filled by someone from Naknek. Margaret said she had contacts there and would reach out.

Cindy suggested posting the board opening on the website. Denise also recommended on-air announcements seeking board members.

Nick suggested making station promotion and rebuilding listenership a focus of the next meeting. He asked how KDLG could better reach people in their 30s and 40s. Bryce recommended working with regional organizations.

Nick expressed interest in contacting businesses to let them know KDLG was rebuilding its local presence. Margaret said the station should work in tandem to clarify which programs and services it was promoting.

Denise suggested seeking sponsorships for specific programs, including basketball broadcasts with Mike, and encouraging businesses to play KDLG in their stores. She said AC could not do so because it used a company-set playlist. Nick asked about sponsorship amounts and suggested in-person outreach.

Janice recommended regular interviews with Alaska House of Representatives for District 37r. this would be informational as to what is happening at the state level. Bryce said he had previously participated in recurring KDLG interviews during the legislative session. Fritz was offered to conduct an interview.

Nick reported that he had been reelected to the school board. Janice commended his work on the board and on the Friends of KDLG..

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
Location: DCSD District Office and Zoom
Items identified for the next meeting:

- Updated budget report from Phil, including summer fundraising totals.
- General manager hiring update.
- Margaret’s inventory of station resources and platforms, including Spotify.

Open-house preparations and board member volunteer assignments.
Promotion of KDLG's programming and resources.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:15

Submitted by Margaret Sutherland