



Director Report

April 2022

Administrative

- Partnership with WCTV: Woodstock Community TV Board of Directors has expressed some interest in a partnership with us, whereby they would contract with OVTV for staffing. The concept was discussed during our Finance Committee meeting last week, in the context of budget planning for FY23. If we only had the capacity to focus on one thing right now this would be it, as it will have an impact on all other things. Regional collaboration has been a strategic goal of ours for some time, and various factors have brought us to this point. The first step is to have an open discussion among our Board. The WCTV Board is also meeting on Wednesday night. They will be providing us with more detail as to what WCTV's needs are.
- Board Nominations & Recruitment: The Nominating & Elections Committee needs to meet to review the Board terms and upcoming election.
- FY23 Budget Planning: The Finance Committee met on April 20th to get things moving. We reviewed the proposal to offer staffing services to Woodstock Community TV for the coming year, and how that would impact income as well as expenses. This potential partnership is the biggest driver of the budget.
- Financial Planning: Wendell & I met with the Investment Advisor at Heritage FCU in March, and soon thereafter received a menu of options that he was recommending. These were discussed at the Finance meeting last week, with the recommendation that we also look into options for no fee brokerage funds. We can review this in further detail. We also need to decide on how much we would like to invest. Currently, we have approx. \$30K to work with, but a large portion of that is "building fund". So we might only want to start off by investing just a small portion of it (<\$10K).
- Part-Time Production Position: The needs are shifting a bit for this, given the potential WCTV partnership, and the fact that we may have 2 college interns working with us this Summer. More to come on that.
- Personnel Planning: The Personnel Committee met March 22nd. We discussed succession planning for my position, which was part of our Strategic Plan from 2016, but had not been dealt with. We also discussed different scenarios for structural changes in the next year; the most impactful change is the possible combining of staffing resources with WCTV.

Fundraising

- Building Digital Capacity grant: I submitted an application to the VT Arts Council for a 3-year \$150K "Digital Capacity" grant, whereby we would partner with Woodstock Community TV to provide digital media services to arts organizations throughout the region. We received letters of support from the two Chambers of Commerce, ESBR, Pentangle Arts, BarnArts, ArtisTree, and Bookstock, as well as Linda Thomson, Susan Haefner, Susan Leader, & John Specker, individuals who have used our services to showcase artistic works. The grant would pay for production personnel, administration, & project management, as well as closed captioning and (when needed) ASL interpreters.

Building Project

- The Buildings & Grounds committee met in March 22nd. Shortly after that, I met with the architect from the initial build-out, Claudio Veliz. His firm produced the floor plans that we

have, but those need to be updated with some details added before we can put anything out to bid. With the current state of the building industry, we want to get this process moving, if we are to complete the project within the next couple of years. I don't think the goal of getting it done this calendar year is realistic any longer. The cost estimate we received from the Fall (approx. \$150K cost to finish it), did take inflation rates into consideration and also included a substantial contingency. SO that ballpark estimate is still a good number to work from, but we know that we need revised and more detailed plans to show to any contractor. And before that happened, we wanted to get Efficiency Vermont in to provide an energy consultation. There is a Cultural Facilities grant from the VT Arts Council with a quickly-approaching deadline. That's the type of opportunity that is suited for this project and in fact we received a Cultural Facilities grant in 2011 when we were first starting the build out). Since we don't want to miss out on the opportunity, I plan to submit an application. We will need to collect some letters of support.

VAN

- FY22 Budget Adjustment Request: We received the \$12,500 in "PEG Funding" as part of this year's (FY22) State budget adjustment. And the PEG Funding is included in the FY23 Budget. So as long as it doesn't get cut out at the last minute, we are on track for receiving approx. double the amount next year (so, approx. \$25K). This is the figure we are working with, as far as our own budgeting.
- VAN Annual Meeting: Rebekah & I will be attending the annual meeting next Friday (May 6th) in Montpelier. It will be the 1st in-person VAN event since 2019.

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