

JULY WFVR BOARD MEETING

7/6/22

Scott- scottpfen@msn.com Send June minutes.

Alex Montano should be copied on minutes. To post on website. alex@montano.us

4 board members and 2 programmers (Todd, Jim, Scott, Jeannie, Pat, Shay)

August 1st Deadline

Aug 1 Deadline to move transmitter. Our equipment out of building by August 1.

Need a STA by FCC. Temporary authority to move transmitter and antenna. Short Term Solution. Bob D working on application process, and it is going slowly. They are non-responsive. Working with Pat Leahy's office to assist with application with FCC.

We do have permission from VLS to move equipment to above studio.

Investigating other permanent options.

Patrick can lead transition of move on July 27th.

Motion: By Todd. Go ahead and continue efforts of getting the STA and moving equipment on July 27 to the top of WFVS? Seconded by Jim. 4 Votes in favor. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report June 2022

\$ 7,150 in capital account.

\$ 13,543 in operating account.

\$ 6,015 in rainy day fund.

\$ 3,293 in PayPal

A good month with a couple of good boosts from Bale (\$1500 for transmitter work) and The Ranger (\$500 for our help) plus a few renewing members and one renewing underwriter (\$250 from Green Mtn. Bikes) Expenses normal, winding up the month with a strong balance of \$29,941 in the coffers.

Other business:

Promote Bike Rides that are coming up to support station. Ad in Herald for next 3 weeks. August 6th-So Ro Green, August 20-Nanfest. September 18th-Fundraiser for the station. Responsible for Music August 6 from 10am-1pm.

Below is Todd's Update from July 12th.

6:40 AM (12 hours ago)

Todd Tyson

to Betsy, Bob, Henry, Jon, Patrick, wfvr-board@googlegroups.com

Good morning, everyone:

I wanted to share Patrick's thorough post here with all of you. Last week, based on the information on hand, the RCR Board voted to file an STA with the FCC while preparing to disassemble our equipment at the WP and move it to our studio building.

As you can see from Patrick's notes, there are good reasons to reconsider this approach. I have written to Theron about continuing to reserve the option to move down to the chemical building and I'm awaiting his reply. I will also be speaking with Jon Hosford (a helpful engineer) when I return to VT later today.

What remains clear at this point is we will be "exiting" our current broadcast site in Wayne's office on Wednesday, August 27th.

Todd

On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 10:21 PM Patrick Schlott <pschlottvt@protonmail.com> wrote:
Todd,

Good speaking with you today. I wanted to detail my thoughts weighing a potential plan to stay at the water plant with picking a spot downtown to relocate WFVR's transmitter. I know the board has already voted but wanted to give you my thoughts.

I would strongly recommend that we pursue an agreement with the Fire District about moving our antenna and transmitter from the pump house to the chemical storage building slightly down the road on Pluck Hill. There are a number of reasons to do this now rather than wait for construction to be finished:

- A few tasks would have to be repeated. Paperwork would need to be filed twice - once for the STA to move, and again to move back to Pluck Hill. The effort to physically move our equipment would also occur twice - to say nothing of raising an antenna structure at the temporary location. Also, any rentals or expenses incurred for the move(s), such as a boom lift or contractor, might be doubly required.

- While I don't yet have hard evidence to support this claim, anecdotally we are going to take a hit on coverage simply due to the elevation difference between Pluck Hill and the prospective downtown temporary sites. This isn't the worst thing to have happen since it is temporary, but per Mr. Bickel's note regarding the FCC requirements for STA, we must maintain our service contour without extending it. There will need to be some engineering work done to verify the contour, and if the new site does not satisfy it we may be out of time to find an alternate site and re-file. Given the relatively minor drop in elevation to the proposed new site at Pluck Hill, we would be in a much more straightforward scenario, which is what the FCC likes to see. It would likely be filed as a minor modification to a licensed facility (since it's <5.6km from the current site), with very similar coverage patterns. Additionally, it's unlikely that an RF exposure study would be required, as we must comply with controlled/uncontrolled exposure limits for the current site anyway. That's not to say we'd definitely need a study for a site downtown, but I would more confidently say it's unlikely if we stay at Pluck Hill.
- I'm not sure what to anticipate for restrictions on temporary antenna structures. One of the four FCC requirements for STA reads: *STA facilities cannot involve the construction of towers intended for permanent use by the station requesting the STA.* To me, the specific language used by the FCC could mean that as long as the structure is not permanent AND is not a tower, we are free to do as we please. On the contrary, I don't know if this extends to masts, or is specifically for permanent towers. I mention this because there is no existing viable structure at 114B N. Windsor that could support our antenna while maintaining reasonable coverage and our contour. The mast for the receive antennas is, I believe, improperly sized, and would not be adequately supported if extended, which I feel would be required to maintain our contour. I am not a structural engineer, so I cannot legally make these claims, but what I have observed at the aforementioned location does not correlate closely enough with professional installations I've observed - such as (but not limited to) the current mast at Pluck Hill - to instill enough confidence to proceed with moving our antenna to this location without intervention of someone qualified to engineer a solution for us. In short, it is added cost, or added liability - especially for a site that is in a public area, and near children from time to time, at that.
- The work to be done on moving our equipment could very likely be done in one day. Details below.

Here's a scenario for conversation's sake - we all (WFVR BoD and the Fire District) agree that WFVR is to move their antenna and transmitter down to the chemical storage building. We obtain a telephone pole with sufficient length, and a person or people willing to install it and climb it for us. We contact CCI in advance and coordinate transfer of our E-Line to the other building. We meet on site the day of the move, go silent, remove the transmitter and associated equipment, the antenna, the mast, and coax from the pump house. Ideally, the person/company/people hired to dig are digging a hole for the pole and installing it while this is happening. We then have the antenna mounted to the pole, coax run and secured, ground wire/strap run and secured, ground rod installed and connected. We then connect the transmitter, connect the STL to the EPL network and go on the air.

On the FCC end, this would be all on Form 318. The workflow would be something like this:

- Secure the site, and a letter from the site owner confirming availability to WFVR.
- Secure any permits needed for the building, notify CCI of pending move.
- Obtain telephone pole as tall as possible and still self-supporting, while being reasonably permissible to install.

- Complete engineering documentation (pole is required first to give accurate antenna HAAT), submit to the FCC. Cross fingers.
- Receive construction permit
- Build and test new station, notify FCC
- Receive license

It sounds like the most successful way to pull this off would be to provide Theron with a solidified proposal or statement of work. If he's agreeable to us moving onsite, then we should say exactly what antenna structure we intend to install, what work will need to be done, who will be doing it, and the resources (people, materials, heavy machinery) required. Obviously, we will hire any needed contractors ourselves, but I want everyone aware of what to expect that day so we're not "in the way" unexpectedly.

There are other arrangements to work out, like where our transmitter and other equipment can be located and powered, but let's start with getting a yes/no before we work on the details.

I understand this is a lot to take in, so thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
-Patrick