



July 31, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: mark.johnson@northlandcollege.edu

Mark Johnson  
General Manager  
KSRQ-FM  
1101 Highway One East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

RE: Evaluation of KSRQ-FM, Northland Community and Technical College, Compliance with Selected Communications Act and General Provisions Transparency Requirements (Report No. ECR2405-2409)

Mark Johnson,

The evaluation referenced above concluded that KSRQ-FM (KSRQ) was compliant with nine of eleven applicable requirements in the Communications Act of 1932, 47 U.S.C. §396, et sec. (Communications Act) and in the General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria (General Provisions) which govern the 2023 community service grant (CSG) awarded it by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

The specific findings and CPB's determinations for KSRQ follow.

### **I. Posting Current Financial Information**

The Communications Act requires stations to make available to the public their annual financial and audit reports and other financial information they are required to provide to CPB.<sup>1</sup> CPB also requires that each CSG recipient post its most recent audited financial statement and its most recent annual financial summary report (FSR) on its website.

The evaluation found that KSRQ had posted its most recent audited financial statement but did not include its FSR, although it promptly uploaded the document during the evaluation. The evaluation recommended that CPB require KSRQ to identify the corrective actions and controls it will adopt to avoid this error in the future.

CPB adopted the CSG Non-compliance Policy to encourage grantees to comply with the applicable provisions governing their CSG and the Communications Act. Stations are subject to a penalty of \$5,000 for failure to comply with a category in the Communications Act. Considering KSRQ's swift action to correct the issue and the corrective actions explained in the station's correspondence,<sup>2</sup> we will

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<sup>1</sup> General Provisions, Section 2 (C), Open Financial Records.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit D of the evaluation report.

Mark Johnson  
KSRQ-FM

impose a reduced penalty of \$2,500. We will not require additional documentation.

**Action:** Within 45 days of the date of this correspondence, KSRQ must provide CPB with the \$2,500 penalty to CPB for its non-compliance with the open financial records requirements in the Communications Act.

## II. Meetings

The Communications Act requires stations to provide the public with reasonable advance notice of their open meetings which include, but are not limited to, open governing body meetings, open committee meetings, and community advisory board (CAB) meetings (collectively “open meeting(s)”). One method a station may employ to satisfy that requirement is by providing at least seven-days’ advance notice, including the time and place of the meeting by posting notice on the station’s website.<sup>3</sup>

Although as a state university licensee, KSRQ is not required to have a CAB, it is required to provide notice for any meeting where a quorum is present and where deliberations occur that determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of business relating to public broadcasting. Deliberations do not require any formal action or vote. Any discussion of public broadcasting issues that may influence the opinions of members makes it a meeting.<sup>4</sup>

The evaluation found that KSRQ did not provide notice for its Pioneer Community Board of Directors meetings. The report recommended that CPB require KSRQ identify the corrective actions and controls it will implement to address this issue. In the station’s correspondence,<sup>5</sup> KSRQ explained that it posted advance notice of its upcoming CAB meetings on its website and will ensure future compliance with the requirement.

While the CSG Non-compliance penalty provides for a \$5,000 penalty for a station’s failure to comply with a category in the Communications Act, considering that KSRQ updated its website to reflect the upcoming CAB meetings before the evaluation’s completion and the representations in its correspondence, we will assess a reduced penalty of \$2,500. We will not require additional documentation.

**Action:** Within 45 days of the date of this correspondence, KSRQ must provide CPB with the \$2,500 penalty to CPB for its non-compliance with the advance notice provisions in the Communications Act.

KSRQ must provide the \$5,000 in penalties to CPB for its non-compliance with the Communications Act, by forwarding a check payable to CPB to Nick Stromann, Acting Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 401 Ninth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004-2129. If you wish CPB to consider additional information relating to this matter, please provide the same in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter. Otherwise, CPB will consider these determinations final, and KSRQ must comply with the actions set forth above. CPB reserves the right to take any other action it deems appropriate until these issues are resolved to CPB's satisfaction.

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<sup>3</sup> Additional methods for providing notice may be found in the Compliance Booklet, Section 1.E. Notice of Open Meetings.

<sup>4</sup> Compliance Booklet, Section 1.C. Prerequisites for a “Meeting”.

<sup>5</sup> Exhibit D of the evaluation report.

Mark Johnson  
KSRQ-FM

Kind regards,

*Jackie J. Livesay*

Jackie J. Livesay  
Deputy General Counsel & Vice President, Compliance

CC: VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Sandra Kiddoo, Licensee Official, KSRQ-FM

Michael Levy, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, CPB

Evan Slavitt, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, CPB

Nick Stromann, Acting Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, CPB

Kimberly Howell, Inspector General, CPB

William J. Richardson, III, Senior Director & Deputy Inspector General, CPB

Kathy Merritt, Senior Vice President, Radio, Journalism & CSG Services, CPB

Katherine Arno, Vice President, Community Service Grants and Station Initiatives, CPB

Andrew Charnik, Director, Radio CSG Policy & Administration, CPB

Forrest Lillibridge, Director, Grants Administration, CPB