Present: Jo Ellen, Alan, Sharon, Steve, Lisa

noon ET/ 9am PT
424-203-8075, Access Code: 519956#

Agenda:

Review P&L from FNP
Review TMC 2013 Budget
Question: Are we on track for 2013?

Yes, we are ok for 2013 but we will be at zero on December 31.

What carries us for November and December is member dues for 2014. What carries us for 2014 will be grants and any external revenue we get in.

--CJTI will probably not produce revenue until 2016.
--Member revenue increasing but not more than $25K total

--We will get non-member $$ and sponsor $$ for our meeting, but the meeting will be twice as expensive as our meeting in Baltimore and Oakland, so our net will be zero.

Grants:

--I expect WGF will renew our annual support at $30K.

--Helen at MDF will probably renew some kind of support at $20-30K.

--We are hoping the repro justice pilot project turns into real money at the WDN meeting in November. The ask will be for $250-300K, of which $75K will go to TMC support

--We are part of a million-dollar ask to the Garfield Foundation re: environmental beat reporting and internships with SEEE, SEJ, WWF, and others. If grant goes through, we get $50K, but most of that is project-related, not TMC support.

--Working on funders for a Database II Lab. Have not identified funders yet. Probably $10K overhead to TMC.

--Working on funders for a Video/TV Show effort. Have a couple of leads, but this is pretty pie in the sky right now.

--Have idea for Labor Beat Reporters—some unions showed some interest; need to circle back to them.

Note: all of this is project-based except WGF, and would once again put us at a very low general support budget.

Solutions:

Independent board? Would this help us reach foundations and major donors?

Potentials that are unique niche. Can those projects be scaled up?

* Collaborative Editorial Projects—yes, scalable—1) gap in coverage 2) particular configuration could have reach/impact that the funders were looking for—failure of funder strategy
* Beat Reporting
* Experimental Projects like II Lab

Can see a way forward on specific projects, networked projects,

What is the compelling story for the Media Consortium to funders? Not future of journalism? Not progressive media argument?

The Media Consortium has two sources of revenue, foundations and members. If the foundations aren’t there, then we have to look to members. What do members want, and sell that.

