Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

Wendy Wilson, River Network, 2010

Role of the Board

• Guards the mission of the organization for its members (or ticket-holders)
• Determines policies around internal procedures (financial, PR, FR, personnel, planning)
• Hires, supports the direction of - or fires - the Executive Director
• Serves as a court of appeal for staff or ticket-holders in the organization.
• Ensures effective planning
• Ensures and manages finances
• Assesses it’s own work and replaces itself
• Monitors and evaluates the programs of the organization

Six Board Meetings to Success

Intentionally making these six decisions as a board every year – and developing a culture of peer accountability to these group decisions – can prevent many miscommunications and power struggles and allows the organization to move from year to year without being stuck in the past.

1) Set Long Term Direction: Strategic and/or Watershed Plan

2) Set Annual Priorities (Internal & Programmatic)

3) Program Review/ Organizational Evaluation

4) Approve Annual Budget

5) Approve Fundraising Plan

6) Recruit, elect and orient new Board Members (and allow members to leave gracefully)