

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Olsen Billings called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chantel Schieffer, Charles Wetherington, Heather Margolis, Jackie Girard, Jim Larson, Julie Seedhouse, Karin Olsen Billings, Kevin Myhre, Lori Chamberlin, Robert Nystuen, Sandra Boham, Wendy Nicolai</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Danette Rector, Doug Mitchell</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS- Dan Ritter, Sarah Sadowski, Marissa Perry, Kris MacIntyre, Sunni Hitchcock, Betsy Miller, <i>Energy Corps</i>- Kathy Hadley, Kirsten Gerbatsch, <i>Big Sky Watershed Corps</i>- Bryan Wilson, Shannon Stober, Ann Schwend, Elena Evans, <i>CNCS</i>- Anna Yeagle, <i>No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps</i>- Lisa Lee</p>	
b. <u>Approval of March 11, 2015 Minutes</u>	Commissioner Olsen Billings moved to approve the minutes, Wendy Nicolai seconded, the motion carried- minutes approved.	<i>March 11, 2015 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Chair Olsen Billings announced changes in Commissioner terms this July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam Vauthier is no longer serving on the commission. His position will be refilled. • Erica McKay has graduated from MSU and will be relocating out of state. Her position will also be refilled. • Doug Mitchell and Lori Chamberlin are in replacement terms and have reapplied to serve on the commission. • Karin Olsen Billings and Chantel Schieffer's terms expire and have reapplied to serve on the commission. • Bob Nystuen's term expires. This will be his last commission meeting. 	

<p>II. Commissioner Reports and Updates</p>		
<p>a. Commissioners' recent volunteer engagements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Wetherington recently participated in the Reading Matters program by reading to kindergarteners and 2nd graders. He also spent a Saturday with fellow ExxonMobil employees and retirees working on Habitat House #71 in the Billings Heights with the Habitat for Humanity program. • Commissioner Schieffer has been volunteering with Eagle Mount in Bozeman by both spending time on the development committee and also helping with the program for participants. • Commissioner Nystuen spoke to the commission about the Flathead Valley Project Homeless Connect to provide basic needs to the homeless population, and a recent movement with the United Way to purchase a shopping mall in Kalispell to serve as a permanent location for nonprofits to provide resources to homeless and low-income residents. • Commissioner Olsen Billings has an upcoming event where she will serve as a boat catcher at the Camp Make a Dream fundraiser. • Commissioner Margolis volunteered at the Global Youth Service Day recycle and clean-up activity with young kids at Spring Meadow State Park. She also assisted with the Holter Museum's last fundraising. The Helena Youth Philanthropy Council is currently recruiting new youth to serve on the board next school year. 	
<p>a. Financial Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS applied for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) from Disaster & Emergency Services & was not selected for 2015-16 funding. OCS's current HSGP will expire 9.30.15 with a current balance of \$54,648.75. Currently the Ready Montana Grants Coordinator position is covered under this resource. • FEMA awarded OCS \$17,350 to deliver the Disaster Simulation to the states in FEMA Region 8 during the period of August 2016 – Aug. 2017. This award does not cover staff. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Update – OCS received General Funding for the biennium of \$149,004 in FY2016 & \$150,847 in FY2017 • In the near future - OCS will be posting the In-Kind and Travel reimbursement forms on the OCS website for Commissioners to easily complete and submit electronically. 	
b. AmeriCorps in Indian Country	<p>Sarah Sadowski provided brief update on AmeriCorps in Indian Country; On May 14, Director Ritter & I visited with Jason Smith about activities in Indian Country and National Service as a strategy toward achieving stated Tribal goals. Jason is Alum who served with Montana Campus Compact's Campus Corps, when it was still in operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A big initiative and one that National Service might be able to assist with in Indian Country in Montana is Language Preservation, among others. • The Office of Indian Affairs has shared our Formula funding opportunities with their contacts. • Jason committed to sharing other opportunities, such as service opportunities and the opportunity for community leaders to apply to serve on the Commission. Those who received the information include the Tribal College Presidents Association, the Indian Caucus and the American Indian Business Leaders group. <p>OCS will continue to communicate, share information about National Service with key leaders in Indian Country and at some point will conduct outreach travel</p>	
c. <u>National Service Accommodations Assessment</u>	<p>Betsy Miller referred to the handout regarding the National Service Accommodation Assessment which is used to annually assess the disability inclusion efforts of Montana national service programs. The most recent data will be posted on serve.mt.gov. The survey is slated for updates by next year.</p>	
d. Communication Highlights	<p>Marissa Perry provided an update on events and communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Serve Montana Scholarships were announced in May and were awarded to 98 students from 71 high schools. 	

	<p>Montana Campus Compact and the Student Assistance Foundation were thanked for their continuing support of the scholarships. Commissioner Schieffer was thanked for offering to serve on the Scholarship Review Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A handout was provided on the successes and highlighted stories from this year's Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council Fight Childhood Hunger Week Projects. OCS will begin recruitment in the fall to expand the council to 20 youth leaders. 	
<p>e. Ready Montana Highlights</p>	<p>Betsy Miller provided an update on Ready Montana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community disaster simulation was done at the symposium in March with 250 ACorps members. Additional funding has been awarded to OCS from FEMA Region VIII to expand the simulation. • Volunteer mgmt. toolkit- created by United Way of Yellowstone Co. Designed to help county emergency managers with spontaneous volunteers • Wildfire Awareness Month- May. Worked with DNRC, FireSafeMT and statewide partners to spread the message about wildfire preparedness and prevention. • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)- regional and statewide conferences. Interest in bringing National Service members to the table. • Future funding- Ready Montana did not receive Homeland Security grant funding. Current grant runs through Sept. 30. Seeking additional funding • State service plan and disaster services- potential to include more disaster services focus into the SSP 	
<p>III. CNCS State Office Update</p>	<p>Jackie Girard provided an updated on the CNCS State Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS and the Commission were thanked for putting on a successful ServeMontana Symposium in March and for assisting with the visit of Wendy Spencer, CNCS CEO. • AmeriCorps VISTA is currently recruiting 46 positions to start on July 17th. There will be a pre-service orientation on July 13-16th followed by a swearing-in ceremony on July 16th. • There are currently 33 summer associates serving for 70 	

	<p>days with summer learning programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNCS will be encouraging Commissioners and AmeriCorps State grantee agencies to sign up as Employers of National Service • Foster Grandparents program in Montana submitted an application for the Tribal NOFO and are currently waiting on the results. • CNCS recently completed their funding competition with 13 RSVP projects. Billings RSVP and Cascade County both relinquished their awards. The Cascade County RSVP will be filled by the United Way. • Montana Campus Compact announced that 13 campuses will match the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. They will be looking to use this as a recruitment tool for programs. CNCS State Office and Commission presented the Ed Award matching to grantee staff in a joint conference call June 11, 2015. 	
<p>IV. Lunch with Governor and First Lady Bullock</p>	<p>Governor and First Lady Bullock joined the Commission for lunch to discuss the upcoming drafting of the State Service Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Service Plan will be drafted in summer/fall 2015 by a commission workgroup and staff. • The Governor will approve the State Service Plan in fall 2015 • The State Service Plan will serve as the guiding document for the commission from 2016-2018. • The Governor and First Lady outlined their highest priorities to be included in the State Service Plan and led a discussion on the work of AmeriCorps members in tackling some of the state's highest needs such as childhood hunger, drought resiliency, etc. 	
<p>V. FY 2015 AmeriCorps State Formula Funding</p>		
<p>a. Competitive Funding Update</p>	<p>Sarah Sadowski provided the following competitive funding update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We submitted 5 applications for competitive funding and 4 	

	<p>were awarded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015 AmeriCorps competitive grants will support 340 AmeriCorps members: • <i>FoodCorps, Inc., FoodCorps Montana, \$127,130.00, 11 members</i> • <i>Montana Conservation Corps, Inc., \$1,872,000.00, 291 members</i> • <i>Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps, \$167,161.00, 20 members</i> • <i>Montana Legal Services Association, Justice for Montanans Project, \$226,965.00, 18 members</i> • Montana Campus Compact was not selected for funding. 	
<p>b. Applicant Descriptions</p>	<p>Sarah Sadowski provided formula applicant descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Montana Campus Compact will place AmeriCorps members who will mentor youth and model college-positive behavior across Montana • The Big Sky Watershed Corps requests 20 AmeriCorps members to assist Montana’s communities to make a measurable contribution in environmental stewardship of local watersheds. • The National Center for Appropriate Technology requests 12 AmeriCorps members to provide weatherization services to low-income Montanans, and to design and conduct educational activities in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices in Missoula, Butte, Helena, Havre, Bozeman, Billings, and Red Lodge, Montana. • Montana No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps will end childhood hunger by ensuring all children get the healthy food they need, every day. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for leveraging No Kid Hungry efforts to increase participation in school breakfast through implementation of alternative models, such as Breakfast in the Classroom and Grab and Go. 	

<p>c. 2015 Formula Funding Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Sadowski provided the funding recommendation for the 2015 formula funding applicants: Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps - \$106,886.00 MCC's Big Sky Watershed Corps - \$270,000.00 NCAT's Montana Energy Corps - \$156,864.00 DPHHS's No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps - \$66,250.00 	
<p>d. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Nicolai referenced Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS, and her visit in March where she asked the commission to look at the highest and great need in Montana including the Governor's priorities. She asked how this was applied when the grant review committee made their funding decisions. Sarah Sadowski replied that applicants are required to specify their focus areas in the application and that OCS will be looking to increase priorities in the upcoming drafting of the State Service Plan. Commissioner Nicolai confirmed that the State Service Plan will reflect the priorities and that what's being voted on today does not currently have these priorities in effect. • Commissioner Olsen Billings stated that the grant review process was difficult because the review committee was unable to talk to the programs regarding questions and important decisions of the review, but thanked programs for expressing gratitude and recognizing the ultimate decisions that were made. 	
<p>e. Action Item: Formula Funding Recommendations</p>	<p>Commissioner Olsen Billings asked for a motion to accept Formula grant funding with funding distributed as follows: Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps - \$106,886.00 MCC's Big Sky Watershed Corps - \$270,000.00 NCAT's Montana Energy Corps - \$156,864.00 DPHHS's No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps - \$66,250.00</p> <p>Commissioner Myhre made the motion, Commissioner Larson seconded, the motion carried and the Formula Funding Recommendation was approved.</p>	<p><i>Formula Funding Recommendation: Approved</i></p>

<p>VI. Form State Service Plan Workgroup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Billings asked commissioners to volunteer to serve on the State Service Plan Workgroup to help redraft the State Service Plan this summer and fall: • Commissioners Billings, Girard, Margolis, Nicolai, Wetherington, Schieffer, Myhre, and Boham volunteered to serve on the workgroup. 	
<p>VII. Commission Community Engagement</p>	<p>Chair Olsen Billings opened discussion for two items to help further the Commission member's involvement with AmeriCorps programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair Olsen Billings discussed the importance of commissioners to visit AmeriCorps programs and members when they are out in the field providing service to Montana. OCS will serve as a liaison between AmeriCorps programs and commissioners and will provide information on events and activities that commissions may attend to get a feel for how the programs and members operate. Commissioners were asked to report back to OCS on any site visits by using a form describing the visit and how the commissioner participated. 2. The Commission also discussed strategic and meaningful engagement of Montana's Congressional Delegation. Commissioner Margolis offered to provide talking points to help educate Montana's Congressional Delegation and local public and elected officials on the importance of spreading the word about AmeriCorps impact in Montana. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Boham asked specifically what needs to be reported to OCS. Sarah Sadowski replied that when commissioners are volunteering in the community, particularly with an AmeriCorps program, OCS would like to hear about it and keep track of it. If volunteering with a National Service program, it's important that Commissioners fill out the 'Commissioner Participation Form' provided by OCS. • Commissioner Margolis commented that the review process was difficult because of limited funding; therefore Commissioners need to think further about sharing the impact and need for AmeriCorps in Montana with members of Congress so that we can adequately fund more 	

	<p>programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Ritter commented that America's Service Commissions (ASC) put together a letter of support to Congress that was signed by over 500 commissioners to increase appropriations for National Service. Director Ritter thanked the Montana Commissioners who signed onto the letter. 	
VIII. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Nystuen announced that this is the last meeting he will be attending as a Commissioner. He expressed his appreciation for community service and shared that he would like to stay involved with the commission, particularly for the ServeMontana Symposium. • Chair Olsen Billings thanked Commissioner Nystuen for his years of service and expressed that she learned a lot from him and his ability to embrace the whole experience. • Commissioner Schieffer asked if we needed to help recruit new commissioners to fill the vacancies on the commission. Director Ritter replied that the governor and his appointments advisor, Stacey Otterstrom, are currently filtering through a list of interested names and that he would let the Commission know if they are having trouble filling any spots. 	
IX. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan Wilson, program director of the Big Sky Watershed Corps, thanked the commission and invited them to visit members at their service sites. • Kyle Baker, Chief of Staff at Carroll College, thanked for the commission for the invitation to serve on the Grant Review Committee and appreciated the experience of being involved in the review and meeting. • Lisa Lee, program director for No Kid Hungry thanked the commission and stated that she looked forward to further involving the commission in the work of her program. • Kathy Hadley, executive director of NCAT, thanked the commission and staff for the review committee. She learned about the strengths and ways to improve the Energy Corps program. She would love to have commissioners attend events. 	
X. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.	

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