



Commission Meeting
Minutes
September 12, 2014
12:00pm-2:00pm
State Capitol, Room 405
Helena, MT

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Karin Olsen Billings Welcomes and Opens Meeting 12:00pm		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Karin Olsen Billings, Jackie Girard, Jim Larson, Heather Margolis, Erica McKay, Kevin Myhre, Wendy Nicolai, Robert Nystuen, Chantel Schieffer, Maj. Lori Chamberlin</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Adam Vauthier, currently 5 vacancies</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS-Dan Ritter, Jim Auer, Marissa Perry, Betsy Miller, Sunni Hitchcock, Kris MacIntyre, CNCS-Anna Yeagle, State Parks AmeriCorps- Ken Soderberg, U.S. Senator Tester State Office- Kennden Culp</p>	
b. Approval of June 17, 2014 Minutes	Commissioner Nicolai moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Chamberlin seconds, the motion carried and the minutes were approved	<u>June 17, 2014 Minutes</u> <i>approved</i>
II. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates		
a. Sunni Hitchcock- Financial Update <u>Fall 2014 Fund Balance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund balances as of Aug 2014 • AmeriCorps Admin balance \$111,499.14 expires in Dec 2014 • EMPG ending Sept 2014 – replaced by Homeland Security Grant of \$128,209 (Beg. Oct?) • Subgrantee portion balance anticipate being spent upon completion of projects (varying end dates) • Organ Donor Awareness – new project FY2015 • Symposium balance to be used for 2015 event • Scholarship balance obligated – waiting for verification of student enrollment before process payments 	
b. Jim Auer- AmeriCorps Update <u>2014 Grant Year Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission members received the 2014 grant year portfolio, and were updated on the current state of AmeriCorps programs in the state. 	

<p>Portfolio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps programs have been facing recruiting challenges, mostly due to some technology issues with the recruitment system • No programs have been able to participate in the CNCS 21st Century Conservation Service Corps initiative. Although they are part of the initiative outside of CNCS activities. • Justice AmeriCorps, a new initiative from CNCS, was not available to Montana programs. • Operation AmeriCorps was launched as a means for municipalities to utilize AmeriCorps to solve community problems • The competitive grant application will be posted soon. 	
<p>c. Betsy Miller- Ready Montana Update</p>	<p>Fire Ready- 250 kits distributed to individuals in E. Montana Preparedness events June-Sept: 7 workshops were held and more than 900 individuals received preparedness information</p> <p>Red Cross- volunteers will be canvassing neighborhoods to increase home fire prevention information</p> <p>Respond.mt.gov- new website we're hosting to increase Montanans' knowledge of responsible donating and volunteering after disasters</p> <p>Montana ShakeOut is Oct. 22nd at 10:22am. Registration is currently at 86,000 statewide. Visit www.shakeout.org/montana to find out more or register your business/organization</p> <p>Winter Ready- we'll be working with Senior Corps programs to increase winter weather preparedness and to distribute emergency supply kits</p>	
<p>d. Marissa Perry- Communications Update</p>	<p>Marissa provided updates on the following two items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS and the Montana Campus Compact are partnering to recognize student volunteers at five NAIA Frontier League football games this fall through Volunteer of the Game. Commissioners along with CEO's of the institutions will be presenting the award on field during the games. • OCS is putting together a Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council for Global Youth Service Day. As a Lead Agency, OCS is accepting applications for up to 15 youth to serve on the Council, attend a retreat in Helena, and plan projects to fight childhood hunger for GYSD in April 2015. 	
<p>e. CNCS State Office Update- Jackie Girard</p>	<p>Jackie Girard provided an update on CNCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She introduced the new CNCS State Program Specialist, Anna Yeager. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of VISTA. Jackie will keep commissioners informed as they celebrate the anniversary throughout the year. • CNCS is gearing up to recruit 45 VISTA's to beginning serving in January throughout Montana. • CNCS is starting a new VISTA Project through Rural Dynamics in Great Falls. They will be hosting 12 members throughout the state in the focus area of economic opportunity. 	
<p>III. 2015 State Service Plan Draft</p>	<p>Jim Auer walked through the draft of the 2015 State Service Plan. He discussed how the State Service Plan is written broadly to allow flexibility with OCS financial operations, and that few changes were made from the 2014 State Service Plan. He also stated that a committee will be formed in spring/summer 2015 to rewrite the 2016 State Service Plan in more detail before it is reviewed and signed by Governor Bullock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Margolis asked about the changes to ReadyMontana and if the new focus area of disaster response information would impact the mini-grant funding provided to Senior Corps to prepare emergency supply kits. Jim Auer responded that they still intend to provided funding for emergency supply kits and that the new focus area is in accordance with the launch of the new website, respond.mt.gov. • Commissioner Girard asked if we could look into how we could better organize and use AmeriCorps members to respond to a state disaster. • Chair Olsen Billings asked for a motion to accept the 2015 State Service Plan • Commissioner Myhre made the motion to accept the 2015 State Service Plan draft, Commissioner McKay seconds • Chair Olsen Billings called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously 	<p><i>The Montana Commission on Community Service approved the 2015 State Service Plan draft.</i></p>
<p>V. Commissioner Reports and Updates</p>		
<p>a. Commissioners, please share recent volunteer engagement</p>	<p>Commissioners shared recent volunteer engagements and what they are doing to make an impact in their hometowns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Margolis thanked the AmeriCorps VISTA members in Helena for their 9/11 Day of Service project. Members attended an afterschool program at Bryant Elementary and had a conversation with students about 9/11 Day, and 	

	<p>made Thank You banners for veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner McKay announced that over 250 volunteers attended MSU’s annual move-in day to help the incoming freshman class move into their dorm rooms. She also announced that she recently began working in the VOICE Center at MSU to assist and counsel sexual assault survivors. • Commissioner Girard thanked the RSVP in Eastern Montana for collecting the fall harvest for Harvest for Seniors from July through September. 	
VII. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Olsen Billings announced that OCS will be putting together a Grant Review Team for the competitive AmeriCorps grant funding cycle. The Grant Review Team will tentatively meet on December 1st and provided recommendations to the full commission at the next commission meeting tentatively set for December 16th. Commissioner Olsen Billings asked interested commissioners to notify Jim Auer or Marissa Perry. • Commissioner Girard asked if OCS was intending to go on an AmeriCorps recruitment road show. Jim Auer replied that most likely not at this time. • Director Ritter notified the commission that Governor Bullock is still reviewing applicants to fill the five vacancies on the commission. • Ken Soderberg with Montana State Parks AmeriCorps announced that they have a new Program Coordinator, Jean Placko. 	
VIII. Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm	

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