



Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2012

1pm-3pm

Video-Conference

Billings, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Kim Miske called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u>  Miles City: Chair Kim Miske, Stefani Hicswa  Helena: Vice Chair Karin Olsen Billings, Nancy Matheson, Scott Smith, and Jackie Girard  Billings: Doug Braun  Kalispell: Robert Nystuen  Missoula: Adam Vauthier  Phone: Chantel Schieffer</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u>  Keith Kelley, Jack Chambers, David Van Son, Austin Lyle and James Steele, Jr.</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u>  Helena: OCS- Rebecca Steele, Tony Dean, Jim Auer, Julia Gustafson, Katie Gallagher, Janet Harper, and CNCS - Amy Busch  Missoula: <i>Justice for Montanans Project</i> – Ed Higgins and Brittany Weiss and <i>Montana Campus Compact</i>, Josh Vanek and Eric Cardella.  Phone: <i>Montana Conservation Corps</i>, Jono McKinney, <i>JVC Northwest</i>, Mary Hegel</p>	
b. <a href="#">Approval of 10/26/12 Minutes</a>	Commissioner Hicswa moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Nystuen seconded, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.	<i>October 26, 2012 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Chair Miske made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main focus of the meeting was on the AmeriCorps grant making process based on the Commission’s support and vote to allow OCS staff to execute the Competitive funding without a Grant Review Workgroup.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair Karin Olsen Billings, Tony Dean, and Rebecca Steele met with Tim Burton, Governor-elect Bullock’s chief of staff last week. The OCS staff provided the transition document and discussed upcoming projects and events.</li> <li>• Congratulations to Commissioner Keith Kelly for his nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training Service with the U.S. Department of Labor. Keith has served on the Montana Commission since 2005.</li> </ul>	
II. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates		
a. Corporation for National and Community Service National Direct applicant consultation	R. Steele reported there were no National Direct applicants at this time. The Corporation for National and Community Service requires all National Direct applicants to consult with states where they are proposing to serve. OCS staff has had conversations with the Montana Campus Compact and look forward to seeing their application. Applicants have until February to send OCS their notifications. OCS staff will compile all information and distribute it to the Commission once it is received.	
III. FY2013 AmeriCorps State Competitive Funding		
a. <a href="#">Applicant Description</a>	<p>R. Steele reported six letters of intent and four applications were received for the 2013 Competitive Competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Tribal applicant would not be eligible for the tribal set-aside if they applied through the commission’s competitive competition. The applicant was encouraged to apply directly to the Corporation.</li> <li>• Action for Eastern Montana withdrew before the full application was due, the proposed program was small, and REO is looking to partner with another organization to implement the program.</li> <li>• REO’s (Rural Economic Opportunities) application was received past the deadline and was incomplete.</li> <li>• Whitefish Fire Department’s application was determined to be</li> </ul>	

	<p>incomplete and unresponsive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) submitted a continuation application. R. Steele reviewed the process for continuation proposals. MCC's proposals included an increased match amount as well as an increased MSY.</li> <li>• Justice for Montanans Project (MLSA) submitted a new application for competitive funding. MSLA requested less than they did last year, increased match amount, reduced MSY cost, and is requesting a total of 16 MSY in the current proposal. R. Steele reviewed the Executive Summary for Montana Conservation Corps and Justice for Montanans Project. She explained the difference in scores was that Montana Conservation Corps' application was for continuation of competitive funding and Justice for Montanans Project submitted a new application for competitive funding. Justice for Montanans Project was originally funded under formula funding and made it to the second round at the national level last year.</li> </ul>	
<p>b. <a href="#">Funding Recommendation</a></p>	<p>OCS staff recommended moving the Montana Conservation Corps and the Justice for Montanans Project forward to the national 2013 competitive review with the Corporation for National and Community Service.</p>	
<p>c. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Braun was in favor of both applications but expressed concerns about Montana Legal Service Association's process for screening clients.</li> <li>• Commissioner Girard commended the work of the committee.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nystuen was impressed with the staff's work and felt the level of match indicated the applicants would be diligent if awarded.</li> <li>• Commissioner Hicswa requested clarification on the numbers for Justice for Montanans. R. Steele said the numbers reflected both current and past funding since it was under formula funding for three years.</li> <li>• Commissioner Vauthier appreciated the increase in match and</li> </ul>	

	said it will be beneficial in the competitive process.	
d. ACTION ITEM – Competitive Funding Recommendation	Chair Miske asked for a motion to advance the Montana Conservation Corps and the Justice for Montanans Project to the next level of the 2013 Competitive review with the Corporation for National and Community Service based on the recommendations provided by the Governor’s Office of Community Service. Commissioner Matheson moved to support forwarding the applications to the CNCS and Vice Chair Olsen Billings seconded the motion. Chair Miske called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.	<i>The Montana Commission of Community Service approved advancing the Montana Conservation Corps and the Justice for Montanans Project to the next level of the 2013 Competitive review with the Corporation for National and Community Service based on the recommendations provided by the Governor’s Office of Community Service.</i>
IV. ServeMontana Awards Update		
a. ServeMontana & ReadyMontana Awards	R. Steele reminded Commissioners they should have received information on the ServeMontana awards. The deadline is December 18. Awardees will be honored at the Serve Montana Symposium in February. R. Steele encouraged commissioners to consider nominating someone and to spread the word in their local communities.	
b. Commission Workgroup	R. Steele thanked Chantel Schieffer, Stefani Hicswa, Doug Braun, and Karin Olsen Billings for volunteering to serve on the selection workgroup and requested that if anyone else was interested in serving to notify her. Binders will be sent to the workgroup by the end of next week and will include nominations and instructions for the review process. Responses are due back to OSC by January 18.	
V. Commissioner Reports and Updates		
a. Commissioners’ recent volunteer engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Hicswa has been working with Hunger initiatives food drives and the food bank, delivering dictionaries to third graders, and helping support the fundraising efforts to construct a new hockey rink in Miles City.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Girard helping fill the new VISTA slots starting in January. Senior Corps members have been engaged in Winter Ready activities: knitting hats, collecting food, and completing projects that support the troops. MLK Day activities include Read for Peace project with Campus Compact and the homeless count.</li> <li>• Commissioner Matheson has been working with Food Corps and said they have extended the application period for rural schools.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nystuen said Glacier Bank and the Salvation Army have helped fundraisers at four grocery stores and surpassed their goal of \$2,000 and collected \$2,400. Glacier Bank matched \$2000 to put the total collected at \$4,400. Glacier Bank, First Security Bank, and the local CBS affiliate collected over 10,000 pounds of food for the local food bank in Missoula.</li> <li>• Commissioner Vauthier participated in a civic group tour with AmeriCorps members in Anaconda and spoke with VISTA members at an end-of-service event.</li> <li>• Commissioner Schieffer has been helping Family Promise deliver meals through the holidays and attended the graduation ceremony for State Park AmeriCorps members in Bozeman.</li> <li>• Chair Miske has been teaching catechism, volunteering at the nursing home, bringing food to the food bank and Christmas caroling.</li> </ul> <p>OCS staff was also asked to share recent volunteer activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R. Steele travelled to Ecuador with the Timmy Global Health medical brigade. They helped set up clinics in 10 communities.</li> <li>• Gustafson and Auer attended the National Disability Inclusion Conference in Washington DC. They said the conference was worthwhile and there was a MCC veteran</li> </ul>	
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	<p>crew member there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dean has been involved in search and rescue efforts to locate a missing Helena woman.</li> </ul>	
VII. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dean reported that video conferences usually run between \$300 and \$1,000, whereas in-person Commission meetings typically run from \$2,500 to \$4,000, which demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of video meetings.</li> <li>• Chair Miske and R. Steele provided an update on <u>Youth Serve Scholarships</u>. The number of Youth Serve Scholarships awarded and distributed for 2012 is 68 scholarships or \$68,000 in awards and are currently in the process of talking with the Campus Compact and possible funders so the project can be continued. Campus Compact provided half of the total scholarship funds awarded as match, \$34,000. There needs to be another solid source of funding since there is only \$7,700 for the 2013 awards.</li> <li>• Dean provided a <u>Congressional Update</u> indicating the 2013 bill is near completion and the Labor HHS part is completed and fully negotiated. Whether or not it will be voted on is uncertain. If not then there would be a continuing resolution and CNCS would be funded at the FY 2012 level. If the 2013 bill is passed it would restore our training dollars. If not then OCS would need to compete for significantly less funding.</li> </ul>	
VII. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair Olsen Billings commented the appointment of Pam Bucy as Commissioner of Labor is good news for OCS since understands the office and the fiduciary responsibilities that are administratively attached.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nystuen requested an update on the next Commission meeting. R. Steele provided information on the meeting and 2013 Serve Symposium.</li> <li>• Eric Cardella, Campus Compact, is preparing for MLK day, Read for Peace for K-3 graders, and contracting with the American Red Cross of Montana for a two-year disaster</li> </ul>	

	<p>preparedness and response project. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brittany Waiss, Justice for Montanans Project, thanked the Commission for moving their application forward. She also thanked Commissioner Vauthier for speaking to their members.</li> <li>• Jono McKinney, MCC reported they sent 38 AmeriCorps members to Hurricane Sandy who helped with shelter management and food distribution. He also thanked R. Steele, Dean and Auer for their work on the grant review.</li> </ul>	
VIII. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2013 in conjunction with the ServeMontana Symposium at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.	

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