

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> Chair Kim Miske, Vice Chair Karin Olsen Billings, Stefani Hicswa, Nancy Matheson, Jackie Girard, Doug Braun, Robert Nystuen, Adam Vauthier, Chantel Schieffer, Jim Corson, David Van Son</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Jack Chambers, James Steele, Jr., Scott Smith</p> <p><u>Commission Member Resigned:</u> Austin Lyle, has submitted his resignation to the Governor's Office</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS- Tony Dean, Jim Auer, Julia Gustafson, Katie Gallagher, Janet Harper, CNCS - Amy Busch, <i>Justice for Montanans Project</i> – Ed Higgins and Brittany Waiss, <i>Montana Conservation Corps</i>- Jono McKinney, <i>Montana State Parks AmeriCorps</i> –Ken Soderberg, <i>Prevention Resource Center</i> – Abby Zent.</p>	
b. Approval of 12/14/12 Minutes	Commissioner Hicswa moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Schieffer seconded, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.	<i>December 14, 2012 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Chair Miske made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed Bill Basl, the AmeriCorps Director • Explained the status of Executive Director selection process. Rebecca and Tony met with Tim Burton, Chief of Staff, earlier this month who indicated the position was important to the Governor and they are looking for the best candidate for the position. Vice Chair Olsen Billings commented how important it was to get an Executive Director and thanked the staff for all the work they have done in the absence of an Executive Director. Commissioner Corson asked if the new 	

	<p>Executive Director would attend the Governor's meetings and Tony explained the reason Linda Carlson and Jan Lombardi attended cabinet meetings was due to previous connections with the Governor's Office and the position is not considered cabinet level. Commissioner Corson also asked how many other vacancies were unfilled at this level. It was explained that there are a number of appointed positions that remain unfilled; the majority are on Commissions and Boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Hicswa is resigning from the Commission to accept a position in Powell, Wyoming as President of Northwest College.• Commissioners should have received information on reapplying for their appointment to the Commission and will only need to reapply at the end of a term if you wish to continue service.• <u>Term Expires July 2013:</u> Adam Vauthier , Doug Braun, Kim Miske• <u>Term Expires July 2014:</u> David Van Son, Jack Chambers, James Corson, James Steele• <u>Term Expires July 2015:</u> Bob Nystuen, Chantel Schieffer, Karin Olsen Billings, Nancy Matheson, Scott Smith, Jackie Girard (Ex-Officio)• The Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will take place during the fall meeting. The Bylaws state the election shall be held every two years at the October meeting. In addition the bylaws state the Vice Chair shall have the same powers and duties as the chair in the event of the latter's absence. The meeting will be in Helena.• Sarah Sadowski partnered with the Office to organize the service projects including tonight's reflection dinner.• Thanked Tony Dean, Katie Gallagher, Janet Harper, Julia Gustafson, and Jim Auer for their work on the Symposium and organizing it without a new Executive Director. It was a remarkable team effort.	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Rebecca Steele for her service and wished her the best of luck in Seattle. 	
<p>II. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates</p>		
<p>a. Legislative Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Dean reported earlier this month he presented the office’s proposed budget for the next two years before the General Government Committee. In summary, we received everything that we asked for with the exception of the general fund increase of \$50,000 for personal services and match. The Committee voted against the general fund increase and indicated that they were waiting to see how other bills (“cat and dog” bills) played out. Similar actions were taken towards other divisions who were seeking general funds, although the primary difference is that other divisions had an alternative source of funding. For example, the Business Services Division requested general funds to replace some outdated equipment. The Committee voted to raise fees in order to pay for the equipment as opposed to using general fund. We are currently working on getting the general fund increase added back through an amendment during House Appropriations. • Commissioner Hicswa asked if the OCS employees are part of the state pay plan. It was explained that OCS staff are part of the state pay plan and if it does pass this session, the OCS staff will be included in the pay increase. • Commissioner Corson asked if the Office interacted with lobbyists. Tony indicated that both Liz Moore (MNA) and Steve Nelson (former OCS Executive Director and Commission member) testified on our behalf as community members. • Commissioners Billings, Van Son, Hicswa, and Corson urged commission members to approach their elected representatives to advocate for the office and provided 	

	<p>suggestions for lobbying and education methods/activities. Tony described the potential for an alternative revenue source for the OCS that involves withholding 1 percent of AmeriCorps program funding. This is done by other states; however, it cuts into AmeriCorps program budgets and is not a popular alternative.</p>	
<p>b. Communications Update</p>	<p>Julia Gustafson provided an update on communication and outreach and the 2013 ServeMontana Symposium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that approximately 270 people registered for the ServeMontana Symposium, which is began Wednesday, February 27, 2013. • Recognized special Symposium guests, including Bill Basl and Steve Culbertson, CEO of Youth Service America. • Thanked the commissioners and sponsors for their support of the symposium including Glacier Bank, OPI, and Dept of Ag. • Reminded commissioners about reserved seating at the Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 28, 2013 and thanked Lieutenant Governor Walsh, Commissioner Miske, DES Administrator Ed Tinsley, and Bill Basl for grant the ServeMontana and ReadyMontana awards. • Discussed the 15 services projects occurring at the time of the meeting across Helena with approximately 115 National Service members. The service events will wrap-up at Helena High School at 5:30pm with a pizza party. Thank you provided to Sarah Sadowski, Montana Conservation Corps, Park Avenue Bakery, Lehrkind Coca-Cola. • 2013 Youth Serve Montana Scholarships are now available. Up to 100 high school seniors will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 100 volunteer hours. Thank you to the Student Assistance Foundation for providing the funding for the scholarships and Montana Campus 	

	<p>Compact for continuing to match the scholarships at Montana schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps Week is March 9-17 look for events in your area and ways you can thank members. • Global Youth Service Day is April 26-28, look for mini-grants announced in March. • All AmeriCorps members this year received a notebook from our office to thank them for their service and to give them a few resources on disability inclusion. 	
<p>c. Energy Intern</p>	<p>Jim Auer provided the following Governor's Energy Internship updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140 scholarships totaling \$245,000 in scholarships awarded • The program has ended as far as OCS's involvement is concerned 	
<p>d. AmeriCorps Update</p>	<p>Jim Auer provided the following AmeriCorps updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Sky Watershed – Officially kicked off in October, most of their members enrolled in January, 16 currently serving • FoodCorps –10 members started service in August, having a great first year. • Montana State Parks AmeriCorps – Started their program year in January, 5 full time members currently enrolled will be adding 13 more • Justice for Montanans Project – Started in September, 15 of 16 slots currently enrolled • Montana Conservation Corps – Started their grant year in January 78 members enrolled as of February 20th • National Direct applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These programs operate in more than one state and are required to consult with the state commission at the time of their application ○ All applicants except for the College Positive 	

	<p>Volunteer Corps, have been in the state in the past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Only two programs are in a continuation year Catholic Volunteer Network and Compact Service Corps.○ Will be highly competitive for dollars, likely that we will see available slots in the state decrease again <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Competitive grant review status<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Submitted applications from MLSA, and MCC in early February. Also a partnership between the City of Havre and the Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs was submitted for the Governor and Mayor initiative○ June is the earliest when we know results● Upcoming formula process and proposed change for 2014 (to be voted on in June)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We will be working with the executive committee to propose a change to the grant review process regarding continuation applicants at the next commission meeting.● Upcoming grant review<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Scheduled to start the process March 27th, grant review meeting will be May 31st.● School Turnaround grants<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There is funding available from CNCS for AmeriCorps programs targeting low performing schools. Funds will be available through state commissions meaning that our office will have to put together another RFP. There are 6 schools across the state eligible to have members placed at them.	
--	--	--

<p>e. Ready Montana Update</p>	<p>Katie Gallagher provided an update on Ready Montana activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 86 formal trainings presentations have been completed through a partnership with the American Red Cross of Montana (ARCMT). ARCMT has primarily provided trainings at senior centers and to youth organizations; however, any organization can request training. The OCS just executed its third training contract with ARCMT. • 1,181 homes were weatherized by the Montana Conservation Corps in 51 counties in 2012 through the Warm Hearts Warm Homes Initiative. Since 2005, over 10,000 homes have been weatherized in every county through the initiative. • 106 emergency preparedness parties have been held statewide since September 2011. • Senior Corps created and distributed 218 emergency starter supply kits to home-bound and disabled seniors in Missoula, Richland, Valley, and Dawson counties as part of the OCS funding opportunity, <i>Let's Get Winter Ready, Montana!</i> • Two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings were held in Rosebud and Madison counties with a total of 22 community members receiving the training. • Looking ahead to 2013: March is Red Cross Month, Fire Ready Montana will launch in April, September is National Preparedness Month, and on October 23, 2013 the first ShakeOut will occur in Montana. 	
<p>III. Corporation for National and Community Service Update</p>	<p>Bill Basl, AmeriCorps Director from Washington D.C., thanked the Montana Commission members, noting that in a big state like Montana participation on the commission is a mark of dedication. The following updates were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps is growing, despite minimal funding 	

	<p>increases and uncertainty. AmeriCorps is doing this through partnerships with other federal agencies to connect National Service resources and volunteerism to chronic issues that other agencies face. Examples of these partnerships include FEMACorps (funded in part by FEMA), School Turnaround program (funded in part by the Department of Education), Veterans Corps, and 21st Century Service Conservation Corps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new School Turnaround funding is another example where the Department of Education is providing a portion of the funding; however, CNCS makes the final funding decisions. The goal of the School Turnaround program is to connect National Service resources with under-performing schools. The Corporation expects around 60 applications and has funding available to support approximately 600 AmeriCorps positions.• Commissioner Corson asked if the School Turnaround funding information was distributed to Commissioners yet. Bill Basl responded that the information had just been distributed to the State Commissions a few days prior, and Jim noted that the information would be sent to commission members after the symposium.• More data-driven information is available from CNCS that shows where AmeriCorps resources are going and the impact that they are having. For example, 50% of AmeriCorps resources are invested in education. Data demonstrates that underperforming schools with AmeriCorps members see performance gains. The next step is to look at what activities are leading to these gains and what it is that AmeriCorps members are doing right.• Not much information to provide on the looming sequestration. More information will be available after Friday, March 1, 2013 and the deadline.	
--	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any changes triggered by sequestration will not impact 2012 funding; however, sequestration may impact 2013 Administration funding availability. There may be a five percent reduction in the Corporation's funds and the Corporation may have limited ways of applying the cuts. The second important date is March 27, 2013 because the Corporation is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution. A lot of effort and resources right now are dedicated to running budget scenarios, but it is important so that the Corporation can effectively lighten any blow that may come with sequestration. • The Corporation is actively educating and engaging elected officials in Washington D.C. about AmeriCorps to advance the National Service mission. • Commissioner Corson asked about the proposals surrounding keeping Senior Corps, but phase out AmeriCorps. Bill Basl responded that AmeriCorps funding and programming does not have to be a partisan issue, and in the past it wasn't with the Serve America Act being sponsored by Senators Hatch (R), McCain (R), and Kennedy (D). Data shows that people are interested in AmeriCorps with nine people applying for every one position on average. • Recognized the Montana Conservation Corps for their response to Hurricane Sandy. 	
IV. Grant Review		
a. Formula Grant Review Workgroup	<p>Jim presented information on the four AmeriCorps continuation grant applications that the office will be reviewed by commissioners and approved during the next commission meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OCS will receive four continuation grant applications. The applications typically take one hour to review. Commissioners should anticipate seven to ten hours total for the review over a two to three week period and will gather in Helena for a full-day meeting to score 	

	<p>the applications. May 31, 2013 is the target date for the meeting in Helena.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OCS requested volunteers for the work group. The following four commissioners volunteered to participate: Commissioner Vauthier, Commissioner Schieffer, Commissioner Corson, and Commissioner Billings. • The OCS notified the commission that in the future the OCS seeks to change the grant review process for continuation funding. The change will be formally introduced and voted on at a future commission meeting. The only reason that the OCS and Commission should not recommend the continuation of existing AmeriCorps programs is because of poor performance. The OCS will be able to determine whether the organization falls into this category. The commission should be responsible only for the granting of new funds. 	
<p>V. CNCS State Office Update</p>	<p>Commissioner Girard provided the following updates for the Montana CNCS office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 9, 2013 mayors will highlight the impact of National Service in their cities and thank the individuals who serve during the first Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. Seven Montana mayors have joined this initiative and Montana CNCS has sent a reminder to those who have not yet joined. Commissioner Girard requested the assistance of fellow commission members to recruit the mayors of their home communities. The day of recognition is for all streams of national service. • The CNCS office is getting ready for AmeriCorps week and will track activities and share information about ways to become involved. • Senior Corps week is May 6, 2013 to May 10, 2013. Commissioner Girard urged commissioners to share their experiences with Senior Corps in their communities. • Senior Corps Directors also held a meeting in Helena that included the new Senior Corps program with the Richland County Public Health Department. • 37 new VISTA members started their term of service in January at Billings Metro VISTA Project, Montana 	

	<p>Campus Compact, Montana Legal Services Association, and the Prevention Resource Center. Ten percent of new members were Montana Conservation Corps alum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNCS is looking to bring on summer associates to assist with existing projects and hopefully will be able to bring on 60 new members in the fall. • Commissioner Corson asked whether or not RSVP in Montana was able to recover from its 20 percent reduction and were Montana RSVP programs that were cut able to return? Commissioner Girard answered that it depends on why the program was eliminated in the first place. Some programs did not return, others are covered by new programs (for example, the new RSVP program in NE Montana now covers the old Wolf Point program), and other programs are operating under the reductions. 	
<p>VI. Commissioner Reports and Updates</p>		
<p>a. Commissioners' recent volunteer engagements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Billings and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) have been completing emergency preparedness activities. Commissioner Billings invited Katie Gallagher of the OCS and Kevin Murszewski of the American Red Cross of Montana to do an emergency preparedness presentation to OPI staff. This meeting has brought more awareness to the importance of individual preparedness and the information is spreading throughout the agency. • Commissioner Schieffer hosted the Girls for Change conference in Bozeman for high school aged girls. • Commissioner Corson attended an orientation for the Billings Metro VISTA project as a Commission member and VISTA alum. Corson shared his story as a VISTA member in the 1970s on the Crow Reservation with the new members. • Commissioner Matheson attended a training session for FoodCorps and site supervisors and provided a presentation on the historic perspective of agriculture in Montana. All the site supervisors felt lucky to have a FoodCorps member serving with their organizations and schools. • Commission Girard provided an update on the work that CNCS is completing with Veterans Affairs (VA). This is on-going work and includes volunteer work for Senior Corps members in VA clinics and hospitals. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Corson questioned whether the next meeting would be held via video conference, suggesting that grant application approval should be completed in in-person meetings to spur dialogue and requested that the OCS reconsider holding the June meeting via teleconference, if possible. 	
VII. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for mid-June. The date is June 14. The meeting will likely be a video conference call. 	
VIII. Public Comment	<p>Abby Zent, State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services provided the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam Vauthier was the keynote speaker at the Montana Campus Compact and Montana Legal Services Association graduation. • Prevention Resource Center (PRC) is recruiting 10 summer VISTA members and is currently accepting host site applications from organizations that work in the areas of healthy futures, childhood nutrition, education, and veteran's mental health. Information is available at prevention.mt.gov and applications are due by March 15, 2013. • PRC has also recently developed a book that includes impact stories. A copy was provided to the OCS. <p>Jono McKinney, MCC reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC's role in Hurricane Sandy response. MCC members were able to apply skills and knowledge gained during their time with the Corp and the MCC team was the second Corps with boots on the ground in New York City. • Big Sky Watershed Corps has seen an 80 percent increase in applications and received 150 applications for only 15 available positions. • Thanked Commissioner Girard for her work with the Mayor's initiative and shared that although most MCC member work is hands-on, MCC does require that members attend public meetings during their term of service. • Urged Commission members to ask themselves what they can do to assist with the search for an OCS Executive Director. • Made available a Service Report that was recently shared in D.C. that highlights the collective work and impact of service 	

	<p>programs in the state of Montana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated Senior Corps on their successes and questioned how to spread the impact of National Service? <p>Ken Soderberg, Montana State Parks, reported that AmeriCorps State Park members spearheaded a community group at Lone Pine State Park. At the first meeting 40 volunteers signed up to help create the new group. 418 acres of land have been improved and the quality of program members speaks to their qualifications.</p> <p>Commissioner Corson noted that he always tries to attend AmeriCorps events and would like to be informed when events are happening in the Billings community.</p>	
IX. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.	

Contact:

Governor's Office of Community Service

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

Phone: 406-444-1391

Fax: 406-444-4418

Email: serve@mt.gov

Website: <http://serve.mt.gov>

Commissioner Contact Information: <http://serve.mt.gov/commission/>