



Commission Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

UberConference video with call-in option 406.224.4803

<https://www.uberconference.com/servemontana>

1pm-2:30 pm

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
<p>I. Chairman Myhre called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.</p>		
<p>a. Roll Call</p>	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chairman Myhre, Vice Chair Harbage, Kim Lloyd, Karen Moses, Heather Margolis, Kevin Sylvester, Pam Carbonari, Doug Mitchell, Donavon Hawk, Morgan Hubbard, Amy Busch (CNCS Representative, ex-officio member)</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> Joe Naiman-Sessions, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps; Andrea Vernon and Josh Vanek, Montana Campus Compact; Jono McKinney, Montana Conservation Corps; Bryan Wilson and Angela Davis, Big Sky Watershed Corps; Brittney Petersen, Richland County Health Department Communities in Action Corps; Elizabeth Finn (Justice for Montanans) OCS - Director Dan Ritter, Grants Manager Sarah Sadowski, Financial Manager Sheree Isola, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist Kristina Jordan, Outreach and Program Assistant Milly Allen</p>	
<p>b. Opening Activity</p>	<p>Director Ritter asked everyone to share a word or phrase that describes their 2020, as well as something that happened this year for which they are grateful.</p>	
<p>c. Approval of October 8, 2020 Minutes</p>	<p>Commissioner Larson moved to approve the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes; Commissioner Hawk seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.</p>	<p>October 8, 2020 Minutes approved</p>

d. Announcements	<p>Director Ritter discussed the FFY2021 federal budget. Congress is expected to take a stop-gap action before the current Continuing Resolution ends Dec 11 to prevent a shutdown. Regardless, OCS and our programs are funded through the 2021 program year. In earlier versions of current COVID-19 relief legislation, there was additional funding for AmeriCorps, but there is nothing in current versions.</p> <p>The 2021 Legislative Session begins in January. Legislative leadership is in discussion how they will hold the session, but it is looking like a hybrid model. OCS will present our budget with DLI.</p>	
e. Commissioner Reports and Updates – Volunteer engagements	<p>Commissioner Carbonari highlighted the efforts of local Rotary Clubs, who created a matching grant program for twelve local nonprofits. The program will host 12 days of Christmas, with each a nonprofit featured daily via video until Dec 25. Commissioner Hawk acknowledged the efforts of the Butte YMCA for assistance to the Helena YMCA.</p>	
<p>II. CNCS Montana Update, Amy Busch, Senior Portfolio Manager, Office of Regional Operations (ORO)</p>	<p>Extended gratitude to Director Ritter for his nearly eight years of service in his role.</p> <p>Continuing Resolution ends midnight, 12/11/2020 (tomorrow); may extend by one week. Biden transition team working within the AmeriCorps agency led by Paul Montero, a former VISTA.</p> <p>Preparing for a December 15 webinar on Schools of Service, CIF/CSG awards, and VISTA recruitment. Next VISTA orientation is in January and over 100 members are expected to start throughout the Mountain Region, about 60 in Montana.</p> <p>AmeriCorps Senior applications are going through clarification, and next meeting she hopes to announce expanded service projects in Montana. Also working on pandemic augmentation projects. Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion program application is due February 4 and appreciates the Commission sharing in Montana.</p>	
<p>III. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates</p>		
a. ServeMontana, Director Ritter	<p>OCS will be working with the Deputy Labor Commission and Governor Elect Gianforte’s transition team as new Department appointments are announced. Director Ritter has</p>	

		asked that Sarah Sadowski be designated as lead staff until an interim or permanent Executive Director is appointed by the new gubernatorial administration and approved by the Commission.	
i.	Transition & Staffing Updates	Kristina Jordan joined OCS as Training and Technical Assistance Specialist on Nov 23. Milly Allen joined as Outreach Assistant on Monday, Dec 7. Alyssa Mathieu will join January 4 as the second Outreach Assistant. Both will be very helpful in the next 6 months. Sheree Isola is currently transitioning to part-time with DLI's Fiscal Support Bureau. In that role she will serve as OCS Accountant while a new Financial Manager is hired in the new year.	
ii.	Student Volunteer Awards	OCS again partnered with Montana Campus Compact for the awards and have expanded to more campuses. Twelve students received awards to outstanding college students on 12 different campuses; learn more here, https://mtcompact.org/awards-scholarships/mt-student-volunteer-award/ . Thank you to Josh Vanek for his assistance with this. An awards ceremony may be hosted online this year.	
iii.	Youth ServeMontana Scholarship	Youth Serve Montana Scholarship is open for applications. The deadline is 1/31/2021. Due to COVID, the service hour requirement has changed from 100 hours to 50 this year. Milly Allen will reach out to do more promotion.	
iv.	ServeMontana Awards, <i>workgroup formation</i>	The workgroup is formed by Commissioners, community members, and leaders. We are looking for 4-5 community members for the workgroup. Individuals and groups can be nominated on https://serve.mt.gov/ServeMontana/index ; nominations are due by the 3/31/2021, and workgroup members will be notified in April. Volunteers: Vice Chair Harbage, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Hawk, Commissioner Busch; alternate, Commissioner Moses. Absent commissioners will be asked if they are interested in serving.	Vice Chair Harbage, Commissioners Larson, Hawk, Busch, and Moses volunteered.
b.	Financial report, Sheree Isola		
i.	Quarterly financial report	The OCS Fund Balance Report was sent with the final agenda, no questions were asked.	
ii.	Honorarium end of year report out	A total of \$550 in honorariums has been waived (Q1: \$150; Q2: \$150; Q3: \$250) and \$100 paid to commissioners. Reminded Commission that they can claim or waive honorarium, donating money back to OCS for grant match. To claim or waive, send an email to serve@mt.gov .	
c.	AmeriCorps, Sarah		

Sadowski		
i. Grants update, <i>competitive and formula</i>	Appreciate support promoting the planning grant for new applicants. Sadowski thanked Commissioners Margolis and Carbonari, and VISTA Alum Carin McClain for serving on the Grant Review Workgroup. This year's review engaged two outside reviewers focused on evidence tier and quality, thank you Alums E. Butts and K. Miller for serving in that role.	
ii. MLK Day 2021 Read for Peace	Typically, MLK Day is Montana's largest National Day of Service. Generally, Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) takes lead. MTCC has made great efforts to comply with copyright restrictions (generally, individuals cannot be recorded reading books) and find alternative ways to celebrate Read for Peace/National Day of Service.	
iii. ServeMontana Symposium, <i>presenters</i>	The 12 Annual ServeMontana Symposium will be March 10-12, 2021 and will delivered online. The 2021 theme is <i>AmeriCorps Service: Being the Best of Montana</i> , the Planning Committee composed of program staff, AmeriCorps leaders, and others, is meeting regularly. Be encouraged to share the Breakout Call for Proposals with great presenters, and please consider presenting a session. https://serve.mt.gov/ServeMontana/servemontana-symposium	
IV. New Business, Commissioner Margolis		
a. Competitive Grant Review Workgroup Recommendation – <i>action item</i>	Commissioner Margolis stated the Funding Recommendation of the AmeriCorps Grant Review Workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue: Big Sky Watershed Corps (Montana Conservation Corps), Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps (University of Montana), Communities in Action Corps (Richland County Health Department) • New: Montana State Parks AmeriCorps (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks), Justice for Montanans Project (Montana Legal Services Association) Sarah Sadowski clarified that Montana Conservation Corps is applying directly to AmeriCorps, the agency, as a National Direct. National Directs operate and serve in multiple states. Vice Chair Harbage moved to approve the funding recommendation, Commissioner Carbonari seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.	Competitive Grant Review Workgroup Recommendation approved
V. Public Comment		
a. Jono McKinney	Thanked Sarah for clarifying MCC is applying as National Direct and affirmed that MCC will continue their 25-year relationship with the Governor's Office of Community Service.	

b. Commissioners Larson, Sylvester, and Hawk, and Guests.	Josh Vanek, MTCC thanked Director Ritter for his service and mentioned the Dennison Scholarship. Commissioners Moses, Larson, Commissioner Hawk, Commissioner Sylvester with a brief appearance by Shannon Stober, Bryan Wilson, and Joe Naiman-Sessions thanked Director Ritter for his years of service. Joe Naiman-Sessions and Brittney Peterson also expressed gratitude to the AmeriCorps Grant Review Workgroup.	
c. Chair Myhre	Thanked Director Ritter for his efforts for the State of Montana and his work on the Commission. Additionally, thanked Sheree for her time at OCS.	
d. Director Ritter	Director Ritter responded that he is thankful to Governor Bullock and everyone for this opportunity to be Director of OCS. Ritter shared that he looks forward to seeing great things from OCS and the Commission.	
VI. Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m. Next regularly scheduled commission meeting is Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.	

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