

Agenda, All times are subject to change

I. 1p Vice-Chair Hubbard, Welcomes and Opens Meeting

- a. Roll Call, Anastasia Matheison
 - i. Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Hubbard, Commissioner Dawn English, Commissioner Kami Kirchberg, Commissioner Kevin Myhre, Commissioner Thomas Risberg, Commissioner Donnie Wetzel*, Commissioner Jim Larson*, Commissioner Amy Busch*, Commissioner Don Jones*
 1. Commissioners Absent: Chair Rebecca Harbage, Commissioner Kelly Ackerman, Commissioner Jim Swan, Commissioner Ronalee Skees
 - ii. GOCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski, Fiscal Officer Keena Irby, Program Officer Kristina Jordan, Communications Specialist Alyssa Mathieu, Grants Specialist Elaine Dahl, Administrative Specialist Anastasia Matheison
- b. Opening Activity, Director Sadowski
 - i. Director Sadowski led the Commission and staff in an opening question: What have you done since the last meeting that is relevant to your role as a commissioner in your professional or personal life? Attendees' answers below in Commissioner Reports and Updates
- c. Approval of [June 8, 2023, Minutes](#)
 - i. Vice Chair Hubbard asked if there were any changes the Commissioners thought necessary – no changes, June 8, 2023, Minutes approved
- d. Commissioner Reports & Updates: share announcements and recent volunteer engagements
 - i. In response to Director Sadowski's opening question all attendees shared recent volunteer experiences.
 1. Vice Chair Morgan Hubbard has been working with tribal nations that have expressed interest in AmeriCorps. She has also been collaborating with a local librarian looking into different kinds of afterschool programs.
 2. Commissioner Jim Larson engaged with a charity, along with the Lion's club, that takes old bottle caps and recycles them to create prosthetics for veterans.
 3. Commissioner Don Jones has been cooking dinner for his neighbor to help relieve some stress as she cares for her grandchildren.
 4. Commissioner Amy Busch is spreading awareness of AmeriCorps to children, grades K-12, in efforts to expand the impact and the outreach in partnership with Montana Campus Compact and AmeriCorps Seniors.
 5. Commissioner Donnie Wetzel is working with the Blackfeet tribe to help feed the community and spread hope throughout the community.
 6. Commissioner Kevin Myhre is working with local tribes for safety planning and to help with the transportation needs on reservations.
 7. Commissioner Kami Kirchberg has been traveling around the state to speak with youth about AmeriCorps. She is also a big sister in the Big Brother, Big Sister program.
 8. Commissioner Thomas Risberg has been working with the Lions club and VISTA to create a program dedicated to people in recovery from addiction.

- II. 130p AmeriCorps the agency, Montana Update**, Amy Busch, Deputy Administrator, AC Office of Regional Operations
- a. Senior Portfolio Manager Donald Lovejoy took another job, and the Regional Office is currently interviewing to fill the position.
 - b. Amy moved back to Montana as the AmeriCorps agency went fully remote.
 - c. Becca Beckham is the new portfolio manager for Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.
 - d. Grantees have been given information about the budget if there is a government shutdown. However, there is still no budget from the federal government. The current Continuing Resolution ends Nov 17, 2023.
 - e. This year is AmeriCorps' 30th anniversary. Every month there will be planned themes and AmeriCorps is collecting service stories to share nationally.
 - f. Two Volunteer Generation Fund grants were awarded in Montana, Big Sky Youth Empowerment and Montana Legal Services Association.
 - g. The VISTA Oath of Service was delivered to new Montana VISTA members by Lieutenant Governor Juras in August, thank you to Director Sadowski and team for coordinating.
 - h. With recent budget cuts, there is reduced American Rescue Plan funding, this will impact VISTA service. However, the living allowance has been raised for VISTA.
 - i. There are Native Nations and NCCC funding opportunities open, reach out if you have any questions.
 - j. Please consider people who would be interested in being a commissioner and share with Director Sadowski.

III. 145p Governor's Office of Community Service Updates

- a. Directors Update, Director Sadowski
 - i. Memorial for Montana's Organ Donors, HB585
 1. October 2028 is the deadline to raise funds for the development and installation of the memorial. This project is supported by the new Commissioner of DLI.
 2. GOCS is opening a Request for Proposals to identify a fiscal agent to manage funds for the project. The goal is to select a fiscal agent and set up the fund then raise resources. The fundraising goal is \$500,000, to cover the cost of developing and maintain the memorial, fundraising efforts including statewide travel, and staff time.
 - ii. GOCS staffing
 1. Elaine Dahl started in September as the new Grants Specialist.
 2. Anastasia Matheison started in July as the new Administrative Specialist.
 3. The Training Specialist position is posted and will close on October 24. So far there are 11 applicants.
 4. GOCS has relocated and is now located in the Walt Sullivan building.
 - iii. ASN Symposium, Nov 28-30
 1. Director Sadowski, Kristina Jordan, and Keena Irby will attend this event in person in Washington D.C.
- b. ServeMontana Updates - Alyssa Mathieu, Communications Specialist
 - i. Youth Serve Montana Scholarships
 1. Scholarships will open the beginning of November. These scholarships are for high school seniors: Students with 50-99 hours of volunteer service are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship, and students with 100 + hours of volunteer service are eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship.
 2. Scholarships in partnership with Montana Campus Compact and Reach Higher Montana.

- ii. ServeMontana Award nominations
 - 1. GOCS added categories to the nominations. Last year this was very successful. More information and the nominations are on the website. Each Commissioner is expected to make at least one individual or group nomination.
 - iii. Montana Student Volunteer Award
 - 1. GOCS is partnering with Montana Campus Compact. More information at the December meeting.
 - iv. MLK Day of Service
 - 1. The first Zoom call is Thursday October 19, 2023.
 - 2. GOCS is working with Montana Campus Compact to spread awareness and participation in the Read for Peace event. More information at the December meeting for engagement opportunities.
- c. AmeriCorps- Kristina Jordan, Program Officer
- i. Grants update – Formula, Competitive, CSG, CIF
 - 1. GOCS submitted applications for the Commission Support Grant and Commission Investment Funds grant, which are the primary funding source for GOCS operations. Anticipating award by January 1, 2024.
 - 2. Formula: competition will take place in Spring 2024
 - a. Two planning grants currently: Montana Department of Agriculture, which moving forward with an operating program in January 2024, and Montana Office of the Public Defender (OPD), which will likely not apply for an operating grant. OPD is instead partnering with the Montana Legal Services Association’s Justice for Montanans program to pilot services.
 - b. One Formula operating program started a new grant year in September, Richland County Health Department’s Montana Public Health Corps. Members are serving in eastern Montana.
 - 3. Competitive: competition taking place this Fall 2024
 - a. GOCS received three Letters of Intent – Montana Campus Compact and Big Sky Watershed Corps for continuation into year 2 of their grants, and Justice for Montanans to recompete for a new 3-year grant.
 - b. Montana Campus Compact started a new grant year in September with members serving across the state.
 - 4. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is currently operating one formula grant and one competitive grant. These projects will be combined under the formula grant starting January 2024. This was a strategic decision.
 - ii. ServeMontana Symposium, March 13-15, 2024
 - 1. GOCS’ signature event, an all-member gathering including members and programs across the state. The first planning committee meeting is Thursday October 26. Commissioners are encouraged to join the committee.
 - 2. Please share event theme ideas anytime. Call for Breakout Session Proposals will open in December, Commissioners are encouraged to present.
 - 3. The event will start with a Commission meeting on Wednesday March 13 at 10:00 am.
 - iii. AmeriCorps engagement opportunities, Nov 16 & 17
 - 1. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Big Sky Watershed Corps will hold End of Service trainings, which include member presentations.
 - a. FWP’s end of service will be in Helena with member presentations on Friday the 17th

- b. BSWC's end of term will either be at Fairmont Hot Springs, or in Butte. Day of member presentations TBD.
 - c. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and will be staffed by GOCS. Please save the dates and let GOCS know if you would like to attend. Great opportunity to interact with members and learn more about member service activities.
 - iv. Commissioner Risberg asked about status of the LifeGuard Group and Office of Public Instruction planning grants. Director Sadowski responded that the LifeGuard Group's operating grant application was not responsive to the Notice criteria, and that while OPI developed programmatic components, fiscal matters on the planning grant need resolution and program funding will not be awarded.
 - d. Financial report- Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer
 - i. Financial Status Report was reviewed
 - 1. GOCS was awarded One Time Only (OTO) funding from the State of Montana to match ARPA. This was in parallel to what was received in General Fund.
 - a. Commissioner Risberg asked if the OTO was sufficient to fully match the Commission Support Grant ARPA. Keena said no, \$168,000 was awarded and \$265,000 was asked for however the Office will meet match.
 - ii. Honorarium, claim or waive, please.

IV. 220p New Business, Vice-Chair Hubbard

- a. AmeriCorps Grant Review Workgroup formation - *action item*
 - i. The Grant Review workgroup consists of 1-2 GOCS staff, 3 commissioners, and 1 community volunteer, who read and score grant applications independently, then convene with applicants present to arrive at consensus scores and develop the funding recommendation for the December Commission meeting.
 - ii. This fall is the Competitive Grant Review Workgroup.
 - 1. November 1 at 12:00 pm is a reviewer overview call.
 - 2. November 15 starting at 10:30 am the grant review will be held in Helena. Lunch will be provided.
 - iii. Commissioners Don Jones and Dawn English volunteered to participate in the grant review workshop.
 - iv. GOCS will email a request for one more Commissioner to volunteer and complete the workgroup.
 - 1. Director Sadowski emailed October 17, 2023.

V. 235p Public Comment

- a. No comments were made.

VI. 245/3p Adjourn

- a. Vice Chair Hubbard adjourned the meeting.

Next regularly scheduled Commission meeting is Thursday, December 14, 2023...Thank you!