

Agenda, All times are subject to change

I. 1p Chair Harbage, Opens Meeting:

- a. Roll Call, Alyssa Mathieu
 - i. Commissioners Present: Chair Harbage, Vice Chair Hubbard*, Kevin Myhre, Rob Lawler, Donnie Wetzel, Jr., Vicki Turner, Kami Kirchberg, Thomas Risberg, Jim Swan, Ex-Officio Dylan Davids*, Kelly Ackerman, Jim Larson, Clifford Kipp, Dawn English
 - ii. OCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski; Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer; Kristina Jordan, Program Officer; Alyssa Mathieu, Program & Communications Specialist; Elly Fisher, Training Specialist; Elaine Dahl, Grant Specialist
 - iii. Guests: Duane Schlabach, FWP AmeriCorps Director, Lynette Scriver-Colburn, Cascade County RSVP*, Kim Boyd, Richland County*, Amanda Coyle, AgCorps Program Coordinator*, Angela Davis, Project Coordinator, Montana State University*, Sarah Brady, Family Scholar House*, Heather Handran, Director Action for Eastern Montana*, Toni Goroski, Senior Companion Program Coordinator Richland County*
**indicates attendance by zoom*
- b. Welcome & Introductions
- c. Opening Activity, Director Sadowski: If you could be invisible or fly, which would you chose and why?
- d. Approval of [June 6, 2024, Minutes](#): Myhre motion to approve, Larson seconded, minutes approved.
- e. Group photo
- f. Commissioner Report: share GOCS & local volunteer engagements & opportunities
 - i. Commissioner Ackerman: 250th Anniversary, Nov. 9th marker dedication at Ft. Harrison Cemetery.
 - ii. Commissioner Kipp: BMWF completed over 50 volunteer projects this year that engaged over 400 volunteers, 80% were Montanans and many were over the age of 55
 - iii. Commissioner Wetzel: Nov 23, Montana Indian Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Helena. Volunteers welcome.

II. 130p AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office update, Dylan Davids, Senior Portfolio Manager

- a. Mountain Region Update:
 - i. Congress has passed a continuing resolution until Dec 20
 - ii. Hollie Romei is the new Portfolio Manager who has taken on the portfolio project across the state. Becca will remain the PM for ServeMontana.
- b. Program Updates:
 - i. NCCC ForestCorps and Custer-Gallatin NF partnered to address ongoing need for wildfire risk reduction
- c. VISTA:
 - i. In August, Lewis & Clark County was added to the portfolio, a two-member project, partnering with the county's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Department of Criminal Justice Services to build capacity for a diversion program and early childhood intervention program.
- d. Funding Opportunities:
 - i. The FY25 Schedule for VISTA concept papers have been released – Cycle 1: 12/6/24, Cycle 2: 3/27/25

- ii. Email us at MT@americorps.gov if anyone is looking for VISTA support and for more information.
 - iii. There will be an open competition for RSVP, but no dates have been set. Applications were due September 25 and are now being reviewed with awards being announced next year.
- e. Other Information:
- i. The week of August 26 the Senior Leadership visited the states/programs in the region.
 - ii. The agency has a dual purpose with veterans, to serve veterans as well as get veterans into further service, and John Lira is looking to connect people to further that goal.

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

- a. Directors Update, Director Sadowski
- i. General updates
 1. June ServeMontana Awards went well, thanks to those who attended.
 2. Spent time on the road in July doing outreach throughout eastern Montana for the state service plan - visited public libraries, tribal and local gov offices, Extension offices and more.
 3. In August, we convened AmeriCorps Program Directors for annual training.
 - ii. Commissioner terms & opening: Current opening for Local Government: city, county, or designee. Encouraging someone outside of Helena. Commissioners, please share within their networks.
 - iii. ASN Symposium, Sept 4-6, 2024
 1. Director Sadowski, Keena Irby, and Kristina Jordan attended. Opportunity to attend training sessions, panel discussions, and hear from AmeriCorps leadership. Director Sadowski joined Maryland & Pennsylvania on a panel discussing AmeriCorps and workforce development.
 - iv. GOCS outreach & organ donor memorial
 1. Outreach: GOCS has an exhibitor table at the Montana Nonprofit Association conference October 10th and 11th for outreach and networking opportunities.
 2. Donor memorial: Helena Area Community Foundation is fiscal sponsor. Handout with QR code and Remit envelopes available for education and donations. Request for Commissioners to share these handouts with others and offer contacts for our office to reach out to.

Commissioner Swan: Appreciates that Director Sadowski did outreach to rural and Tribal communities. Has four names he would like to offer for local Government representative.

Commissioner Risberg: Question as to whether there are ways to incorporate incentives regarding giving amounts. Director Sadowski answer: Yes, the office is trying to be mindful of this when moving forward in the fundraising process.
- b. Financial report- Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer:
- i. Financial Status Report – shared and reviewed
 - ii. Honorarium, claim or waive
- Chair Harbage: Ask for reminder as to what those who travel here need to do.*
- Keena: Will send email instruction.*
- c. AmeriCorps- Kristina Jordan, Program Officer:
- i. Grants update – Formula program & planning
 1. Formula programs: Richland County Health Department working with GOCS to close the Montana Public Health Corps program. All members completed serving. Fish, Wildlife & Parks AmeriCorps (FWPA) and Montana Department of Agriculture's AgCorps will wrap up their program years in November, this is AgCorps' the first year as a program.
 2. Formula planning: two planning grants started September 1st, Family Scholar House, and Montana State Universities' Office of Rural Health & Area Health Education Centers.

3. Next formula application cycle planned for spring 2025, Director Sadowski conducting outreach for planning applications this spring.
- ii. Competitive grant cycle
 1. Three competitive programs currently operating: Montana Conservation Corps' Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC), Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans (JFM), and University of Montana's recently renamed Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement. JFM & Campus Network started new program year September 1st, BSWC will wrap up in November.
 2. Competitive grant cycle this fall, received three letters of intent to apply, from the three existing competitive programs. BSWC & Campus Network continuing to year 3, JFM continuing to year 2.
- d. Training Corner - Elly Fisher, Training Specialist:
 - i. Brief report & updates since June
 - ii. ServeMontana Symposium, March 12-14, 2025
 - iii. AmeriCorps engagement opportunities, Nov 14 & 15, 2024
 1. *Commissioner English encouraged Commissioners to attend, it was a wonderful opportunity*
 2. *Commissioner Lawler stated he would like to attend FWP.*
- e. ServeMontana Updates - Alyssa Mathieu, Program & Communications Specialist
 - i. Youth Serve Montana Scholarships – exciting updates
 1. Streamlining award amount and hour requirement: \$1,250 for 100 students for 100 hours
 2. Engagement opportunity: Review workgroup will be created to assist in application scoring. Please see position description and prepare for sign up at December meeting.

IV. 210p New Business, Chair Harbage

- a. 2025-2027 Montana State Service Plan approval – *action item*
Chair Harbage: Thank you to the workgroup and staff for all the hard work on this Plan. Asked if Director Sadowski had additional comments.
Director Sadowski: Intent was to overall simplify the document, include ongoing office goals. Appears that survey responses were impacted by election year and difficulty with running ads on social media. Did have outreach that was successful. Reviewed Plan DRAFT and reported that the document has been shared with Gov's office and Lieutenant Gov. Last call for final edits.
Commissioner Myhre: Motion to approve, thank you to the committee
Commissioner Swan: Seconded, reiterated thanks to the workgroup
 - *DRAFT 2025-2027 State Service Plan Approved*
- b. AmeriCorps Grant Review Workgroup formation - *action item*
 - i. Three commissioners needed as grant reviewers for fall competitive cycle.
 - ii. Three competitive continuation applicants anticipated. Applications are shorter and this will be a shorter, simpler review.
 - iii. Timeline:
 1. Applications due Thursday, October 24th, materials sent to reviewers the following week.
 2. Wednesday October 30th, 12p, grant reviewer orientation via zoom, 1 hour.
 3. Wednesday, November 20th, in-person grant review to share comments and come to consensus scores, develop funding recommendation.
 4. Thursday December 12th, commission meeting, vote on funding recommendation.
 - iv. *Commissioners Lawler, Kipp, and Turner volunteered, Commissioner English volunteered as a backup.*

V. 225p Public Comment

Amanda Coyle, AgCorps: First year of operation has been going smoothly, number of partnerships that have been expanding shows that it's something that the community and state want. Recruitment has also been going well, and volunteer recruitment counts have surpassed their expectations. 0-5 population, over 700 individuals reached.

VI. 230p Adjourned

Next regularly scheduled Commission meeting is Thursday, December 12, 2024...Thank you!