

**Agenda** (Note: All times are tentative)

**I. 10a Chair Rebecca Harbage Welcomes and Opens Meeting**

- a. Roll Call, Anastasia Matheison
  - i. Commissioners Present: Rebecca Harbage, Morgan Hubbard, Dylan Davids, Dawn English, Zack Hawkins, Clifford Kipp, Kevin Myhre, Pete Pace, Thomas Risberg, Jim Swan, Rob Lawler, Vicki Turner, Donnie Wetzel, Jim Swan\*, Kami Kirchberg\*
  - ii. GOCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski; Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer; Kristina Jordan, Program Officer; Elaine Dahl, Grants Specialist; Anastasia Matheison, Administrative Specialist
  - iii. Guests: Jill Sears, Amy Busch, AmeriCorps the agency; Amanda Coyle, AgCorps; Bryan Wilson, Big Sky Watershed Corps; Samara Lynde, Angela Nelmark, Theresa Boyer, Angela Carter, Lisa LaMere, Kimberly Boyd, AmeriCorps Seniors; Mandy Groseth, Angela Davis, MSU Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center; Carly Collins, Billings Metro VISTA Project; Mindy Hubbard, Guest; Nivya Vel, Public Health AmeriCorps member
  - iv. Excused Absences: Kelly Ackerman  
*\* indicates on Zoom*
- b. Opening Activity, Commissioner Risberg
  - i. Briefly share a story of service that incorporates at least one element: earth, wind, fire, or air.
- c. Group Picture, Anastasia Matheison
- d. Approval of [December 14, 2024](#) Minutes
  - i. Minutes approved by acclamation.
- e. Commissioner Reports & Updates: please share recent volunteer engagements
  - i. Commissioner Kipp: Youth Soccer season has started; he is a coach for a local soccer team.

**II. 1030a AmeriCorps Office of Regional Operations (ORO) Update, Dylan Davids, Senior Portfolio Manager**

- a. AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps Seniors Updates
  - i. Jill Sears, Regional Administrator, and Amy Busch, Deputy Regional Administrator, are present, and Becca Beckham, Portfolio Manager, will arrive later today.
  - ii. Staffing: Team South Portfolio Manager left in February. The team assigned to Montana and Idaho will be shifting to two portfolio managers with Becca remaining the portfolio manager for the Montana Commission.
  - iii. Agency: The Mountain Region is working with all streams of service on compliance with executive orders from the Trump-Vance administration. The review of existing awards is complete, and ORO is beginning work on new awards for FFY25.
  - iv. Program Updates
    - 1. ASN competitive continuations were returned on Monday to address potential resolution items, the competitive applications review process is ongoing.
    - 2. It's AmeriCorps Week! Check out the [new resources](#) and join the celebration!

3. AmeriCorps 2024 and 2025 General Terms and Conditions as well as 2024 ASN Specific Terms and Conditions have been updated to align with Executive Orders. New language was added to Certifications and Assurances.
4. Term Limits and Final Rule Updates
  - a. Members will be eligible for loan forbearance and interest accrual payment during either four terms or the length of time it takes to attain the aggregate value of the two full-time education awards, whichever is longer.
- v. National Service Reports will be released Thursday, March 13
- vi. Program Updates
  1. VISTA - AmeriCorps will accept concept papers for FY 2025 Cycle 2 by March 27, 2025. Currently reviewing applications from Cycle 1. Will meet with VISTA project staff and members of five Montana projects here at the ServeMontana Symposium.
  2. AmeriCorps Seniors – Thank you Director Sadowski and Commissioner English for helping organize a meeting of Montana's AmeriCorps Seniors Association this week.
  3. NCCC - Recent Montana partners: Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, City of Billings, Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, Rural Dynamics, and Helena Family YMCA.
- vii. Funding Opportunities
  1. [2025 Native Nations Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), and [2025 AmeriCorps State and National Native Nations Planning Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), are now open.
  2. This year's competition applicants may be eligible for 100% match replacement.
  3. Applications due Wednesday, April 9, 2025, by 5:00pm EST. Successful applicants will be notified by end of May and issued awards by mid-July.

### **III. 1050a Director's Update, Director Sadowski**

- a. MLK Jr. Day of Service was successful across the state.
- b. Staffing: GOCS has two postings for staff.
- c. Leadership Convening: In Washington D.C., Director Sadowski met with staff of Congressmen Daines, Zinke, Sheehy, and Downing, and attended Montana Coffee. Invited all Congressional delegates to visit an AmeriCorps program here in Montana during the August break.
- d. This is AmeriCorps Week. This year's ServeMontana Symposium planning committee was very engaged and are doing member interviews all week and posting to social media.
- e. Donate Life Memorial: GOCS will participate in Greater Helena Gives. The memorial honors all those impacted by organ, eye, and tissue donation.
- f. Commissioner terms: Chair Harbage, Commissioners Kirchberg, Myhre, Risberg, and Wetzel's terms are up in July. Please let Director Sadowski know if you are willing to serve another term and if not, please provide recommendations. Thank you, Commissioner Risberg, for your suggestion. There is still an opening for a local government representative.

### **IV. 1055a Governor's Office of Community Service Updates**

- a. AmeriCorps, Kristina Jordan, Program Officer
  - b. Grants update: Competitive submitted two FY25 applications to AmeriCorps in January, decision expected in April or May. Formula received 7 Letters Of Intent: one continuation, one recompute, three new programs and two planning grants. Applications due April 17<sup>th</sup>, grant review workgroup meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>, and special meeting of the commission to vote on funding recommendation May 16<sup>th</sup> at 12p via Zoom.

- c. National Service Training (NST): Annual nationwide event sponsored by America's Service Commissions. GOCS requires all programs to attend this training, either in-person or virtually. Commissioners are welcome. April 8-10<sup>th</sup> 2025 in Atlanta, GA, virtual April 29 – May 1. GOCS and staff from all programs and planning grants will be in attendance; one program opted for virtual.
- d. Financial Status Report, Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer
  - i. HB 656 passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
  - ii. Budget allocation for FFY2025 is unknown at this time.
  - iii. Please let Keena know if you are waiving some or all of the honorarium and thanks to those who have already.
- e. ServeMontana, Anastasia Matheison
  - i. Youth Serve Montana Scholarships will be announced in April.
  - ii. Student Volunteer Awards – April 24, 2025, in partnership with MCNCE this virtual event recognizes outstanding college students for their commitment to service.
  - iii. Gift of Life Ceremony, April 25, 2025
  - iv. ServeMontana Award update, June 6 at 10:30am, in Helena.
    - 1. Nominations close March 31. 2025, 23 completed nominations currently.
    - 2. All Commissioners are expected to submit at least one nomination. Thank you, Commissioner Risberg, for nominating an individual.

**V. 1125a New Business, Chair Harbage**

- a. ServeMontana Awards workgroup confirmation: Vice Chair Hubbard, Commissioners Kipp, English and Larson. Workgroup is all online and the event is June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Capitol.
- a. Formula Grant Review workgroup
  - i. Commissioner workgroup: Chair Harbage, Commissioners Lawler, and Kipp.
  - ii. Up to 7 applications anticipated. Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> in person – lunch provided, hotels if needed.

**VI. 1120p Commission election of Officers, Chair Harbage**

- a. Call for Nominations & vote for Chair and Vice Chair
  - i. Vice Chair Hubbard motion to open nominations for Chair - Commissioner Swan Seconded.
    - 1. Chair Harbage nominated Morgan Hubbard.
    - 2. Commissioner Swan moved to close nomination. Commissioner Myhre Seconded. Unanimously passed.
  - ii. Commissioner Turner motion to open nominations for Vice Chair – Chair Hubbard Seconded.
    - 1. Chair Hubbard nominated Commissioner Lawler.
    - 2. Commissioner Myhre moved to close nominations; Commissioner Wetzel Seconded. Unanimously passed.
- b. Chair Harbage remarked: Thank you all. It has been great serving on this Commission, and I appreciate all the service this Commission does. Chair Hubbard will be a wonderful chair.

**VII. 1140a Public Comment**

- a. Bryan Wilson, BSWC: Thank you for everything. The grant reviews and feedback are very helpful.
- b. Amanda Coyle, Ag Corps: Thanks for making the grant review process approachable, appreciate your time.
- c. Director Sadowski: Chair Harbage, we are grateful for your commitment and time on our Commission and for being helpful with this transition of Chair. Thank you to the GOCS staff

for taking on additional tasks and making this year's ServeMontana Symposium happen. AmeriCorps Seniors, please nominate individuals for the ServeMontana awards so they can be recognized for their outstanding service.

- d. Angela Carter: We are a new Senior Companion program in Billings providing in-home care for low-income seniors. We will merge with another organization this summer and have completed first 1,000 hours of service.
- e. Theresa Boyer: We had a member who was not comfortable taking the small stipend, so she donates it back to the other seniors who need it.
- f. Angela Nelmark: One of our volunteers, Grandma Dan, is the longest volunteer, serving 36 years. She is 94 and served at Woodyear Elementary School in the after-school program. She was supposed to retire so we gave her an award and celebrated her on Thursday. We got a call on Monday that she was back at school because "she didn't know what else to do."
- g. Samara Lynde: I am very grateful for the 96 Senior volunteers ranging from 56-96 years old. They do many things including delivering 200 meals a day and the Go Getter Program which provides rides to medical appointments. The volunteers bring community to their clients.
- h. Jill Sears, AC: We have been in a handful of Commission meetings including other states and it is a real testament how strong service is in Montana with how many Commissioners sit on this board and how involved they are. Thank you for your service to your state and our nation.
- i. Amy Busch, AC: Montana is about serving each other and it stands out because Director Sadowski is a great leader and brings all streams of service together. Thank you, Chair Harbage, for your service.
- j. Kimberly Boyd: Last year we did a Veteran's Stand Down in Richland. It was amazing to be there with the big crowd as the veterans took down the flag. It was a very impactful experience.
- k. Carly Collins: The Billings Metro VISTA project is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and VISTAs have raised over \$5.5 million and served at 60 host sites all over the state.
- l. Lisa LaMere: We had a dedicated Foster Grandparent in Billings who had to retire as she went blind. We still call her to check in as she cannot be with the kids at the daycare which was her reason to get out of bed.

**VIII. 1145a Adjourn; Lunch provided as part of the ServeMontana Symposium**

- a. Chair Hubbard adjourned meeting at 11:33am.

***Next regularly scheduled Commission meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2025***