

Agenda

I. 1:05p Chair Hubbard Welcome, Call to Order

- a. Roll Call, Anastasia Matheison
 - i. Commissioners Present: Morgan Hubbard, Rebecca Harbage, Kelly Ackerman, Kevin Myhre, Jim Swan, Zack Hawkins, Vicki Turner, Donnie Wetzel, Dawn English*, Kami Kirchberg*, Jim Larson*
 - 1. Commissioners absent: Vice Chair Lawler, Cliff Kipp, Pete Pace, Thomas Risberg,
 - ii. GOCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski; Kristina Jordan, Program Officer; Elaine Dahl, Grants Specialist; Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer; Anastasia Matheison, Administrative Specialist
 - iii. Mēghan Scott, Justice for Montanans (JFM); Angela Davis, Montana Office of Rural Health & Area Health Education Center (MORH/AHEC)*; Adam Hein, Montana Conservation Corps (MCC); Duane Schlabach, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
- b. Opening Activity, Commissioner Ackerman
 - i. If given the choice of vacation between a warm climate, like a beach, or a cold climate, like skiing, which would you choose and is there a vacation you base this on?
- c. Approval of [March 12, 2025](#) and [May 16, 2025](#) Minutes
 - i. Moved by Commissioner Myhre and Seconded by Commissioner Swan – Approved unanimously
- d. Group Photo
- e. Commissioner Reports & Updates: please share recent engagements with GOCS, local volunteerism, etc.
 - i. Commissioner Ackerman will be presenting the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship (YSMS) tonight at Corvallis High School.
 - ii. Commissioner Wetzel presented at a Big Sky Watershed Corps training.
 - iii. Commissioner Larson presented the YSMS at Billings West High School on May 28th.
 - iv. Director Sadowski: Commissioner Kipp presented the YSMS at Columbia Falls High School.

II. 125p AC Mountain Region Office Update – *not available*

- a. Chair Hubbard: There is no update currently due to circumstances.
- b. Director Sadowski: 85% of the agency is on administrative leave including Commissioner Davids.

III. 127p Governor's Office of Community Service Updates

- a. Director's Update, Director Sadowski
 - i. Commissioner terms, GOCS staffing
 - 1. Commissioners Myhre, Harbage, and Kirchberg are ending their terms.
 - 2. Commissioners Larson and Wetzel have agreed to renew their terms.
 - 3. In the process of filling vacant positions.
 - 4. Both the Compliance and Training Officer and the Community Engagement Specialist positions are closed. We are getting interviews scheduled in hopes to start them in July.
 - ii. Additional updates
 - 1. Brief update about impact of the Department of Government Efficiency's on AmeriCorps in Montana.

2. Commissioners sign on to support FY26: Commissioners Ackerman, Harbage, Hubbard, Kirchberg, Larson, Myhre, Swan, Turner, and Wetzel, agreed to sign. Director Sadowski will follow up with those absent and online.
- iii. Threshold of Life Memorial, case for support
 1. In 2023, the location and design of the memorial was approved by legislation with no public funds (HB 585). We are tasked to educate and raise funds for the memorial.
 2. Public service announcements are playing on the radio for April -June 30.
 3. Commissioner Turner: To be cost effective, one suggestion is to have a few booklets printed and distribute postcards with QR codes directing people to a digital copy on the website.
- iv. Commissioner Swan: Thank you to all who have come together during this time and updating us on what is happening broadly.
- b. ServeMontana, Anastasia Matheison, Administrative Specialist
 - i. Governor's Gift of Life Ceremony report out – The ceremony was April 25th honoring 60 Montanans who combined saved 164 people. The week included announcements on the Montana Senate and House of Representatives Floor, flags in the Rotunda, and yard signs on the Capitol lawn.
 - ii. ServeMontana Awards, June 6 – We will be honoring seven individuals and two groups – including two AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. Thank you to Commissioners who made nominations.
- c. Financial, Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer
 - i. Financial Status Report
 1. HB 656 – Employment Security Act (ESA) will provide match for each state fiscal year.
 2. Subrecipient grants current year are still on track to be fully spent; however, next year's grant awards determination has not been announced.
 3. The formula grant allocation has been received.
 - ii. License Plate for Donate Life – Working on a design to have submitted and available in 2026.
- d. AmeriCorps, Kristina Jordan, Program Officer
 - i. National Service Training
 1. Representatives from GOCS and most programs attended in person in Atlanta, GA.
 - ii. Accommodation Assessment Report
 1. Next year the format will change to get clearer responses.
 2. Commissioner Turner: On page 3, it indicates ¼ of members are struggling with mental health. Providing training and support to members and programs would be beneficial.
 - iii. Competitive & Formula Grants
 1. Competitive funding is pending notification.
 2. Thank you for those Commissioners who were a part of the Formula Grant Review and those who attending the special meeting to approve the funding recommendation.
 - iv. Engagement opportunities
 1. FWP all member gathering is June 9-12 at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.
 2. AgCorps all member gathering is July 1-3 in Helena.
 3. JFM close of service is July 17-18 with member presentations on Friday July 17 at the Lewis and Clark Public Library here in Helena.

IV. 2p New Business, Chair Hubbard

- a. Threshold of Life Memorial Workgroup formation

- i. Commissioner Workgroup: Larson, Hubbard, Turner, and Swan
 - ii. Commissioner Larson: Reach out to funeral homes, Flight for Life, and pharmacies.
 - iii. Commissioner Kirchberg: Reach out to hospital chaplains.
- b. Outgoing Commissioner Acknowledgement
 - i. Director Sadowski and Commissioners shared remarks thanking outgoing Commissioners Harbage, Myhre, and Kirchberg for their engagement, time, and commitment.

V. 240p Public Comment

- a. Adam Hein (MCC): Thank you to the Commission for your commitment to Montana and GOCS for continued support. I am very honored to serve with members, and this meeting has been uplifting.
 - i. Jono McKinney (MCC) via notes read by Adam Hein: Thank you commissioners for your service on the Commission and your continued work to advance AmeriCorps. Thanks to the grants review committee to keep Big Sky Watershed Corps at a sustainable scale if we lose competitive funding. MCC remains concerned about federal support for AmeriCorps. I am reaching out to our members of Congress to educate them about the impacts and cost efficiencies of AmeriCorps and are hoping to host them on MCC projects this summer. Thank you, GOCS staff, for supporting BSWC: we are encouraged by the support and GOCS making this a priority.
- a. Director Sadowski: I am grateful for everyone here. Please attend the ServeMontana Awards tomorrow in the Old Supreme Court if you can.
- b. Kristina Jordan: Thank you to Director Sadowski for everything you do and have done this year and always. Director Sadowski: It takes a village to do what we do and to me, this is a get to, not a have to.
 - ii. Chair Hubbard: This is a great village that we have.
 - iii. Commissioner Hawkins: I have seen Director Sadowski have many conversations about challenging topics and she is always able to communicate in positive ways.

VI. 248 p Adjourn

Next regularly scheduled Commission meetings Thurs October 2, 2025 & December 11, 2025

Governor's Office of Community Service
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