

Agenda (Note: All times are tentative)

I. 10a Chair Rebecca Harbage Welcomes and Opens Meeting

- a. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.
- b. Roll Call, Allie Shepler **Indicates attendance on Zoom*
 - i. Commissioners Present: Chair Rebecca Harbage, Vice Chair Morgan Hubbard*, Commissioners Kelly Ackerman, Pamela Carbonari, Kami Kirchberg, Karen Moses, Kevin Myhre, Donald Lovejoy, Ronalee Skees, Jim Swan, Donnie Wetzel, Jr., Thomas Risberg*, Doug Mitchell*,
 1. Commissioners Absent: Don Jones, Jim Larson, Eric Strauss
 - ii. OCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski, Joe Naiman-Sessions, Keena Irby, Alyssa Mathieu, Dani Woods, Allie Shepler, Kristina Jordan, Christine Miller
 - iii. Guests Present: Dylan Davids, Leigha Bradford, Jasmine Chaffee, Stephanie Reynolds, Bryan Wilson, Jono McKinney, Koan Mercer
- c. Opening Activity, Commissioner Risberg
 - i. Commissioner Risberg led the Commission & staff in an opening activity
- d. Approval of [December 8, 2022 Minutes](#)
 - i. Commissioner Carbonari made a motion to approve, Commissioner Myhre seconded. December 8, 2022 minutes approved at 10:56 am.
- e. Commissioner Reports & Updates: please share recent volunteer engagements.
 - i. Commissioner Wetzel shared there will be a Tribal Nations Education Summit at MSU Billings April 4-6th in conjunction with youth summit.
 - ii. Commissioner Ackerman highlighted a Memorial Day volunteer opportunity at veteran cemeteries in Montana placing flags on gravesites – more information and registration at <https://dma.mt.gov/>

II. 11a Regional Office Update, Donald Lovejoy, Senior Portfolio Manager, Denver

- a. AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps Seniors Updates
 - i. Release of 2024 proposed President's budget includes: 1.4 billion dollars for AmeriCorps the Agency, removing taxation of the Education Award, and increasing Member Living Allowance by 17 percent.
 1. If commissioners are willing to share a letter to representatives in support of the budget, please reach out to Director Sadowski.
 - ii. The 2023 budget has been released.
 - iii. VISTA: next round of concept papers accepted through April.
 1. VISTA Summer Associates will serve June – August 2023
 - iv. Seniors: Missoula aging services relinquished all AmeriCorps Seniors programs and are in the close out process now.

III. Director's Update, Director Sadowski

- a. Commissioners
 - i. Welcome new commissioner Ronalee Skees!

- ii. Some appointments are ending July 1, please let Director Sadowski know if you are interested in applying for reappointment.
- b. Legislative priorities
 - i. One time only funds have been requested and are still in process.
 - ii. [House Bill 585](#) sponsored by Rep. Weatherwax for a Donate Life Memorial to be placed on capitol complex.
 - 1. OCS's spring semester intern is working on fundraising opportunities for the memorial.
 - iii. Tracking House Bill 573 bill to exempt Montana Community Service Act Programs from State Procurement Laws.
 - iv. If you are willing to reach out to local representatives in support of bills, please connect with Director Sadowski
 - c. AmeriCorps Week
 - i. Check out OCS social media and engage, Facebook and Instagram @ServeMontana.
 - ii. OCS engaged Montana Congressmen for AmeriCorps Week. Senator Tester made a video and Representatives Rosendale and Zinke wrote letters to AmeriCorps Members, thanking them for their service. These will be shared with attendees at the ServeMontana Symposium.
 - d. Staffing
 - i. Welcome new OCS intern, Christine Miller! Christine is a Carroll College student service with OCS this spring semester.

IV. 1125a Governor's Office of Community Service Updates

- a. AmeriCorps, Joe Naiman-Sessions, OCS Program Officer
 - i. Grants update
 - 1. Letters of Intent due last Friday, 3/10
 - a. 2 recomplete or continuation operating program letters of intent received
 - b. 3 new operating program and 2 planning letters of intent received
 - 2. Official Posting of NOFA on March 27th and Applications due April 20th
 - ii. **Special Meeting of the Commission May 11th** to vote on funding recommendation.
 - iii. Grant reviewer opportunity description
 - 1. Stipends will be offered to grant reviewers as applicable.
 - iv. Confirmed participation of Commissioners Kirchberg, Myhre, and Skees are willing and available to serve on this Spring's Grant Review Workgroup.
 - v. New planning grant with the Office of Public Defender began February 2023.
 - vi. Will hear back in mid-April on funding determinations for the competitive grant applications.
- b. Financial Snapshot, Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer
 - i. Includes one time only funding request.
 - ii. Current as of the end of February.
- c. OCS & Commission Training, Dani Woods, Training Specialist
 - i. National Service Training
 - ii. AmeriCorps Engagement Opportunities
 - 1. Fish, Wildlife & Parks All-Member Gathering June 19-22, 2023, at Wild Horse Island.

- d. ServeMontana, Alyssa Mathieu, OCS Communications Specialist
 - i. Youth ServeMontana Scholarships
 - 1. 100 scholarships totaling \$125,000 have been awarded; recipients have been notified.
 - 2. Posting names of recipients soon on website
 - ii. ServeMontana Awards
 - 1. Nominations due April 2nd
 - 2. Categories include:
 - a. **Individual**
 - i. Youth (17 years old and younger)
 - ii. Young Adult (18 to 25 years old)
 - iii. Engaged Citizen (26+ years old)
 - iv. Lifetime Achievement (55+ or posthumous)
 - v. Veteran or current Military Personnel
 - vi. AmeriCorps Alum (State & National, VISTA, or NCCC)
 - b. **Groups**
 - i. Group Service Award (nonprofit, faith-based, general)
 - ii. Business Service Award (small, mid-size, large, entrepreneur/ partnership, enterprise/ corporation)
 - 3. Orientation for reviewers will be Wednesday, April 5th on zoom.
 - 4. Awards will be June 23rd in the Capitol.
 - iii. Gift of Life Ceremony, April 28
 - 1. Ceremony to honor the lives of those Montanans who gave the ultimate gift of organ donation.
 - 2. Located in Capitol Rotunda
 - 3. Commissioners encouraged to share donations can be made on vehicle registration cards
 - 4. Billboard up in Clancy on I-15 honoring organ donors

V. 1135a Old Business, Chair Harbage & Director Sadowski

- a. Commissioner Honorarium Procedure
 - i. Eligible Commissioners may receive an honorarium for regular meetings and for two grant reviews. This is in alignment with the Commissioner Position Description and Honorarium Procedure.
 - ii. There is current legislation that may increase the honorarium from \$50 to \$100.

VI. 1140a New Business, Chair Harbage

- a. No new business

VII. 1145a Public Comment

- a. Jono McKinney from MCC: MCC is anticipating around 400 members this year.
 - i. Thank you to Director Sadowski for help with HB 573 (see below).
 - ii. MCC is working with Rep. Kassmier to pass HB 573 to exempt Montana Community Service Act Programs from State Procurement Laws for the purposes of contracting. In 2019, a law was passed to exempt such programs but with a \$12,501 cap. HB 573 proposes to remove that cap.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 11:49 am

Next regularly scheduled Commission meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023