

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	
<b>I. Chair Harbage called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm</b>		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chair Rebecca Harbage, Vice Chair Morgan Hubbard, Commissioners Kevin Myhre, Karen Moses, Kelly Ackerman, Karin Olsen Billings, Thomas Risberg, Pamela Carbonari, Jim Swan, Donnie Wetzel, Jim Larson, Heather Margolis</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Commissioners Vero, Strauss, Mitchell, Busch</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> <i>AmeriCorps Program Staff &amp; Grant Applicants:</i> Crystal Hickman, MT Office of Public Instruction; Jasmine Chaffee, MT Department of Agriculture; Tami Hochhalter, The LifeGuard Group; Brie MacLaurin, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Montana Coalition; Brian Dennis, Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County; Seth Shteir, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Jono McKinney, Montana Conservation Corps; Chris Manos and Anne Pichette, MT Business Assistance Connection</p> <p><i>OCS Staff:</i> Sarah R. Sadowski, Director; Joe Naiman-Sessions, Grants Manager; Sheree Isola, Fiscal Officer; Kristina Jordan, Training Specialist; Alyssa Mathieu, Program Specialist</p>	
<b>II. New Business</b>	Commissioner Risberg	
a. AmeriCorps Funding Recommendation	Commissioner Risberg reviewed the FFY2022 Formula Funding Recommendation for the Commission and noted that 7 of 9 applicants are recommended for funding.	AmeriCorps funding recommendation approved.

	<p>Chair Harbage called for questions:  Commissioner Swan stated he appreciated the work of the Workgroup and made a motion to accept the FFY2022 Formula Funding Recommendation as presented.  Commissioner Carbonari seconded.  Commissioner Moses said all applicants recommended looked wonderful and asked about the breadth of the Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County (BGCYC), as the application appears to include other Clubs around the state. Commissioner Margolis answered that BGCYC is a leader in Montana and using this planning grant to plan a statewide AmeriCorps program, in partnership with other Clubs.</p> <p>Chair Harbage said it is exciting to see these new planning grants.</p> <p>Commissioner Carbonari asked for information on the two applicants not recommended for funding. Commissioner Risberg answered one applicant is United Way of Yellowstone County, who proposed to plan a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, but that their application was unclear as to the plan, and the workgroup noted it was unclear whether AmeriCorps funds were the correct resource for the described need. The second applicant not recommended for funding is Montana Business Assistance Connection, a current a planning grantee who applied for an operating grant to place members around the state. The workgroup found the application unclear on objectives of the program or how objectives might be accomplished and measured. He added that with limited funds, the workgroup did not want to fund a program that did not appear would get results.  Commissioner Margolis added that the workgroup consensus score of the grant proposal was low due to lack of detail and clarity in the application.</p> <p>Chair Harbage called for a vote on the motion, and no commissioners voted against. The FFY2022 AmeriCorps Formula Funding Recommendation was approved unanimously by acclamation.</p>	
<b>VI. Public Comment</b>	<p>Commissioner Swan said he had to leave the call now that the vote had taken place and thanked the Commission.</p> <p>Seth Shteir, FWP, thanked the Commission and OCS staff. He noted this was his third year in the grant review process, and that he learns something new every time, and added the comments from the workgroup on the application will help strengthen the FWP grant</p>	

	<p>application.</p> <p>Tami Hochhalter, The LifeGuard Group, said this is her first time in this grant process, and it has been a huge learning opportunity. She thanked the Commission and is excited to get going.</p> <p>Brie MacLaurin, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, echoed the sentiments of gratitude and is excited to explore this planning opportunity. She thanked the Commission for their work.</p> <p>Crystal Hickman, OPI, added her thanks for the Commission’s work and is looking forward to getting their planning grant on the ground.</p> <p>Director Sadowski added her thanks to OCS staff, grant applicants, Commissioners Risberg, Margolis, and Strauss of the Grant Review Workgroup, who reviewed a lot of material and provided serious and thoughtful scoring. Sadowski hopes that all involved have a sense of transparency of the process and noted the next steps for applicants who were recommended for funding. She gave a shout-out to Seth Shteir with FWP, for the expansion pilot he will lead with this funding recommendation, and noted the hope is to roll the expansion program into the existing MT State Parks AmeriCorps in the future.</p>	
<p><b>IV. Chair Harbage adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm</b></p>	<p>The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting is Thursday, June 9, 2022, in Helena.</p>	

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