

Montana Commission on Community Service
2 February 2006
Board on Investments – 2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT
Meeting Minutes

Present: George Dennison, Chair; Nancy Coopersmith, Vice Chair; John Allen, Erik Burke, Amy Busch, Robert Harris, John Ilgenfritz, Keith Kelly, Donald Kettner, Bob Maffit, Mike McGinley, Pat Murphy and Lindsey Rehder

Absent: Johnel Barcus, Tracy King, and Sheila Rice

Guests Present: June Atkins, Josset Gauley, OPI - Learn and Serve; Molly Collins, Cody Lillstrom, Debbie Saylor; Montana Campus Compact/Campus Corps

Staff Present: Margaret MacDonald, Will Soller, Shannon Stober and Kathy Bean

The Minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting were adopted.

June Atkins and Josset Gauley from OPI briefed the Commission on Learn and Serve Montana. They presented; a history of the program, a list of current Learn and Serve Programs, whom the programs have impacted and their web site. In addition to their power point presentation, they provided handouts for the Commissioners.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Reports **Nancy Coopersmith**

- The Committee met on Jan. 20 to prepare for the Feb 2, 06, Commission Meeting.
- The Executive Committee requested a review of the Action Plan as a part of each Committee report to the Commission.
- The Executive Committee discussed an idea put forward by Jono McKinney regarding seeking funding for Montana Conservation Corps and possibly other AmeriCorps programs through the state legislative process. At this time, in light of the state's fiscal situation, the Committee determined it would not be wise to proceed. They encouraged Margie to work with the Governor to encourage Dept. heads to utilize Conservation Corps wherever and whenever possible.
- Margaret MacDonald updated the Commission on plans to apply for a Community Based Learn and serve grant. It would incorporate collaboration with Serve Wyoming, OPI, cross stream and community based partners and agencies and provide sub awards to establish service learning capacity and sustainability in community based, after school and summer settings. The application is due March 6, 2006. A grant writers will be contracted to meet this deadline.
- George Dennison reported on MPACT, a University System pilot project. The program encourages the utilization of education awards to reduce the amount of loans students acquire

over a four-year period. After data is compiled, the project will approach the legislature to seek ongoing funds.

- Nancy Coopersmith, the Committee Chair, reviewed the Action Plan reporting all goals have been accomplished and noting that George is beginning the process of evaluation of the Executive Director.

Program, Policy and Planning

Nancy Coopersmith

- The Committee met on Jan. 23, 06 to prepare recommendations for the Feb. 2, 06 Commission Meeting.
- Will Soller briefed the Commission on the 2006 AmeriCorps Program Grant Applications and thanked the peer reviewers; John Ilgenfritz, Judy Merickel and Will Hammerquist
- Nancy Coopersmith moved to submit Conservation Corps, Technology Corps
- and Campus Corps to the national level for the competitive grants process. Don Kettner seconded the motion. The Commission supported the motion unanimously. George Dennison abstained from voting.
- The Commission postponed action on the two remaining requests for funding, Jobs for Montana Graduates Foundation and Community Partners, awaiting the outcome of the federal competitive process which so we know how much funds and Member Service Years might be available to us for Commission Formula Grants.
- Kathy Bean addressed questions concerning the “Opening Doors Project” and provided a summary about the program and the accomplishments in Dec. and Jan.
- The Action Plan was reviewed by Committee Chair, Nancy Coopersmith.

Sustainability, Accountability and Assessment

Bob Harris

- On Jan. 30, 2005 the Committee met by a conference call.
- George Dennison reported on the Montana Community Service Foundation stating the inaugural meeting will be held March 15, 2006 to launch the Foundation. Five out of six of the proposed slate of Foundation members elected by the Commission in December have accepted the position.
- Bob Harris provided a handout on the Presidential Freedom Scholarships. The Montana Student Assistance Foundation has agreed to put forward up to \$25,000 for matching grants for Montana scholars and schools. Much discussion ensued over the following:
 - Matching funds/monies available.
 - Mechanisms for choosing students and disbursing funds.
 - Time and effort needed to publicize and sustain the program.
 - Timelines.
- Margie will prepare a letter for Nancy Coopersmith to send out to appropriate school contacts. George Dennison asked Molly Collins and Cody Lillstrom to work with Margie to prepare a plan for utilizing the \$25,000.
- Bob Harris reviewed the goals and accomplishments of the Action Plan, noting that the Governor’s Conference on Civic Engagement may be held in Havre.

Marketing, Information, and Training

Amy Busch reporting

- Amy distributed handouts in addition to the email information on AMG (All Member Gathering) and CBI (Community Building Institute). These events take place Feb. 20, and Feb. 21 –23, respectively. Amy stated that public television will film AMG to build awareness of AmeriCorps within our state. She asked each Commissioner to present VIP invitations to their Legislators.
- Mike McGinley encouraged Commissioners to ask their contacts to attend AMG for the entire day. He also asked the Commissioners to speak to the language of community service and volunteerism when addressing their invitees.
- Amy reported that the web site is being updated. The Committee is exploring strategies to use the website for volunteers to pledge their time, following up on an idea used in Iowa.
- The Committee is recommending four hometown heroes to the Governor for local recognition events on his travels around the state. Margie will meet with the Governor's scheduler to firm up those dates and events.
- The Committee congratulated Shannon Stober for all of her efforts and accomplishments. The Commission gave a round of applause.

Executive Director Report

Margaret MacDonald

- February 1, 2006 was Margie's first year anniversary. Applause was given by the Commissioners.
- Margie reported that the Governor has established a 7-member Civil Rights Advisory Council to be chaired by Rep. Christine Kaufmann and that the Governor has charged it with a broader mandate than overseeing MLK Day, although the holiday remains part of the Council's responsibilities. The first meeting is to take place on March 8. The Human Rights Division of DLI (Department of Labor and Industry) will help cover the expenses of the new Advisory Council.
- Margie shared information on the Executive Planning Process. She explained that the Governor's budget for the first year establishes a base funding. Margie has attended meetings to ask for \$200,000 for the next biennium, knowing that the Office of Community Service must match \$250,000 in Federal Administrative grants to continue operations. Margie voiced her concerns regarding PSA's as no longer being a reliable source for in kind match.
- Margie will continue to be involved in the budget process.

Ad Hoc Committees

Margie MacDonald, Will Soller, and Kathy Bean

- Margie reported upon the collaboration with Retired Senior Volunteer Corps on bone marrow registry. A meeting took place with the Montana Health Care Association to enlist their support. On May 1, 2006 (tentative date) a central Montana event will take place to raise funds and a PSA may be made to encourage people to register and participate.
- Will distributed via e-mail a handout detailing a policy for public employees volunteering during work time from Michigan.
- The Math and Science Mentoring Committee held a conference call on Jan. 18 discussing programs already in existence and whom to possibly partner with. A conference call is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 4, 2006, Noon.

2401 Colonial Drive, 2nd Floor (Wilderness Room)

Board of Investments Building

Helena, Mt 59620