

Montana Commission on Community Service
May 4, 2006
Board on Investments – 2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT
Meeting Minutes

Present: George Dennison, Chair; Nancy Coopersmith, Vice Chair; John Allen, Johnel Barcus, Amy Busch, Robert Harris, Keith Kelly, Donald Kettner, Mike McGinley, Pat Murphy, Lindsey Rehder and Sheila Rice

Absent: Erik Burke, John Ilgenfritz, Tracy King, and Bob Maffit

Guests Present: Aram Rosenberg – Technology Corps; Rachel Platt – PRC VISTA; Debbie Saylor – Campus Corps; Mandy Murphy – Campus Corps; Jeanne Moon - WORD Literacy Support Corps; Josh Vanek Campus Compact/ Campus Corps; Michelle Hauer – Montana Legal Services; Audrey Finlayson – Bone Marrow Registry

Staff Present: Linda Carlson, Will Soller, Shannon Stober and Kathy Bean

Chair George Dennison asked for introductions, as many guests were present. Keith Kelly provided a formal introduction of Linda Carlson, our new Executive Director. Linda was bestowed unanimous applause.

The Minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting were adopted.

Aram Rosenberg and Rachel Platt provided a power point presentation on ACMAC (AmeriCorps Member Advisory Council). It is a forum involving 14 members, 8 National Service Programs throughout eight Montana cities. ACMAC interconnects 4 Committees: Advising, Ambassador, Public Relations and National Service Days. Debbie Saylor and Mandy Murphy addressed successful events surrounding National and Global Youth Service Days where over 29 service projects were coordinated utilizing local media networks and politicians within their communities. Debbie and Mandy stated donations alone funded these projects.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Reports

Nancy Coopersmith

- The Committee met April 24, 2006 to prepare for the May 2, 06 Commission Meeting.
- Nancy Coopersmith reported on the Community Based Service Learning Grant. Nancy stated that the grant was submitted early and she reminded the Commission that the grant was in partnership with the state of Wyoming. The Commission may know in June if the grant will be awarded. George Dennison asked for a clarification of the amount; Nancy stated it was \$500,000.00 each year for a term of three years.
- Linda Carlson provided a handout on the 2006 Fiscal/Status reports. Questions arose and George Dennison asked the Executive Committee to revise the budget report. Nancy stated that the Executive Committee would compose a report detailing program expenditures and revenues at their next Committee meeting.

- 5 Commissioners had indicated an interest in attending the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, held in Seattle June 16 – 19, 2006. The following Commissioners have been asked to attend the Conference, Amy Busch, Pat Murphy and Lindsey Rehder.
- Nancy Coopersmith reported on the Committee’s schedule for the July 25, 06 Summer Retreat. A recommendation was made by George Dennison to meet the night before on Monday the 24th to hold a business meeting. Linda Carlson stated that an agenda for the retreat would be provided by July 17, 2006.
- Action Plan was reviewed.
 - The Committee has delayed review on the status of Citizen Corps. Amy Busch will attend a meeting in Billings and then the Executive Committee will report back to the Commission their recommendations on this item.
 - The Executive Director evaluation has been completed.
 - All other goals are attended to as needed.

Program, Policy and Planning

Nancy Coopersmith

- The P3 Committee met on April 25, 2006.
- Will Soller directed the Commissioners to review the handout on the 2006/2007 AmeriCorps Grants. Four program grants were submitted in mid-February for the national competitive process.
 - Literacy Support Corps – (Grant continuation.)
 - Conservation Corps – Technology Corps – Campus Corps/Campus Compact (Three re-compete grants.) (Decision may take place in June.)
 Will stated that the P3 Committee would meet again, when funding monies are known, to strategize the funding for the Formula Grants. The P3 Committee may ask the Executive Committee for funding at the July Retreat. Will is working with Community Partners and JMFGF to strengthen their proposals so they are successful in national competition. Will suggested that the Ed Award Only monies possibly be split, thus unencumbered and used for evaluation projects or planning grants.
- George Dennison addressed the pilot program in Missoula allowing seniors to reduce their debt load with education service awards. John Allen spoke to the experimental process of Ed Award Only monies and Josh Vanek conducted an informal survey where he found capacity for these grants. Sheila Rice spoke to the debt load stopping volunteerism and the importance of supporting programs that will reduce debt.
- Will introduced a list for the Commissioners to sign up for Commission Site Visits. He stated that he and Shannon would accommodate Commissioners wanting to visit program sites.
- Kathy Bean provided a handout summarizing the “Opening Doors Project” accomplishments for February, March and April. The next summary will include time committed to individuals. John Allen spoke on the issue of “Individuals with disabilities placed in AmeriCorps” and that an abundance of time and effort may not always make an applicant successful.
- The P3 Committee will meet in June to come back to the Commission about their discussion on Evaluation Plans.
- Committee Chair, Nancy Coopersmith, reviewed the Action Plan. Goals have been met or are ongoing, as in setting Committee bylaws, possible planning grants for evaluation and math and science mentoring. The revision of the State Service Plan will be part of the next Administrative Grant.

Sustainability, Accountability and Assessment

Johnel Barcus

- George Dennison reported on the Foundation. In interim one of the trustees resigned due to health issues so a member must be replaced and a meeting may take place in June.
- Kathy Bean reported on the Presidential Freedom Scholarships. The Montana Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) has agreed to put forward up to \$25,000 for matching grants for Montana scholars and schools. Thirty-nine applicants registered for matching funds, which is up from nineteen from the year before. Kathy encouraged the Commissioners to respond to the Presidential Freedom Scholarship opportunities in the fall to increase registration numbers. Josh Vanek reported that Campus Corps/ Campus Compact members were busy promoting this project. Nancy Coopersmith suggested that the SAF be solicited in the summer for fall monies and then an email could be sent out to all of the schools promoting this scholarship. George Dennison stated that he would make that contact with the SAF.
- Johnel Barcus reviewed the goals and accomplishments of the Action Plan, noting that Home Town Hero Awards are presented when the Governor is in that community and that the MIT Committee will organize the Governor's schedule with these awards. Many of the goals are ongoing with orientations and trainings. George Dennison brought up the actions of building the process of evaluations and what will be done during the legislative process as items of importance.

Marketing, Information, and Training

Mike McGinley

- Mike McGinley reported on AMG (All Member Gathering) that took place Feb. 20, 06 in Butte, MT. Mike asked each Commissioner to report on their VIP invitations to their Legislators. Each Commissioner responded respectively.
- Mike congratulated Lindsey Rehder on the Service Day Project and asked her to describe the event. Lindsey explained that she worked with Debbie Saylor and the Silver Bow Arts Foundation (who purchased the YMCA) in Butte to renovate the building into an Arts Center for the community. Over 250 AmeriCorps members gathered to clean out this 1912, six story, historical building. Shannon Stober stated that a value could not be placed on the amount of volunteerism hours. Lindsey stated it was a huge media event and extremely successful.
- Shannon Stober provided a handout on AMG and CBI (Community Building Institute) illustrating the two events for Commission review.
- Mike McGinley referred back to the presentation given on NYSD. He spoke to "Pledge Volunteer Hours" and how a program in Iowa matches in kind contributions with volunteer hours recorded. The loss of PSA's no longer being documented makes it more difficult to find matching funds so following this Iowa model may be beneficial.
- Mike stated that the Committee would spend time reorganizing, with the new Executive Director, the Governor's Conference and what the event is to represent and where it will be held. Johnel Barcus spoke about Havre not having a building large enough to house more than 150 participants. Mike addressed the need for exposure and concerns of the location. Nancy reminded everyone that the Governor must be in attendance and Shannon stated that the Governor's Staff has and will be consulted. Much discussion ensued on partnering with other community events. Mike asked for a motion to postpone the Governor's Conference, seconded by Don Kettner and unanimously favored.

- Mike stated the awards process would coincide with the Governor's Conference. At this time awards have not been solicited and Pat Murphy asked for an expansion of the awards. George Dennison asked for a steering Committee to address the Governor's Conference and Award presentation, which will report back to the Commission in July.
- Mike McGinley reviewed the Action Plan. Website shows annual report. Training events have been documented and are monitored. Other goals are ongoing. George stated that "Pledge Volunteer Hours" would be steered by Keith Kelly, Will, Shannon and Mike. Shannon stated they have the model from Iowa to duplicate.

Executive Director Report

Linda Carlson

- Linda Carlson asked Kathy to speak about the Civil Rights Advisory Council. The first meeting was held March 8, 2006. The council adopted an anti – bullying resolution and proposed to the Board of Public Education that schools have policies against bullying. Will voiced his concern about the mission of service and its direction within this advisory council.
- Linda asked the Commissioners who are interested in continuing their term to contact Patti Kebbler.
- Linda stated at the Executive Planning meeting she asked for \$83,000.00 to be directed to the Office of Community Service during the budget process.

Ad Hoc Committees

Linda Carlson, Will Soller, and Kathy Bean

- John Allen introduced Audrey Finlayson to speak about the Bone Marrow registry. She stated that 675 individuals have been registered with guidance from the Bone Marrow registry events. She mentioned other event dates that will take place. Audrey will send John Allen updates on events and numbers. Bob Harris explained the involvement of the Department of Defense and John Allen spoke of the expansion of one person to the many volunteers and events that are now taking place.
- Don Kettner stated he would work with radio stations to make a media tool explaining the mission of the Montana Commission on Community Service.
- Kathy reported that a cover letter is to be sent to Jan Lombardi (Education Policy Advisor) on programs emphasizing math and science mentoring. George asked that all Commissioners be sent this list and Nancy stated that she would make sure this list gets out to public schools.

Next Meeting:

**Thursday, Oct 5, 2006, Noon.
2401 Colonial Drive, 3rd Floor
Board of Investments Building
Helena, Mt 59620**

Summer Retreat

**Monday Evening, July 24, Tuesday, July 25, 2006,
Mountain Meadow Inn, 2245 Head Drive
Helena, MT 59602**

