



Board Meeting

Big Sky Resort Area District

11 Lone Peak Drive #204
PO Box 160661
Big Sky, MT 59716
www.Resorttax.org
info@resorttax.org
406.995.3234

FY21 (SPRING) Application Review AGENDA

June 10th, 2020 | 5:30-8:30 PM

Zoom Webinar

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B75o15M7TkW5xyPig0uOtw

I. Open Meeting

A. Public Comment	--	5:30
B. <u>Intro & Chairman's Statement: Discussion</u>	--	5:35
C. <u>Funds Available Estimate: Discussion</u>	--	5:40
D. <u>Application Review: Discussion</u>		
a. <u>Government Entities: Action</u>	--	6:00
b. <u>Applications under \$200,000: Action</u>	--	6:45
c. <u>Applications over \$200,000: Action</u>	--	7:45
E. Public Comment		

BSRAD BOARD & STAFF: Kevin Germain, Chair | Sarah Blechta, Vice Chair | Steve Johnson, Treasurer & Secretary | Ciara Wolfe, Director | Grace Young | Director | Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director | Kristin Drain, Finance & Compliance Manager | Jenny Muscat, Operations Manager | Sara Huger, Administrative Assistant

*** All Board Meetings are recorded and live streamed. Please visit [ResortTax.org](https://www.ResortTax.org) for more information.**

From: [Mary Wheeler](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Community Funding Request: Big Sky Community Housing Trust
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:48:52 PM

Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board:

As you undertake considerations across the board for a multitude of worthy organizations and requests, I hope that you will look favorably upon the requests before you for continued support of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Those working in seasonal resort towns face many innate challenges in trying to qualify for loans to purchase a starter condo or home, and the current COVID pandemic has further impacted our workforce community members' ability to afford the minimum down payment amounts necessary to get a home loan. Interrupted employment and the uncertainty of future full-time, reliable income sources, has created another barrier to a buyer's ability to borrow, buy and to stay in Big Sky. The long term rental market has been drastically decreased overall and what remains available for rent has seen a considerable increase in rental rates.

Stability for our workforce members is important to the overall health of our Big Sky community. Helping these locals close the gap between what they have in savings (which lately has been diminished, in many cases) and what the bank requires to be put down on a loan, is essential to home ownership. People want to stay in Big Sky, but the lack of long term housing (and ultimately, the ability to own property here) is often the factor that requires them to leave. The Housing Trust's structure provides that they recoup the down payment assistance funds when the property is eventually sold, is unprecedented and those funds may be offered again to eligible buyers down the road. Unlike many Resort Tax requests before you that have a one-time use, these funds will continue to benefit full time Big Sky employees into the future, who are looking to stay and to own here. The Housing Trust's format of limiting property appreciation within their developments, ensures that less-than-market priced properties will remain controlled into the future...another first for Big Sky. Available property for further community housing projects is scarce and is expensive, so support of the Housing Trust for purchase of land for future projects is also important. Even if the larger employers provide temporary or seasonal housing, if we want to retain good people in our community, we need more projects offered by the Housing Trust and like entities for entry level home ownership.

I have helped many first time homebuyers purchase properties throughout our area over the years, and have personally seen the difference that down payment assistance has made in getting buyers into home ownership in Big Sky's challenging market. There are buyers that have been on the MeadowView Condos' waitlist for 2+ years to get into a studio or a 2-bedroom unit in this next phase, and the difference in doing so may now be whether or not there is assistance available to them, as their available down payment funds have diminished during the shutdown and resulting losses of employment. The cost of living is high here for most of the wages tendered and traditional home loans with 20% down payments are out of reach for most of these buyers, even at controlled purchase prices. I hope that you will prioritize this funding as a basic infrastructure expense, especially given current circumstances, and that you will find a way to support and fund the important requests of our Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Thank you all for your time and for your countless hours of service to our community on the Resort Tax Board.

Sincerely,

Mary Wheeler, Broker, GRI, CRS, ABR, SFR PureWest
Christie's International Real Estate – Big Sky 32-year
resident, Big Sky

From: [Rose, Taylor](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Support Big Sky Community Housing Trust's Resort Tax request
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 8:27:11 AM

I fully support BSCHT and all the work they are doing. Our health care workers have already benefited from their project, and hopefully can benefit more in the future. Thank you for supporting them.

Taylor Rose

Big Sky Medical Center

(801) 898-2274 (cell)

(406) 995-6986 (office)

From: [Bob Biggerstaff](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:17:17 AM

I urge you to support the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce request for funding. The Chamber represents and promotes the business' that are collecting the resort tax and Big Sky in general. Their efforts will continue to create more resort tax income.

Bob



BIGGERSTAFF + CO

Bob Biggerstaff
bob@biggerstaffco.com

Biggerstaff + Co
406.995.4875
PO Box 12035
Bozeman, MT 59719
biggerstaffco.com

From: [Chris Samuels](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Big Sky Chamber
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:30:02 AM

To whom it may concern:

We support the Big Sky Chamber and the work they do in Big Sky.

Thank you,

Saddle Ridge Rentals

Chris Samuels
Mobile: 615-497-3779



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www.MoonlightRentals.com

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From: [Chris Torsleff](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:48:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Big Sky Resort Area District,

I am writing you to urge the support of the Big Sky Chamber's FY 21 Resort Tax application. The support the Big Sky Chamber provided our community in the Covid-19 crisis is the most recent example of how crucial this organization is in Big Sky. We rely on the support of the Big Sky Chamber and its staff in so many ways as we operate a small business and represent our community. We hope you value their contribution as much as we do and would love to see the resort tax dollars we contribute be used in a meaningful way to support our community. Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,



Chris Torsleff
Managing Director
406-404-7122

From: [Jack McGuire](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Fwd: Gallatin River Task Force
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:47:23 PM

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From: Jack McGuire <jackmcguire39@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:42:52 PM
To: info@resorttax.com <info@resorttax.com>
Subject: Gallatin River Task Force

Sorry but the board should prioritize its budget to emphasize covid19, affordable housing, police and fire.

Jack McGuire
174 Chief Joseph Trail

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From: [jakes](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)
Subject: Big Sky Chamber
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:12:52 PM

Dear Board,

I would like to ask for your continued support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky because they are going to be the shakers and movers in getting this tourist traffic moving again which will provide the resources necessary to be taxed.

Thanks,

Jake Grimm

Jake's Horses, Inc.

June 3, 2020

Dear Big Sky Resort Area District board members:

I am writing as a board member of Visit Big Sky, and also a worker in Big Sky for over 10 years, to express my support of the funding for Visit Big Sky. I currently work for Lone Mountain Land Company, and we work in collaboration with VBS to leverage our private dollars to contribute to marketing the Big Sky area. Lone Mountain Land Company, along with many other businesses in the Big Sky area are contributing millions of private dollars towards marketing the Big Sky area. We are recognizing that success creates more success, understanding that we all need to work together as a community to help each other be successful.

Visit Big Sky is currently working to enhance the website www.visitbigsky.com and the informational app for locals and tourists. When the website is delivered, it will be an incredible tool for people seeking information on dining, lodging, area events, and local businesses. The funding from the state alone doesn't allow for the marketing to be at the level it should be, and the resort tax funding will enhance this community-wide benefit.

We understand there has been tremendous growth in the community in the last decade, and in order for businesses to thrive, we need continual and thoughtful growth of tourism and residents. The Resort Tax revenue will continue to increase if we have more visitors and residents, and further business success will also help to address the growing pains that face our community. The core of marketing is to continue to promote, even when you have the success and growth that you are seeking. Marketing enhances awareness at the current time and creates credibility when marketing presence is consistent over time. We must continue to market the Big Sky area.

When tourists enjoy their visit to Big Sky, more will repeat visit and also many will move here to call this place home and invest further in the community. We, as a community, can jointly work towards being a thriving year-round community and not a seasonal community. VBS's Marketing of the area and informational tools will be key to further Big Sky's vibrancy.

As a marketing professional in the area, I want to express my support of the Visit Big Sky board's marketing efforts.

Sincerely,

Krista M. Traxler
Vice President of Marketing
Lone Mountain Land Company
ktraxler@lonemountainland.com

June 3, 2020

Big Sky Resort Tax Board
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204
Big Sky, MT 59716

VIA EMAIL: info@resorttax.org

RE: Letter of Support for FY21 VISIT BIG SKY Resort Tax Application from Big Sky Vacation Rentals

Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board Members,

Visit Big Sky, as the community's official Destination Management and Marketing Organization, leads the development and marketing of authentic tourism experiences, through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Tourism is the number one economic driver for the Big Sky community, and as a tourism stakeholder located in the BSRAD, Visit Big Sky's work is vital to me and my business because we depend on visitors to occupy our vacation rentals during their visits to our community. Given the impact on Covid-19 on our business and others, increasing the number of visitors to Big Sky will remain a critical priority. An increase in overall visitor traffic would benefit all businesses like ours. We believe in the power of the marketing that Visit Big Sky can provide to all lodging partners and businesses in our community and hope Resort Tax will continue to support these efforts.

Resort Tax funding supports public transportation systems; tourism development; and other services that provide for the public health, safety, and welfare within the BSRAD. Visit Big Sky's request fits within this purpose of the District's Ordinance, benefitting the Big Sky community at large, not one specific person or one specific business. Visit Big Sky is the engine that fuels Resort Tax collections. No other organization requesting funds drives revenue for the Resort Tax. Without Visit Big Sky's continued support, the engine will stall as has been illustrated time and time again in numerous destinations throughout the United States, from Washington state to Colorado to Florida.

Visit Big Sky's ***Imagine Big Sky 2023 Tourism Master Plan*** focuses its work in these three areas:

- 1) To DEVELOP the destination, specifically a sustainable summer outdoor recreation experience to match that of *The Biggest Skiing in America*®,
- 2) To PROMOTE the destination BEYOND world-class winter, and
- 3) To LEAD the destination as well as the greater tourism collective throughout the state of Montana.

No other entity serving Big Sky's tourism economy is focusing on the destination as a whole, but rather on capturing individual visitation for a specific business. Please support Visit Big Sky's F21 Resort Tax Application with a full allocation as requested to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of our local tourism economy and Resort Tax funding mechanism.

Respectfully,

Kirsten King, Owner

Big Sky Vacation Rentals

From: [matthew kendziorski](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)
Subject: Transportation Q and A
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:50:43 PM

Hello,

I would like to urge the resort tax board to stop asking for a fee on the local buses. The local community is a main user of this system. We already pay resort tax everyday. The bus system is necessary infrastructure which is why the resort tax was formed to fund. Most resort buses I have used in other areas were free locally. I also agree we should reward locals for being responsible and using the bus for their transportation needs. Thank you for your time.

Matt Kendziorski

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Matt Walker](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:54:12 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to voice my support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's FY21 Application. This past year myself and 15 or so of my peers were able to participate in the Chamber's inaugural Leadership Big Sky program. This program met on a monthly basis starting back in the fall and each month we met with leaders in our community to learn how Big Sky operates. We had engaging talks with folks like Brian Sprenger, the Bozeman Airport Director, Anne Marie Mistretta, the Chair of Historic Crail Ranch Conversation, Ciara Wolfe, Executive Director of the Big Sky Community Organization, Taylor Middleton, CEO of Big Sky Resort, as well as many other amazing community leaders. We were able to candidly engage with these people and learn how their organizations have helped shape the community we live in and how they are planning for the future of Big Sky. Leadership Big Sky also formed a book club where we read several leadership books like Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter by Liz Wiseman and Power Questions: Build Relationships, Win New Business, and Influence Others by Andrew Sobel and Jerold Panas. These books as well as others helped us learn about what it takes to be the next generation of leaders in our community and the books were provided by the Chamber as part of their expanding community library. Although our class was interrupted this Spring by the coronavirus we are looking to resume class this month and move towards graduation in the summer. It is my wish that the Chamber's FY21 Application is considered in its entirety to provide programs like Leadership Big Sky for years and decades to come.

Thank you and best wishes,
Matt



YELLOWSTONE CLUB

Matt Walker

Sales Associate

e: matt.walker@yellowstoneclub.com

c: 406-220-2685

www.yellowstoneclub.com

From: [Sarah Gaither](#)
To: [Jenny Muscat](#); [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)
Subject: In support of BSCHT request for funds
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:30:04 PM

Hi Jenny -

I realize this is past the deadline, so I understand if this gets skipped tonight. But just in case:

I'd like to voice my support for the Big Sky Community Housing Trust's request for funds.

As the manager of the Big Sky Food Bank, I've seen the struggles that our Big Sky families face due to high rent and low housing availability. The vast majority of my clients report "housing/utility expenses" as the primary reason for their visit, followed closely by "low wages" and "homelessness" - especially in the shoulder seasons. In a town where there are so many homes sitting vacant for the majority of the year, this is hard to swallow. The Housing Trust's long term rental program aims to assist in matching available housing with those looking for rentals; we need this to be a viable program within our community.

Additionally, I've got clients who spend more than 50% of their income on their rent. This is unsustainable. The Housing Trust's future property development program is essential to increase the pool of affordable units in Big Sky. Without a broader pool of units priced affordably, we can't hope to attract and sustain a workforce who take pride in their work and in our community.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah

--

Sarah Gaither Bivins

Operations Manager & Services Navigator

995-3088 . bigskyfoodbank.org . facebook.com/bigskyfoodbank . [Sign Up for our Monthly Newsletter!](#)

June 3, 2020

Big Sky Resort Tax Board
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204
Big Sky, MT 59716

VIA EMAIL: info@resorttax.org

RE: Letter of Support for FY21 VISIT BIG SKY Resort Tax Application from Big Sky Vacation Rentals

Dear Big Sky Resort Tax Board Members,

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Tourism is the number one economic driver for the Big Sky community. As a tourism stakeholder and business leader located in the BSRAD, as well as a full time resident for the past 10 years, Visit Big Sky's work is vital to me and my business because we depend on visitors to occupy our vacation rentals during their visits to our community. Given the impact on Covid-19 on our business and others, increasing the number of visitors to Big Sky will remain a critical priority. An increase in overall visitor traffic would benefit all businesses like ours. We believe in the power of the marketing that Visit Big Sky can provide to all lodging partners and businesses in our community and hope Resort Tax will continue to support these efforts.

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- 3) To LEAD the destination as well as the greater tourism collective throughout the state of Montana.

No other entity serving Big Sky's tourism economy is focusing on the destination as a whole, but rather on capturing individual visitation for a specific business. Please support Visit Big Sky's F21 Resort Tax Application with a full allocation as requested to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of our local tourism economy and Resort Tax funding mechanism.

Respectfully,

Tim Drain

General Manager, Natural Retreats-Big Sky

Appropriations

	6/9/2020
Current Funds	Balance
American Bank CDARS	\$ 5,761,920.50
American Bank Checking - 9714	\$ 26,474.79
American Bank Disbursements - 0429	\$ 26.43
American Bank ICS	\$ 2,918,743.53
FSB 3430 - Operating	\$ 14,092.44
FSB 3422 - Bonds	\$ 174,914.94
FSB 3547 - Office	\$ 1,881.61
MT STIP	\$ 10,876.10
Total	\$ 8,908,930.34

Uncleared Outstanding Items

Uncleared Checks/Payments (FSB 3430)	\$ (1,557.08)	6/9 MPERA Contributions
Uncleared Checks/Payments (American Bank - 9714) Big Sky Relief	\$ -	

Total Available	\$ 8,907,373.26
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RESTRICTED FUNDS by Use

Bond funds (Community Center and Tower)	\$ (174,914.94)
Big Sky Relief Fund	\$ (274,256.00)

ESTIMATES

Projected Expenses Remainder of FY20:

Operating Expenses - June	\$ (80,000.00)
Remaining FY20 Appropriations	\$ (1,918,673.10)
Bond A - Debt Service due on 7/1/2020 & 1/1/2021 (total)	\$ (107,884.06)
Bond B - Debt Service due on 7/1/2020 & 1/1/2021 (total)	\$ (89,367.92)

Projected Revenues Remainder of FY20:

Returned Funds	\$ 40,000.00
May and June Collections	\$ 200,000.00
Interest income from CDARS and ICS Accounts	\$ 8,000.00

Total available for Appropriation	\$ 6,510,277.24
--	------------------------

From: Jenny Muscat

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:27 AM

To: Greg Megaard <gmegaard@bigskyfire.org>; Dustin Tetrault <dtetrault@bigskyfire.org>

Cc: Daniel Bierschwale <daniel@resorttax.org>

Subject: Follow Up Questions from the Board

Greetings Fire Department Team,

We have received a couple of follow up questions from the board since last week's Q&A session. See below for the questions. If you could either reply with your responses by 3pm on Wednesday, June 10 or if you can come prepared with these answers to the next meeting on the evening of June 10 that would be greatly appreciated. "See" you both again Wednesday evening.

- What is your adjusted net profit anticipated to be at the end of the current Fiscal Year?
- How much of your reserves could you put towards supporting your operation?

Thanks,

Jenny

Jenny Muscat
Operations Manager
406-995-3234
Resorttax.org

From: [Kack, David](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)
Cc: [Daniel Bierschwale](#); [Ennion Williams](#)
Subject: Follow Up from Last Night's Q&A
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:03:40 AM

In thinking about my response to Steve Johnson's question about getting additional funding from the resorts, I forgot to mention that the resorts often note that they are one of the main reasons why there are resort tax funds to use within the community. While there are many small businesses that collect resort tax funds, the major resorts will note that their businesses generate a significant amount of the resort tax funds and their guests are the people who frequent the other local businesses (generating additional resort tax funds).

So, while it would be great if the major resorts contributed additional funds to Skyline (the Big Sky Transportation District), I didn't want to forget to mention that the resorts do generate a significant amount of the resort tax funds used in the community.

Thank you for your on-going support of the Big Sky Transportation District.

David

David Kack, Coordinator

Big Sky Transportation District (dba, Skyline)
PO Box 161104 | Big Sky, MT 59716
406-994-7526 Office

dkack@montana.edu
www.skylinebus.com

From: Sarah Gaither <sgaither@thehrdc.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Jenny Muscat <jenny@resorttax.org>; Big Sky Resort Tax District Information <info@resorttax.org>
Cc: Daniel Bierschwale <daniel@resorttax.org>
Subject: Q & A Round 1 Followup items

Hi Jenny and All,

We'd like to follow up on three items brought up at Wednesday's Q & A round 1. Please share this additional information with the Resort Tax board, prior to round 2, as you see fit.

The three items are:

1. an explanation of changes to our application since submission
2. an explanation of "COVID" related expenses vs. "regular operating" expenses
3. A follow up to Sarah's question regarding total numbers of community members served at the food bank.

Thank you for all of your hard work these past weeks!

Sarah

--

Sarah Gaither Bivins

Operations Manager & Services Navigator

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CHANGES MADE SINCE APPLICATION SUBMISSION

At the very end of Q3, we had asked for \$15K from Big Sky Relief Funds to purchase food in anticipation of our immediate increase in need related to COVID19. Thanks to your swift work, these funds allowed us to purchase food through the end of Q4.

Subsequent to our application for Resort Tax, we were also given COVID-related funding in the form of the MT DPHHS Relief Fund, which equates to our decreased ask from \$60,850 to \$50,916. Most recently, we were given national COVID-related funds in the form of staff time coverage.

These items together explain our ability to roll over the remainder of our FY20 funds - \$6,704. Further decreasing our ask to \$44, 212. (Resulting in a 39% increase from last year's ask, and a 35% increase from what we projected for this year's application.)

However, we're decreasing the percentage of Resort Tax covering our overall budget expenses. From last years 39% of total expenses to this year's 33% of total expenses.

DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN "COVID" EXPENSES AND "REGULAR OPERATIONS" EXPENSES

To meet the need of the pandemic we increased hours to four days a week rather than two, among other operational changes. These expanded service hours have been the right choice for our customers, align with the needs of the community on a year-round basis, and allow us to fulfill our mission. The increase in services and hours allow us to expand into more of the spaces in which we may help our customers in need. Several of our operational changes, we think, should remain permanent features of food bank services well into the future - until a day when they may be proven unnecessary. These permanent changes include:

- 4 day per week operating schedule
- expanded case management services (taking extra time with customers to go over other household needs)
- home delivery options
- greater food rescue partnerships
- At least 2 staff people retained, contracted, or otherwise on-call

The operational time it takes to pre-pack food boxes, however, could be eliminated once it feels safe to welcome customers back into our store for self-serve shopping. Staff time it takes to pre-pack boxes can be counted at about 5 hours per week. The portion of these hours requested from Resort Tax would equal \$3,214.25. This portion of the request can be transferred from our FY21 Resort Tax ask to another Relief Funds ask, should the Board direct us to do so. We were unaware the Relief Funds apparatus was still accepting requests.

Our reluctance to return immediately to self-serve upon phase 2 relaxation of guidelines, stems from the size of our store, the regularity with which people arrive to the food bank in groups, and the fact that many customers remain unaware of, or ambivalent to, national and local news including social distancing guidelines.

TOTAL SERVICE NUMBERS

In answer to Sarah's question regarding the total numbers of food boxes, see below.

FYE - Total FoodBoxes
2014- 923
2015 -1251
2016 -1554
2017 -1654
2018 -1609
2019 -1281
2020 -1533

These numbers reflect the actual food boxes going out the door, not the amount of people being served in total. As in, one food box can feed a family of four. It also includes duplications of households, as in, one household can receive 12-15 food boxes per year. The total number of unduplicated individuals served by the food bank boxes ranges from 500-800 per year.

From: Jenny Muscat
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Nettie Bruner <nettie@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org>
Cc: Daniel Bierschwale <daniel@resorttax.org>
Subject: Follow up question from the board

Hi Nettie,

We have received a follow up question from the board since last week's Q&A session. If you could either reply with your response by 3pm on Wednesday, June 10 or if you can come prepared with the answer to the next meeting on the evening of June 10 that would be greatly appreciated. "See" you again on Wednesday evening.

- What is your anticipated cost/child/day for the Early Childhood Preschool Program?
 - Please provide documentation at how you arrived at this number

Thanks,
Jenny

Jenny Muscat
Operations Manager
406-995-3234
Resorttax.org

From: [Inman, Kris](#)
To: [Jenny Muscat](#); [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Cc: [Fenton, Melissa](#)
Subject: WCS follow-up info from last weeks Q&A
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:11:12 PM
Attachments: [Percent of Bear Cans 2013-2019.docx](#)

Hello Jenny,

I hope you had an enjoyable weekend, albeit it a chilly one, I look forward to the return to summer weather.

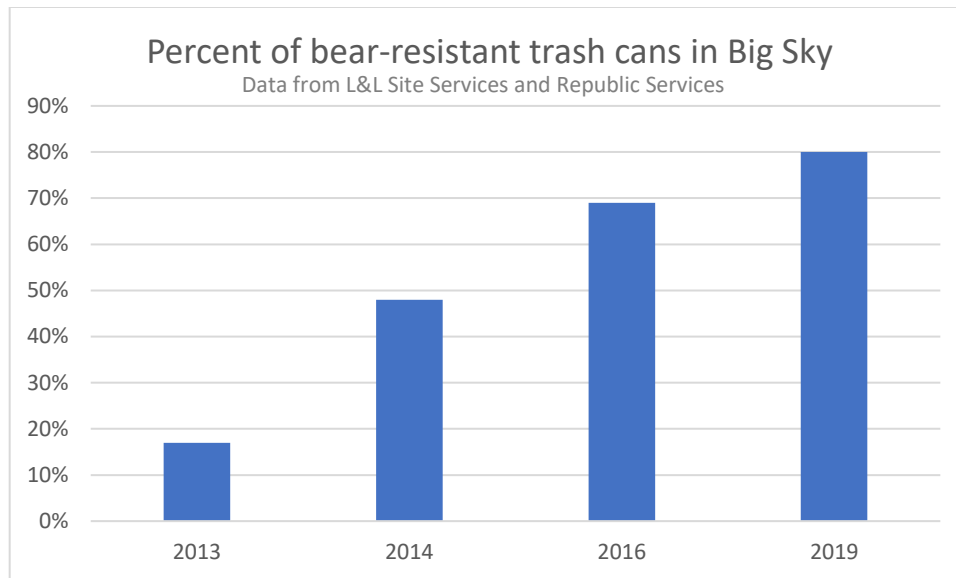
Thanks for the seamless virtual experience for the Q&A last Wednesday. It ran very smoothly. As promised, please find the attached graph regarding changes in bear-resistant trash can use since the Bear Smart Big Sky Program was initiated for the board before the Q&A on Wednesday.

Many thanks,

Kris

Kris Inman
Manager of Strategic Partnerships & Engagement
Rockies Program
Wildlife Conservation Society
Ennis, MT
Office: +1 (406) 682-3437
Mobile: +1 (406) 570-3185
skype: wcs.org_kinman
<http://www.wcscommunitypartnerships.org>





The above graph represents increasing trends in the use of bear-resistant trash cans since the Bear Smart Big Sky Program was initiated in 2014. BSBS program uses a combination of 1. partnerships with trash companies to gain affordable rates for bear-resistant trash, 2. HOA ordinances, and 3. a variety of outreach mechanisms to share information and messages that empower people to understand the importance of and to make the change to bear-resistant trash cans. As the community in Big Sky continues to grow and change and grizzly bears expand beyond Yellowstone, it becomes more paramount that BSBS builds on these efforts.

Living alongside bears requires more than reducing access to trash; we must also be aware that Big Sky is bear country and adapt our behaviors to reflect the landscape we share. To this end, we are working towards creating a community culture of bear smart actions that keep people safe and bears wild. By forming new partnerships and strengthening old ones, we leverage the audiences and influence we each hold to greater gains. Specifically, we will work towards continued progress on making bear-resistant trash the only option and a focus on engaging with the recreational audience. Our work with recreationists will include increasing awareness that grizzly bears are present, messaging actions to keep people safer, and mapping spatial and temporal risks to help guide decisions that keep us safer while recreating. In doing so, the BSBS program is using a model that has demonstrated success and adapting it to meet emerging issues of a growing year-round recreation-based community, located in prime bear habitat, and one of the first communities grizzly bears encounter as they expand beyond Yellowstone.

Jenny Muscat

From: Laura Seyfang <lseyfang@thehrdc.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Jenny Muscat
Subject: Re: Follow Up Question From the Board

BSCHT has received the following funds from Resort Tax for Meadowview :

	FY2018	FY2019	
Down Payment Assistance	100,000		
MV Land Purchase	1,650,000		
Staffing, Operations	20,000		
MeadowView Ph 2 Construction financing		773,324	
MeadowView Down Payment Assistance		110,000	
MeadowView Deficit		140,781	
Staffing, Operations		30,000	
Total	1,770,000	1,054,105	2,824,105
	\$54,310 per unit		

Laura Seyfang
Program Director Big Sky Community Housing Trust
937-430-6688 cell
406-995-3696 office
<https://bigskyhousingtrust.com/>

On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 11:33 AM Jenny Muscat <jenny@resorttax.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

We have received a follow up question from the board since last week's Q&A session. If you could either reply with your response by 3pm on Wednesday, June 10 or if you can come prepared with the answer to the next meeting on the evening of June 10 that would be greatly appreciated. "See" you again on Wednesday evening.

- How much funding have you received from Resort Tax for Meadowview over time (i.e. direct construction costs, down payment assistance and admin costs etc...)?
 - The board is looking to understand the cost/unit

Thanks,

Jenny

Jenny Muscat

Operations Manager

406-995-3234

Resorttax.org

From: Kristin Gardner <kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Daniel Bierschwale <daniel@resorttax.org>; Jenny Muscat <jenny@resorttax.org>
Subject: Follow up from Q&A

Hi Danny and Jenny,

I want to follow up with you on a few items from the Q&A:

- Your comment about misunderstanding one of the questions asked to us prior to the meeting. It sounds like you were asking why our resort tax requests have grown if you look at the long term trend, rather than this year in particular, in which it decreased. I hate to add to your reading materials, but I do believe that it is important for you and the board to understand this - so response attached.
- Ciara's question about the Groundwater study: 70% of the budget (70K) is for the modeling, while 30% (30K) is for district formation.
- One comment about the meeting and I do greatly applaud you and your team for your efforts and success in making this meeting virtual - it was really really difficult to hear, follow along, and respond to side conversations of the board after questions were asked of us and therefore, difficult to make sure that we addressed any comments or questions that were brought up in these conversations.

Thank you for all that you do for our community! Have a great weekend!

--

KRISTIN GARDNER
Executive Director

Gallatin River Task Force

o (406) 993 - 2519

e kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

a PO Box 160513 | 32 Market Place, Unit 6 | Big Sky, MT 59716

gallatinrivertaskforce.org

5. Why have our resort tax requests continued to grow?

Prior to 2015, the Task Force was solely focused on water monitoring and education and outreach, which we accomplished with one staff person with occasional recruitment of AmeriCorps. Over this timeframe our resort tax requests were small. After we completed the state total maximum daily load assessments with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, in 2012 we developed a watershed restoration plan to address the impaired streams in the Big Sky drainage, as required by the Clean Water Act. Our community needs to be showing efforts to address impaired streams, although the implications and accountability has not been well defined by the state.

About the same time frame that we completed this watershed restoration plan, we were approached by multiple individuals about the declining conditions of river access sites along the mainstem Gallatin caused by increasing river use and the lack of management by the Forest Service. We approached the Forest Service and now have added a plan to repair and protect river access along the Gallatin.

With the addition of these restoration needs to protect the Gallatin, we understood that we would need to grow our operations and impact and this led to our first strategic planning process and the resultant 2016-2010 [strategic plan](#) that outlined how we would stay true to our mission and vision of a healthy Gallatin River Watershed with a rapidly growing community and the predicted impacts of climate change outlined in the Montana Climate Assessment.

In 2016, we also began a new role of leading a larger watershed planning effort that addressed ecological health, water supply and wastewater treatment and reuse. The Big Sky Resort Tax and Gallatin and Madison Counties invested \$300,000 of public funding into the development of the resultant Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship plan. We are leading implementation of this plan and owe it to the public to do so.

To accomplish the priorities in our strategic plan and begin efforts to implement priorities in the Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan would require an extraordinary fundraising effort that resulted in our successful Gallatin River Forever capital campaign. One of the initiatives of our campaign was organizational sustainability to hire a full-time Development Director, with one of his tasks to reduce our dependency on Resort Tax for our operations.

In summary, our requests have grown because our role has greatly changed and grown as our community has asked for in multiple large-scale planning efforts to protect the Gallatin, its tributaries, and our community drinking water supply. Without centralized government or a central water authority that oversees our entire community, we have stepped up to coordinate water resources management. We believe that Resort Tax has a role to play in our work as these impacts and issues are directly related to the visitation in our area. We anticipate that our resort tax requests will continue to decrease (at least for operations) as they did this year in the hiring of a new Director of Development. Our FY21 request is less in total than the last couple of

years, the smallest percentage of our total budget than ever before, and for operations, the smallest percent of our total operations budget than ever before.

From: [Wheeler, Brian](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Cc: [Laura Seyfang](#)
Subject: BSCHT application
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:29:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning,

Please accept this letter of support for the Big Sky Community Housing trust application. Laura and her team have performed exceptionally well with providing the community a program to be proud of. Your past confidence is paying dividends and continued support will insure a solid future given the proven success. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and I see a bright future for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration

Brian Wheeler

Vice President of Real Estate and Development | Big Sky Resort
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716
(D) 406-995-5775 | (C) 406-539-4215
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LIVE BIG



From: [jamey.cunningham](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Resort Tax Funds for Discovery
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:41:31 AM

To all those this may concern:

I just wanted to let you know how important and appreciated the resort tax funds are to my family and the Discovery Academy. My son will be entering kindergarten this coming school year. This is his 3rd year at Discovery and the Early Childhood Program. The scholarship we are awarded each year is the only means we have to enroll him in the school. The Early Childhood Program is such a wonderful foundation for these little ones. Gratitude and kindness are the values instilled in their brains and bodies. These are the thoughts and actions our world needs now more than ever. These children are our future and the Discovery Academy does a fantastic job of giving them the start they deserve. I wish every child could have the opportunity to start their school years in such a program. Please consider the Discovery Academy for the funds they are asking for. Myself, my husband, my son and many other family's will directly benefit from your decision. My husband and I have lived and worked in Big Sky for 14 & 15 years. We are the workforce of this town that is getting pushed out from all directions as the cost of living here exponentially rises. Please help us afford Discovery next year. Thank You!!

Regards, Jamey Cunningham

June 9, 2020

Big Sky Resort Area District Board of Directors

RE: Support for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your hard work to advance BSRAD to what it is today, and for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's **Leadership Big Sky** program.

My experience as Co-Chair and participant in Leadership Big Sky is one of the most educational and influential experiences I've had in my 5 year residency. In its inaugural year, this program brought together 16 diverse young professionals who engaged whole-heartedly into learning how to navigate Big Sky, develop leadership skills, and ultimately build a network of other leaders who want to advance in our community.

This program uniquely offers stream-lined insight into our community that will set our future leaders up for long-term success. Our businesses need these committed leaders.

After an incredibly successful first year, it is without question that I express my full support of Leadership Big Sky. The Chamber of Commerce played an instrumental role in the facilitation of this program, and I hope you will consider allocating funding to Leadership Big Sky.

Thank you for your 2020 support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Shannon Sears
Board Member, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Vice President, Montana Title & Escrow

From: [Sierra Hooge](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: BSCHT funding support
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 5:58:06 PM

Hello,

It was recently brought to my attention that the resource allocation from the Resort Tax Board will be happening soon, and I wanted to put a good word in for Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

Affordable housing in Big Sky is crucial but very difficult to find. I am fortunate to be a new homeowner in the Meadowview Condominiums, a project that BSCHT championed, and I hope that my peers in town will be able to get involved in affordable housing projects as well. Before purchasing my home, it did not seem like I would be able to stay in Big Sky for much longer. I was paying more for rent and moving every six months, nearing a point that I couldn't afford, and everyone was acting like that was acceptable.

My experience with BSCHT gave me the confidence to pursue purchasing a home, taught me the basics of a real estate transaction, and built a community of people that care about living in Big Sky. The organization has continued to support me as a fresh homeowner by limiting the HOA dues that we are responsible for in this first year of ownership and has made plenty of decisions that financially benefit our HOA.

I think BSCHT is deserving of funds from the Resort Tax allocation because it will go directly to the people that keep this town moving, people that may not see a direct future in Big Sky but are committed to staying for long enough to let it play out. Please consider directing funding towards Big Sky Community Housing Trust!

Thank you,
Sierra Hooge



June 9, 2020

Big Sky Resort Area District
11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204
Big Sky, MT 59716

To the board of directors,

Voices of Montana Tourism serves as a united voice for Montana's tourism stakeholders. Since its creation in 2011, Voices has led the effort with education and outreach to communicate the immense value a sustainably-grown tourism industry provides for all Montanans.

As an independent non-profit, Voices does not advocate for specific policy, however, it is within our scope to provide data on the direct correlation of adequately funded tourism promotion to the economic success for communities in Montana.

By supporting **Visit Big Sky's application** to fulfill its stated goals in its Tourism Master Plan, you'll be taking proactive steps to recover from the devastating economic effects of COVID19 faster and more safely to benefit Big Sky residents through their businesses and employment.

Having witnessed the enlightened actions of this board starting in 2009 to invest in marketing to reverse the effects of the last recession, the road map to success is clearly visible.

As volunteers and elected officials, you'll be faced with very difficult decisions this allocation cycle in how to best serve your community and constituents. By prioritizing recovery through promotion and stewardship with Visit Big Sky, future boards will benefit from stronger collections translating to fewer difficult decisions.

Thank you for your service,

Dax Schieffer
Director

From: [Wheeler, Brian](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Cc: [Laura Seyfang](#)
Subject: BSCHT application
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:29:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning,

Please accept this letter of support for the Big Sky Community Housing trust application. Laura and her team have performed exceptionally well with providing the community a program to be proud of. Your past confidence is paying dividends and continued support will insure a solid future given the proven success. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and I see a bright future for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration

Brian Wheeler

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LIVE BIG



From: [Brittany Shirley](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: support for Discovery Academy funding
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:40:28 PM

Hello!

We are writing to offer our support for full funding of Discovery Academy's ask of the Resort board this year. We understand there are many challenges our community has encountered in this unique start to 2020 and wanted to share the important impact that your past support of Discovery has personally made for our family.

Because of your support, Discovery Academy was able to offer scholarships to both of our preschool aged children. With the provided tuition assistance, our family has been able to access the amazing Montessori curriculum that is provided by their outstanding early childhood educators. In addition, because we had very affordable child care, my husband has been able to grow his small personal business making our foothold in this community all the stronger. We do not have outside financial support, so this ability, along with the teacher salary I make have been so critical to our ability to create a more solid financial foundation for our family.

Time and again, Discovery Academy has worked extremely hard to meet the needs of our family. It is this kind of dedication to members of our community that we so desperately need in our growing town. We implore you to fully fund the ask they are making of the Resort Tax Board.

In gratitude,
The Shirley Family

--

[Brittany Shirley](#)
[PYP Program Coordinator & Instructional Coach](#)
[Ophir Elementary School, Big Sky, Montana](#)

From: [Ryan Newcomb](#)
To: [JeNelle Johnson](#); [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#); [Daniel Bierschwale](#)
Cc: [Kristin Gardner](#); [Rick Donaldson](#); [Rich Chandler](#)
Subject: Re: Petition of Support for the Gallatin River Task Force
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:28:30 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Danny and Resort Tax Board team—we wanted to make sure you saw this.

As I discussed with you a few weeks back about doing this—we have 146 community signatures in petition for full funding of the Gallatin River and our work.

We are so grateful for your staff and board team—and understand the immense pressures you all have right now in making these decisions. We do feel that funding the watershed work will help fulfill the top priorities of the community visioning priorities and goals—of which protecting our natural resources and water are paramount!

Thank you for your leadership in unprecedented times and for all you do each day. We hope we can see you in person again soon.

-Ryan



RYAN M. NEWCOMB | Director of Development

Gallatin River Task Force | o (406) 993 - 2519 | c (817) 905 - 7372

a PO Box 160513 | 32 Market Place, Unit 6 | Big Sky, MT 59716

gallatinrivertaskforce.org | 501c3 | TAX ID: 74-3127146



Partnering with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed.

From: JeNelle Johnson <jenelle9@hotmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 1:05 PM

To: Resort Tax Board <info@resorttax.org>

Cc: Kristin Gardner <kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org>, Ryan Newcomb <ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org>, Rick Donaldson <rdonaldson@3rivers.net>, Rich Chandler <rich.chandler@yellowstoneclub.com>

Subject: Petition of Support for the Gallatin River Task Force

Dear Resort Tax Board,

On behalf of the Gallatin River Task Force, our board of directors and the hundreds of Big Sky Community Residents that are our actively engaged donors and supporters—we are submitting the attached petition results with 146 community signatures asking Resort Tax to fully fund the Gallatin River and the Task Force's work. The exact language of the petition—with time stamps and names/info for individual community member signatures/names in the attached document is as following:

By signing this petition, I am supporting the Big Sky Resort Tax board fully funding conservation and protection of the Gallatin River Watershed. The Gallatin is an invaluable resource, environmentally, socially, and economically. Through restoration projects, water-quality monitoring, and community education and outreach, the Gallatin River Task Force can ensure this resource stays clean and clear for future generations. Without a healthy Gallatin, our community could not be what it is today. Because of that fact, I support BSARD's full investment in the river's future. For a valid petition, please fill out the below information.

We expect to continue to get signatures today and over the next week, and thank the Resort Tax for their attention to this petition—and thank you for all that each of you do for our community.

Sincerely,

JeNelle Johnson

FULL NAME For a vali Timestamp

Isabella Vendramin 2020/06/08 1:54:15 PM CDT
Catherine A Drook 2020/06/08 1:55:15 PM CDT
JeNelle Johnson 2020/06/08 1:56:57 PM CDT
Rob McRae 2020/06/08 1:58:48 PM CDT
neil daviess 2020/06/08 2:00:01 PM CDT
Fred Orgas 2020/06/08 2:03:43 PM CDT
Jana Norton 2020/06/08 2:27:46 PM CDT
Robert Norton 2020/06/08 2:28:41 PM CDT
LEW WALLACE JACOB 2020/06/08 2:34:01 PM CDT
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Kevin Daily 2020/06/08 5:08:33 PM CDT
Don & Caroline Siels 2020/06/08 5:10:05 PM CDT
Michael Hennessy 2020/06/08 5:21:47 PM CDT
Kim small 2020/06/08 5:52:11 PM CDT
John Blangiardo 2020/06/09 10:50:00 AM CDT
Stephen 2020/06/09 5:07:56 AM CDT
Lisa Meredith Shick 2020/06/09 5:09:09 AM CDT
Eric Ladd 2020/06/09 7:24:08 AM CDT
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Rene Kraus 2020/06/09 9:41:11 AM CDT
Danielle Way 2020/06/09 9:57:58 AM CDT
Jason Mittelstaedt 2020/06/09 9:58:22 AM CDT
Boyd Teegarden 2020/06/09 10:25:23 AM CDT
Rob McRar 2020/06/09 10:50:00 AM CDT
Justin Hotovy 2020/06/09 10:50:18 AM CDT
Patricia Krause I live ir 2020/06/09 10:56:23 AM CDT
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Rich Addicks 2020/06/08 3:04:33 PM CDT
Mark McCurley 2020/06/08 3:17:39 PM CDT
Suzanne Hennessy 2020/06/08 3:22:15 PM CDT
Alan Johnson 2020/06/08 3:24:42 PM CDT
Joseph Timothy Calto 2020/06/08 3:30:42 PM CDT
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Elizabeth McFadden 2020/06/08 5:23:52 PM CDT
Margaret Hanley 2020/06/08 5:48:40 PM CDT
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Michael Mannebach 2020/06/09 8:33:13 AM CDT
Grant Hilton 2020/06/09 12:11:32 PM CDT
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Jeffery D Bingman 2020/06/08 2:55:20 PM CDT
Elizabeth French 2020/06/08 5:20:03 PM CDT
Dr. Sharon Douglas 2020/06/08 7:34:46 PM CDT
Betty Steffens 2020/06/08 3:25:14 PM CDT
Diana Carter 2020/06/08 3:27:12 PM CDT
Jeanne Limoges Lang 2020/06/09 6:15:01 AM CDT
Kass Lawson 2020/06/09 8:18:10 AM CDT
Matt Morris 2020/06/09 8:52:36 AM CDT
Kenneth Johnson 2020/06/08 2:52:47 PM CDT
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Barbara Van Erp 2020/06/08 1:56:26 PM CDT
Bethany Davies 2020/06/08 6:14:41 PM CDT
Amy Frey 2020/06/08 3:00:58 PM CDT
Bradford Lartigue 2020/06/08 3:47:21 PM CDT
Peter Bell 2020/06/08 3:53:19 PM CDT
Kelsey Rossier 2020/06/08 5:23:36 PM CDT
Kevin A. Barton 2020/06/08 6:14:41 PM CDT
Mark Poertner 2020/06/09 4:49:57 PM CDT
Heather Budd 2020/06/08 1:51:31 PM CDT
Andrew Hengel 2020/06/08 1:58:20 PM CDT
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Jacque Poertner 2020/06/08 2:37:21 PM CDT
BRODERICK DONALDS 2020/06/08 2:56:04 PM CDT
Emily O'Connor 2020/06/08 3:36:33 PM CDT
Heather Budd 2020/06/08 7:08:03 PM CDT
Cj radtk 2020/06/08 11:09:34 PM CDT

Username By checking a box below (check all that a Your ZIP COD Your CELL PH I certify that I am the person above the and the information above is my own.

ivendramin@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
cadrook@att. Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jenelle9@hotmail Community Member: Big Sky resident or
rob@highline Community Member: Big Sky resident or
mtbracerx@f Community Member: Big Sky resident or
fred.bigsky@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bnjmail@sbq Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bnoorstl@sbq Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jay.jacobs@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or
mccurleynom Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jacquardmich Community Member: Big Sky resident or
madison.lawt Community Member: Big Sky resident or
JayLuchini@y Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bisonrun@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jbdudley@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or
debcrow@3ri Community Member: Big Sky resident or
daily.show@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
Sielschot2@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or
hennessym14 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
smallkim@hc Community Member: Big Sky resident or
braces4ever0 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
sshick1@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or
powderridge Community Member: Big Sky resident or
e.ladd@mac. Community Member: Big Sky resident or
casey.salestr Community Member: Big Sky resident or
dylancressy5 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
renekraus10C Community Member: Big Sky resident or
myway2222@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jmittelstaedt Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bteegarden@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
rob@highline Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jhotovy44@y Community Member: Big Sky resident or
krausep@ctv Community Member: Big Sky resident or
sebcollins@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jmittelstaedt Community Member: Big Sky resident or
casey.salestr Community Member: Big Sky resident or
lmfcmf@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jbdudley@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or
capk455@aol Community Member: Big Sky resident or
whitewater@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
lmfcmf@aol. Community Member: Big Sky resident or
cwhall23@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or
lindabsmt@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or
carrierbryan3 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
peacepasta3 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
snowsquidm Community Member: Big Sky resident or
michelle.krist Community Member: Big Sky resident or
rich@richadd Community Member: Big Sky resident or
mccurleyflyfi Community Member: Big Sky resident or
sixonmd@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bigskylvr@a Community Member: Big Sky resident or
josephcalto@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
lindabsmt@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bmcfcluke@ic Community Member: Big Sky resident or
hanleyconsul Community Member: Big Sky resident or
debatkins5@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
matt.walker@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bemannebad Community Member: Big Sky resident or
mdmannebac Community Member: Big Sky resident or
granthilton33 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jason@bigsky Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jason@bigsky Community Member: Big Sky resident or
FISH@WILDT Community Member: Big Sky resident or
betseyfrench Community Member: Big Sky resident or
docom2@aol Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bsteffens@n Community Member: Big Sky resident or
diana@smtn Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jeannelimoge Community Member: Big Sky resident or
kass.stearns1 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
matmo35@r Community Member: Big Sky resident or
krjohnsonna Community Member: Big Sky resident or
skycrest1702 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
barbvaner@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bethany_arer Community Member: Big Sky resident or
spiramity@gr Community Member: Big Sky resident or
bradlartigue@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
pj.bell@yellow Community Member: Big Sky resident or
kelsey.rossier Community Member: Big Sky resident or
KEVIN@ACEB Community Member: Big Sky resident or
americanmog Community Member: Big Sky resident or
windfeather7 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
hengandr.ah Community Member: Big Sky resident or
cadry.jeff@gr Community Member: Big Sky resident or
jacquepoertn Community Member: Big Sky resident or
rdonaldson@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or
emilypallo@g Community Member: Big Sky resident or
windfeather7 Community Member: Big Sky resident or
cjradtke@hotmail Community Member: Big Sky resident or

59716 9144004635 Yes
59716 317-691-0764 Yes
59716 651-398-5471 Yes
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59716 617-290-4244 Yes
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59716 1.2066E+10 Yes
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59716 Yes
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59716 Yes
59716 4065800621q Yes
59718 4062090661 Yes
59716 4065703125 Yes
59716 2086041520 Yes
59716 6512717049 Yes
59718 4065391572 Yes
59730 2487364349 Yes
59716 4065488111 Yes
59716 4065703125 Yes
59716 Yes

Ennion Williams	2020/06/09 12:05:07 AM CDT	ennionwilliam Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716	4065797094	Yes
William F. Collins	2020/06/09 12:06:35 AM CDT	bc@yellowstr Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716	4065390268	Yes
William F. Collins	2020/06/09 1:08:12 AM CDT	bc@yellowstr Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716	4065390268	Yes
Mandy Hotovy	2020/06/09 10:57:32 AM CDT	vb5615@hoti Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716		Yes
Lauren M Knox	2020/06/09 2:09:57 PM CDT	lauren.knox@ Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716	4065399190	Yes
Vicenza A Nordahl	2020/06/08 10:15:57 PM CDT	vicky@lonepi Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59716	406-579-6298	Yes
Jeremy Harder	2020/06/09 7:11:26 PM CDT	jharder@bssc Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730	406581-3307	Yes
Kristin Gardner	2020/06/09 7:12:05 PM CDT	kristin.k.gardi Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730	4065392350	Yes
Vanessa Wilson	2020/06/09 7:27:47 PM CDT	vwilson@bssi Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730	4065707278	Yes
Kristin Gardner	2020/06/10 11:15:51 AM CDT	kristin.k.gardi Community Member: Big Sky resident or	59730	4065392350	Yes
Jon Clark Holtzman	2020/06/08 2:51:32 PM CDT	jcholtzman@ Former chairman and founder of the Gall	30642	(406) 570-512	Yes
Albert Lockwood	2020/06/08 5:36:20 PM CDT	aflockw@net Former homeowner; regular visitor and c	85749	520-612-7391	Yes
Brooke Helstrom	2020/06/08 2:30:41 PM CDT	bhelstrom@ Gallatin County resident	59715		Yes
Nicole Lana Creer	2020/06/08 2:31:37 PM CDT	creernicole@ Gallatin County resident	59716	2083605113	Yes
Mike Harrelson	2020/06/08 2:32:54 PM CDT	mike_harrels@ Gallatin County resident	59715	4065812879	Yes
Rachel Hicks	2020/06/08 2:43:01 PM CDT	rachelhicksde Gallatin County resident	59715		Yes
Michael Rotar	2020/06/08 2:43:23 PM CDT	mike.rotar@r Gallatin County resident	59715	4065701035	Yes
Heidi Weckbacher	2020/06/08 2:55:21 PM CDT	hweckbacher Gallatin County resident	59716	6178515588	Yes
Zachary Waterman	2020/06/08 3:06:59 PM CDT	zwaterman@ Gallatin County resident	59718	2085156719	Yes
Tamara Joy Meyer	2020/06/08 3:14:43 PM CDT	tamarajoyme Gallatin County resident	59715	4065810431	Yes
Taylor Jones	2020/06/08 3:20:19 PM CDT	jonestay@urr Gallatin County resident	59715	5129682324	Yes
Emma Brown	2020/06/08 5:27:18 PM CDT	emmab725@ Gallatin County resident	59715		Yes
Jackson St Clair	2020/06/08 3:39:58 PM CDT	jacksonstclai Gallatin County resident	59715	5092307329	Yes
Tamara Estensen	2020/06/08 5:11:12 PM CDT	tammy@clas Gallatin County resident	59718	4066002268	Yes
Connor M Flanagan	2020/06/08 5:39:04 PM CDT	connor.flanag Gallatin County resident	59760		Yes
Dale Des Enfants	2020/06/08 8:05:30 PM CDT	backflipgirl00 Gallatin County resident	59715		Yes
Joe Booth	2020/06/08 8:41:17 PM CDT	jbooth170@g Gallatin County resident	94175	7070809700	Yes
Catherine Nelson	2020/06/08 10:13:51 PM CDT	cnhobbit@gn Gallatin County resident	59715	406 585-8025	Yes
Dale Des Enfants	2020/06/09 12:03:56 AM CDT	backflipgirl00 Gallatin County resident	59715		Yes
Kasey Welles	2020/06/09 8:13:40 AM CDT	kasey.welles@ Gallatin County resident	59715	406-591-794C	Yes
Laurie Stahle	2020/06/09 9:34:43 AM CDT	laurie.stahle@ Gallatin County resident	59715	4065399175	Yes
Agnes Van Meter	2020/06/09 4:41:26 PM CDT	aggie.vanmet Gallatin County resident	59718	6504778089	Yes
patricia hedrick	2020/06/09 10:34:10 PM CDT	hedpat@gma Gallatin County resident	59715	4065992554	Yes
Jeff Dunn	2020/06/10 11:24:04 AM CDT	aguaverde08i Gallatin County resident	59718	4065790516	Yes
Kris Kruid	2020/06/08 3:10:43 PM CDT	kriskruid@gnr Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730	646-662-3941	Yes
Michelle Gatewood	2020/06/09 2:32:08 PM CDT	ladybrightmo Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730	406 579 2275	Yes
Nancy Hagen Stage	2020/06/08 2:02:35 PM CDT	nhagen1001@ Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730	574-457-6155	Yes
Mike Richter	2020/06/08 2:05:51 PM CDT	miker700@gr Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730		Yes
Kenneth Ketchum	2020/06/09 2:30:38 PM CDT	ksketchummt Gallatin Gateway or Upper Gallatin reside	59730	9499390941	Yes
David Neal	2020/06/08 1:56:07 PM CDT	davetneal@g Madison County resident	59729	4065705656	Yes
dokson arvanites	2020/06/09 6:44:57 AM CDT	dokarvanitesi Madison County resident	597299142	6262980946	Yes
Katherine king-Goodr	2020/06/09 10:38:22 AM CDT	skiingmidwife Madison County resident	59716	4232905996	Yes
Zenalous Bennis	2020/06/09 7:17:27 AM CDT	zjb1932@gm: Property owner in Big Sky since 1973	34134	612-965-0772	Yes
Susan vendramin	2020/06/08 3:18:57 PM CDT	susanvendrar Visitor	10533	9142614183	Yes
Susan vendramin	2020/06/08 7:18:33 PM CDT	susanvendrar Visitor	10533	9142614183	Yes
Erin Ogram	2020/06/08 2:40:02 PM CDT	eogram5@gn Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716	2087558092	Yes
Katherine A Foley	2020/06/08 5:44:06 PM CDT	katefoles98@ Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716	4014868680	Yes
Amy Wiezalis	2020/06/08 8:06:42 PM CDT	wiezmt@gm: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59716	4065709631	Yes
Karen Burfening	2020/06/09 10:05:10 AM CDT	karen.burfeni Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718	4065804261	Yes
Ryan M Newcomb	2020/06/08 1:42:12 PM CDT	ryan.m.newco Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718	8179057372	Yes
Rich Chandler	2020/06/08 1:48:01 PM CDT	rich.chandler: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59714	4065394185	Yes
Ellis L Janssen	2020/06/08 2:00:36 PM CDT	eljanssen@h: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715	2537098698	Yes
Nathan Andrew Johns	2020/06/08 2:08:25 PM CDT	nate78johnsc Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59714	406-209-1425	Yes
Olivia Regnier	2020/06/08 2:22:38 PM CDT	olivia.regnier Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59718	2487193346	Yes
Janet Earl	2020/06/08 2:30:57 PM CDT	janetearyl@gn Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59772	3104665448	Yes
Ryan Hamilton	2020/06/08 3:54:26 PM CDT	ryan@bigskyt Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715	406-580-226C	Yes
Richard McElowney	2020/06/08 5:00:08 PM CDT	rmceldowney Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715	406-599-2138	Yes
David Tucker	2020/06/10 12:30:06 PM CDT	davidtucker2: Work Force: Big Sky employee, employer	59715		Yes

From: [Heather Budd](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: RE: Support for the Gallatin River
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:28:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I should also include that I am a current Board Member of the Gallatin River Task Force. Thank you - Heather

Heather Budd | CFO

From: Heather Budd
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:25 AM
To: INFO <info@resorttax.org>
Subject: Support for the Gallatin River

To the members of the Resort Tax Board:

People are coming to Big Sky, to visit and to live. The growth here is exponential and continues despite Covid and quite possibly as a result of Covid to escape cities and be able to connect, recreate and get outdoors in these uncertain times. The amount of real estate placed under contract in the last several weeks is massive. It is not solely an advertising campaign that draws people to our location. The Gallatin River is a big reason that many come to visit and live in Big Sky and the Gallatin Valley and the pressure of this growth is a threat to the river's character and health.

The Gallatin River is an economic driver and a foundation for connection and recreation for this community and all who come here. It is the first thing that people experience as they travel along — for over an hour when driving in from north or South, a first impression of our town.

I urge you to fund the Gallatin River Task Force's application and recognize the important work that has been done (much of which has been in partnership with BSRAD) and the important work that needs to continue to protect and enhance this valuable natural resource.

As a past member of the Board, I understand the complexities of the allocation process and do not envy your responsibility at this difficult time. I thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Heather Budd

Heather Budd | CFO

Highline Partners, LTD.
75 Center Lane Suite B
PO Box 161618
Big Sky, MT. 59716
Fax (406) 995-2125
Mobile (406) 570-3125
heather@highline-partners.com



From: [jakes](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Area District Information](#)
Subject: Big Sky Chamber
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:12:52 PM

Dear Board,

I would like to ask for your continued support of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky because they are going to be the shakers and movers in getting this tourist traffic moving again which will provide the resources necessary to be taxed.

Thanks,

Jake Grimm

Jake's Horses, Inc.

From: [Knapton, John](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Support for Bear Smart Big Sky
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:32:04 AM

Dear BSRAD Board,

Please support Bear Smart Big Sky with resort tax dollars. This program is very important to our community and resort as the program works hard to educate residents of our community and visiting guests in the importance of being bear aware, minimizing bear attractants, and teaching best practices. The program has converted over 70% of trash cans in our area to bear resistant cans. As the population of Big Sky has grown, the instances of bear interactions has remained flat year to year or slightly decreased. The program needs support as we need to get our trash 100% bear resistant and reduce our number of bear interactions year to year rather than remain flat.

It is important that we as a community minimize our impact to our environment and wildlife that surround us.

Thank you for your support!

John

John Knapton
Mountain Manager

Big Sky Resort
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716
(C) 406-580-4534 (D) 406-995-5585 | (F) 406-995-5083
www.bigskyresort.com

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LIVE BIG

From: [Kate Ketschek](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: Letters of support
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:29:57 AM

Thank you all for your service to our community. Your brain power, experience, thoughtfulness and long-term vision are so appreciated. I know your role takes an enormous amount of time and is very important to many of our local organizations - THANK YOU.

I'd like to quickly voice my support for the following applicants:

BSSHA - my 8 yo daughter and I both found ice hockey 2 seasons ago (I know, I'm a little late to the party at 45). BSSHA has built a top-notch program, and the volunteers are very dedicated. They put in countless hours to set up, maintain, and tear down that rink, along with raising funds to keep it going. It's a great asset for visitors and locals.

Big Sky Chamber - they've really stepped up during COVID to provide timely resources and updates to its members.

Big Sky Food Bank - I think we all have seen how much our community needs it.

BSCO - I'm vice chair, so you know I support this organization. Ciara has an incredible staff who have really stepped up during COVID to bring all community resources together, create more programming, and keep us connected. Public spaces and trails have seen a dramatic increase in traffic during COVID, representing their importance and why we need to continue to maintain them.

Big Sky Fire - as a former volunteer and a current spouse of a firefighter, I support the work these men and women do.

The Sheriffs - hearing that there are times in the middle of the night where there is no coverage, is concerning. Whether one of us needs them in a crisis, or considering my husband and fellow firefighters that may have to respond to a potentially dangerous situation w/o police backup is an uneasy feeling.

Thank you, best of luck this week.

Kate Ketschek
Revolution House Media
603-828-1050

RECENT CLIENT NEWS

#Adventureinplace with [NEMO](#).

Got extra time at home these days? [Gear Junkie](#) shares Spring tent care tips.

While you #adventureinplace, watch [Chef Jennifer Scism](#) teach [Outside's](#) Wes Siler how to cook a gourmet meal over the campfire.

From: [Feher, Madeleine](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Subject: RE: Resort Tax Support Letter/Discovery School
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:44:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Resort Tax District Board of Directors:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration of my letter of support for Discovery School's scholarship program.

I know you are faced with many tough decisions in the weeks ahead in which you will focus on the critical programs and organizations so vital to our community. I hope you see the value in funding Discovery School's Scholarship fund as it has proven to represent much more than an educational establishment to my family. It has provided my two young girls with support beyond anything I could have hoped for over the past few months of virtual learning. The teachers, the school leaders, the administrator---all of those who make Discovery school so outstanding have gone above and beyond to 'normalize' as best possible an end to the school year which was anything but normal. It has reaffirmed once again why I value the time my children spends with these educators.

I know that every parent wants the best for their children. For our family, the support we receive from Discovery helps us achieve that. I thank you for your consideration of scholarship funding which makes our attendance possible.

Warm regards,
Madeleine Feher

Madeleine Feher

Huntley Lodge General Manager | Big Sky Resort
Licensed Property Manager
50 Big Sky Resort Road | PO Box 160001 | Big Sky, MT 59716
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LIVE BIG



From: [Denise Wade](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Cc: [Hans Scherthner](#); [Dennis Barrocas](#); [Maggie and Kelly Shane](#)
Subject: Parkview west comments
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:24:49 AM
Attachments: [Comments to BSRAD board 6.8.20.docx](#)

Hello,

Please submit attached letter as public comment for June 10.

Additionally, a couple of questions regarding Parkview West application below:

1. Are there underlying reasons for not funding this application other than lack of funds due to covid? If so, please explain.
2. In early times of resort, funding often was for an HOA, although funds were received and administer by county officials. Does the Board have the legal authority to fund a project based on this historical model?
3. Does the Board see an avenue for projects such as Parkview West bridge infrastructure to be part of a larger collaboration of infrastructure projects in the BSRAD district that ultimately may not be the center of Big Sky, but still benefit the community at large?

Thank you

To: Resort Tax Board

From: Parkview West Association

Thank you for considering our request to fund critical infrastructure for the original, and still affordable housing in the Big Sky community. As part of the resort are district, we are thankful to be able to live in a wonderful location along the river with local and publicly accessible trails outside our door. We are also thankful to be able to work close to our homes in Big Sky.

Many of you know the history of the resort tax from the beginning in 1992 with the Big Sky Owners Association as the spearhead organization. Many smaller HOAs were (and still are) part of the BSOA. The funds were administered by Madison and Gallatin County Commissioners and distributed to entities to fund essential infrastructure, such as water and sewer, fire department, transportation, community corporation (part of BSOA, now BSCO), and owners association (BSOA), chamber of commerce. These entities have grown with the community and become their own districts or not for profit entities which have received tax allocations for many years. As Big Sky has grown, new owner associations have formed and included businesses (who collect tax), homes, vacation properties, and recreation opportunities. All of these have received benefits of tax allocations whether for infrastructure such as additional sewer capacity, improved recreation facilities, state of the art fire and emergency response. There is no doubt that these expenditures have been crucial to Big Sky growing as a community.

Parkview West Association was the first subdivision in Gallatin County in the Big Sky area. Families could afford to build a home here. The one school bus for Ophir school picked up most of the children in the canyon, because that's where families lived. As families have gotten priced out of more expensive real estate in Big Sky, families still live here and work in Big Sky. Yes, we *chose* to live here. Many of us chose to live here during the building moratorium in Big Sky in the 90's when most of the homes in West Fork/South Fork, Ramshorn and many others did not exist.

Parkview West improved the bridge to accommodate upgraded fire equipment purchased with resort tax dollars. Equipment that is necessary for safety of our community and rescue workers. However, it has resulted in needing to upgrade infrastructure in this neighborhood. Our neighborhood and the north canyon area is comprised of working people. We have seen and contributed to many improvements to infrastructure in Big Sky including money for affordable housing, rescue equipment, and transportation system (which goes by our doors but will not stop).

We urge the tax board to consider funding for infrastructure project(s) to neighborhoods where working families currently are living. Consider infrastructure projects important for health and safety and longevity a priority. We urge you to consider the north end of the tax district as part of the community worthy of receiving funds just as the associations received in resort tax infancy.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Ryan Hamilton](#)
To: [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)
Cc: [Candace Carr Strauss](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for VBS - From Town Center
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:53:31 PM

Resort Tax Board,

Please consider this letter of support for Visit Big Sky's application for funding.

Visit Big Sky's mission as the community's official destination marketing and management organization is to lead the development and promotion of authentic tourism experiences through research and stakeholder collaboration to grow Big Sky's economy while balancing the need to sustain quality of life for its residents.

Through Imagine Big Sky 2023, Visit Big Sky's Tourism Master Plan, to deliver on this mission it works to:

1. Develop a sustainable outdoor recreation experience,
2. Promote the destination beyond world-class winter to broaden Big Sky's reputation as a summer outdoor recreation destination and Gateway Community to Yellowstone National Park,
3. Lead the tourism collective in advocating for the visitor economy on a state and national level, and
4. Steward the destination to manage the balance between consumption and preservation.

Their services provided under these strategic pillars constitute our value to you, our tourism stakeholders.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic recession, Visit Big Sky, in partnership with the Big Sky Chamber has provided additional resources like disseminating vital timely information to access federal/state emergency funding, developing a Save Small Business micro-grant program which distributed \$110,000 of our their FY20 Resort Tax Allocation to 57 small businesses in our community, and deployed Reopening Bundles with PPE and public health messaging signage to 80 local businesses on Friday leading into Memorial Day Weekend to ensure they were prepared to reopen in manner necessary by our "new normal."

Funding for Visit Big Sky as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit membership organizations comes via fiscal sponsorship of the Big Sky Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) which is the designated recipient of the Big Sky Resort Area District's 4% Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax allocation. Funding locally is provided by the Big Sky Resort Area District's 3% luxury tax per Ordinance 98-01 which states "the purpose of the resort tax is to tax (a) Goods and Services sold to tourists and transient visitors, but which locals and other members of the general public also may purchase, and (b) Luxuries...to fund infrastructure facilities or projects, public transportation, tourism development, and other public services and facilities within the District as well as all

costs associated with the collection, administration, appropriation, expenditure, litigation of resort taxes; consistent with Ordinance No. 99-01-Ord. Additionally, private funds are raised from local businesses.

Visit Big Sky, and more importantly the tourism stakeholder businesses it represents, **is the only driver of Resort Tax collections**. To continue to ensure Big Sky is chosen as a destination by visitors, continual messaging is required to keep the destination top of mind in a world where competition for visitor mindshare is global. We would be remiss if we did not mention the devastating impact COVID-19 pandemic, economic recession and current rioting occurring in our nation are having on our local economy. **The road to recovery for our local tourism industry will be forged by Visit Big Sky.**

Visit Big Sky's FY21 Application needs your support. VBS is worthy of your investment as they continue to work on the community's behalf and the Big Sky destination at large.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Ryan Hamilton

Big Sky Town Center

VBS Board Member

326 North Broadway

Bozeman, Montana 59715

ph. 406.586.9629

direct. 406.556.6792

cell/text: 406.580.2260

email: ryan@bigskytowncenter.com

www.bigskytowncenter.com