



## Meeting Minutes

January 11th, 2023 | 9:00am

Big Sky Resort Area District

11 Lone Peak Drive #204

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### I. Open Meeting

#### A. Roll Call

[00:01:05](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. All board members present.

#### B. Public Comment

[00:01:32](#) Bill Todd, Madison County Commissioner introduced himself.

[00:01:49](#) Darren Brugman with the Transportation District responded to community comments regarding recent bus schedule/service changes. Darren also discussed new Big Sky Connect service and future expanded micro transit services.

[00:08:16](#) Katie Grice, on behalf of Wellness In Action, provided an update on new staff members and construction planning/budgeting. Katie shared that the number one concern seen by counselors is anxiety related to housing.

[00:13:38](#) Ciara Wolfe asked, and Katie Grice clarified that there are 6 counselors available through BigSkyWIA.org including telehealth options, and English and Spanish speaking counselors.

[00:14:54](#) Big Sky Skijoring discussed and invited everyone to the upcoming Best in the West Showdown.

#### C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: November 9th, 2022

b. Finance Report: September, October, & November 2022

[00:16:28](#) **Motion**: to approve the Consent Agenda: Kevin Germain

**Second**: Ciara Wolfe

[00:16:50](#) Ciara Wolfe shared that the District is now debt free after paying off bonds and mortgage.

[00:17:15](#) **Vote**: Motion passed unanimously.

#### D. Regular Agenda

##### 1. Old Business

a. Executive Report: *Discussion*

[00:17:30](#) Daniel Bierschwale gave updates related to business registration, Capital Improvement Plan, applications, and the FY22 annual report.

[00:20:03](#) Kevin Germain discussed the need for a Capital Improvement Plan for long-term strategic investment planning. Board members discussed and reiterated the importance of applicant and community involvement in the Capital Improvement Plan. Sarah Blechta expressed the need for accurate budgeting.

## 2. New Business

### a. Public Notice of Non-Compliance Procedure Revision: Discussion

[00:23:55](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the resolution and procedure for repeat non-compliant businesses. Board members discussed.

### b. Opportunity Fund Procedure: Action

[00:28:32](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed eligibility requirements and commitment of restricted funds for this procedure.

[00:30:42](#) Ciara Wolfe asked for examples of projects; Sarah Blechta shared the possibility of a community greenhouse with matching funds from foundations. Board members discussed projects that would possibly qualify for the opportunity fund.

[00:33:27](#) Sarah Blechta and Ciara Wolfe requested more clarity to avoid projects being broken apart into multiple projects in smaller request amounts to avoid the larger application process. Kevin Germain suggested quarterly review instead of monthly.

[00:38:36](#) Board agreed to create definitions for more clarity between what constitutes an emergency verses opportunity and a procedure for both. (Action will be deferred)

### c. FY24 Forecast: Discussion

[00:40:25](#) Updates from applicants with changes in forecast from last year:

#### Morningstar Learning Center

[00:42:07](#) Mariel Butan from Morningstar Learning Center provided updates related to the campus expansion project and discussed the need for more childcare in the community and housing for staff.

[00:45:53](#) Board members asked about collaboration efforts with the Housing Trust and foundations. Kevin Germain requested to see plans and concepts next month.

#### Big Sky Chamber of Commerce & Visit Big Sky

[00:47:09](#) Brad Niva with the Big Sky Chamber and Visit Big Sky gave updates related to staffing, wayfinding signage project changes, and marketing.

#### Big Sky Community Housing Trust

[00:50:33](#) David O'Connor with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust explained "Future Development" line item was removed and feels confident there are resources and partners available if they need to act quickly on a future project.

[00:52:11](#) Daniel Bierschwale asked what the appropriate reserves would be, and David O'Connor discussed.

#### Big Sky Fire Department

[00:53:23](#) Greg Meegard with the Big Sky Fire Department discussed prioritization and grant funding for projects and explained their request will be less this year. Fire Training facility was discussed, and more information will be available next month at the February meeting.

## Big Sky SNO

[00:57:20](#) Lizzy Peyton with SNO explained forecasting for solar projects increased.

### d. Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO) Planning Update: Discussion

[00:59:04](#) Whitney Montgomery provided updates related to Community Engagement Workshops and Strategic Planning.

[01:05:05](#) BSCO will be celebrating 25 years of serving Big Sky.

[01:05:29](#) Whitney discussed BSCO and Parks District partnership and explained a draft of the Maintenance Funding Agreement with Gallatin County will be complete with the next few months. The Parks District will be applying for BSRAD funding in accordance with the Maintenance Funding Agreement for parks, trails, and BASE.

### e. Introduction of 'Big Sky Local Governance, Inc.': Discussion

[01:10:41](#) Big Sky Local Governance, Inc was formed as a 501C-4 organization and is open to public engagement. Tallie Lancey shared what is being considered and was not prepared to answer questions.

[01:13:46](#) Sarah Blechta requested the opportunity to engage with the group and attend their meetings as a community member.

[01:14:44](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed the need to prevent moving forward as a divided community and warned against creating rifts. Sarah Blechta requested invites and information when meetings are happening. Kevin Germain discussed state legislative opportunities.

[01:18:47](#) Ciara Wolfe asked and Tallie Lancey clarified that incorporation is only being considered in Gallatin County. Ciara suggested working with both Madison and Gallatin counties.

[01:21:26](#) Big Sky Local Governance, Inc can be contacted at: [BigSkyLocalGov@gmail.com](mailto:BigSkyLocalGov@gmail.com)

[01:23:15](#) *Public Comment:* Whitney Montgomery offered space and support for community engagement at BASE.

[01:23:37](#) *Public Comment:* Katie Grice offered community engagement support from the Chamber of Commerce.

[01:24:21](#) *Public Comment:* Brad Niva suggested incorporation as a topic for Eggs & Issues in April/May.

### E. Public Comment

[01:25:02](#) Kevin Germain shared subcommittee updates and invited Ennis community leaders to tour Resort Tax as they consider funding options.

[01:26:57](#) **Motion:** meeting adjourned at 10:26 am

Respectfully Submitted,

**Steven Johnson**

Steven Johnson (Feb 10, 2023 12:46 MST)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer

## II. Strategic Planning: Discussion

*Location: BASE (285 Simkins Dr.)*

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**BSRAD BOARD & STAFF:** Sarah Blechta, Chair | Ciara Wolfe, Vice Chair | Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer | Kevin Germain, Director | Grace Young, Director | Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director | Kristin Drain, Finance & Compliance Manager | Jenny Muscat, Deputy Director | Tammy Estensen, Communications & Community Engagement Manager | Sara Huger, Office Manager

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