



Meeting Minutes

February 27th, 2023 | 9:00am

Big Sky Resort Area District
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The Board met virtually on Monday, February 27th at 9:00 am to review LOIs for eligibility.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:00:17](#) Sarah Blechta began the meeting at 9:00 am. Board members in attendance: Steve Johnson, Ciara Wolfe, Grace Young, and Sarah Blechta. Kevin Germain was not available.

B. Public Comment: *None*

C. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Opportunity Fund Procedure: Action

[00:01:27](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed the Opportunity Fund Procedure and eligibility.

[00:02:56](#) **Motion:** to adopt the Opportunity Fund Procedure as outlined: Grace Young

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[00:03:08](#) Board members discussed the purpose of the Opportunity Fund.

[00:05:03](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

b. Emergency Fund Procedure: Action

[00:05:24](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed the reserves and implementation of the emergency fund. Daniel informed everyone that TischlerBISE was chosen to prepare the Capital Improvement Plan in relation to the Capital Reserve Fund.

[00:06:43](#) **Motion:** Approve the emergency Fund Procedure: Steve Johnson

Second: Grace Young

[00:07:06](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

2. New Business

a. Project Eligibility: Action

[00:07:24](#) Daniel Bierschwale gave an overview of Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) and discussed eligibility requirements. Unanimous votes from Board Members are required to deny LOIs from moving forward to project applications.

[00:09:20](#) Sarah Blechta explained Steve Johnson had indicated conflicts of interest regarding 2 sponsors (Local Governance Inc, and Big Sky Trails, Recreation, & Parks District) and will abstain from discussion and voting regarding those sponsors.

Big Sky Local Governance Inc

[00:09:44](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the LOI was flagged for ineligibility due to a low score of 3 out of 30 points and the sponsor was not registered with the District.

[00:10:28](#) Sarah Blechta clarified that to move this LOI to a project application, this sponsor would just need to register. Daniel confirmed and noted last year there were more instances of unregistered sponsors and they are now registered.

[00:11:53](#) Kim Beatty explained the legal requirements to deny an LOI moving forward.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

Big Sky Skijoring Association

[00:12:46](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the LOI was flagged for ineligibility due to a low score of 15 out of 30 points.

[00:13:10](#) Ciara Wolfe clarified the low scores were due to organizations (Big Sky Local Governance Inc, Big Sky Skijoring Association, Big Sky Trails Recreation and Parks District, Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association) who did not ask for funding last year and do not have a track record with the District.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization (SNO)

[00:14:20](#) The 'Recycling/Composting Education & Outreach' project is requesting \$20,000, under the \$25,000 requirement and may be requested under the Opportunity Fund. Board members discussed.

[00:17:15](#) **Motion:** the 'Recycling/Composting Education & Outreach' project is ineligible (due to dollar amount and would be eligible for the Opportunity Fund): Ciara Wolfe

Second: Grace

[00:17:48](#) Lizzie Peyton from SNO requested the timeline for the Opportunity Fund. Sarah Blechta explained the Opportunity Fund applications would be available after July 1st and available year-round. Funding decisions would be made at the following regularly scheduled board meeting, as early as July 12th.

[00:19:46](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

Big Sky Trails Recreation and Parks District

[00:20:31](#) Sarah Blechta explained the sponsor score of 15 out of 30 points due to no track record.

[00:21:14](#) Ciara Wolfe and Daniel Bierschwale discussed interlocal agreements and process for government services applications.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association

[00:21:32](#) Auditor report question was not answered; Kristina from GVSA explained why she left the question unanswered and why they did not have an auditor's report.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association (SWMMBA)

[00:24:57](#) Sarah Blechta explained the sponsor score of 10 out of 30 points due to no track record.

[00:25:31](#) Hannah Richardson of SWMMBA explained the budget and programming/projects.

[00:27:14](#) Ashley on behalf of SWMMBA Big Sky chapter thanked the board for consideration.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

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[00:27:54](#) Sarah Blechta and Daniel Bierschwale explained this LOI was flagged due to incomplete sponsor efficiency worksheet and referenced a different sponsor.

[00:28:53](#) Brad Niva explained why they did not complete the worksheet and will be submitting an updated form.

No Motion; LOI moves forward.

D. Public Comment: NONE

[00:30:01](#) Motion to Adjourn at 9:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Apr 28, 2023 08:27 MDT)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer

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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