



Board Meeting Agenda

August 9th, 2023 | 9:00am

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

August's Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204) and through Zoom.

Join this meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82668155242>

I. Open Meeting

- A. Roll Call — 9:00
- B. Public Comment
- C. Consent Agenda: Action — 9:05
 - a. Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2023
 - b. Finance Report: May 2023
- D. Regular Agenda
 - 1. Old Business
 - a. Finalize Subcommittees & Meetings: Action — 9:10
 - 2. New Business
 - a. Opportunity Fund Application Review: Action — 9:20
 - Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach
 - Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1
 - b. RiverView Update: Discussion — 9:45
- E. Public Comment

II. Closed Meeting: Confidential Employee Reviews

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

** All Board Meetings are recorded and live streamed. Please visit ResortTax.org for more information.*



Board Meeting Minutes

July 12th, 2023 | 9:00am

Big Sky Resort Area District

11 Lone Peak Drive #204

PO Box 160661

Big Sky, MT 59716

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406.995.3234

July's Board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 12th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:01:08](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and all board members present.

B. Public Comment

[00:01:23](#) Brad Niva with Visit Big Sky and the Chamber of Commerce gave marketing updates and introduced the new visitor guide.

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: June 5th, 6th, & 8th, 2023

[00:03:30](#) **Motion**: to approve consent Agenda: Grace Young

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:03:52](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution 2023-01—FY24 Awards: *Action*

[00:04:15](#) **Motion**: to adopt Resolution: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:04:36](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

b. FY24 Calendar: *Action*

[00:04:51](#) **Motion**: to adopt FY24 Calendar: Sarah Blechta

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:05:24](#) Sarah Blechta reminded the public and applicants to review the calendar and noted the appropriation dates. Ciara Wolfe and the board discussed evening board meetings.

[00:06:27](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

c. Officer Elections: Action

[00:06:42](#) **Motion:** to reappoint existing officers (Sarah Blechta, chair/Ciara Wolfe, vice chair/Steve Johnson, secretary and treasurer): Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah Blechta

[00:08:09](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

[00:08:21](#) Daniel Bierschwale and Board members discussed committees and roadmap and suggested keeping the same board members on committees. Sarah Blechta suggested, and board agreed to committees meeting in the next month and bring updates to August board meeting.

d. New Business Late Fee Restructure: Discussion

[00:11:47](#) Kristin Drain explained the previous late fee structure and the new structure for late fees.

e. Opportunity Fund Application Review: Action

[00:14:45](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the Opportunity Fund and that this is the first project requesting funding.

- Solving the Transportation Problem for WMPAC

[00:15:15](#) John Zirkle of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center (WMPAC) discussed their 'Solving the Transportation Problems for WMPAC' project request. John explained WMPAC's transportation needs and the collaboration between the school district and WMPAC.

[00:18:29](#) Ciara Wolfe asked, and John Zirkle explained maintenance and lease agreement structure.

[00:20:20](#) Board members shared thoughts and discussed the Opportunity Fund, it's requirements, data collection and reporting.

[00:30:24](#) **Motion:** to approve their 'Solving the Transportation Problems for WMPAC' project request for \$25,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:30:41](#) Board members requested usership data.

[00:31:05](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

f. GRTF: Water Supply Resiliency Projects Contract Extension: Action

[00:31:29](#) Kristin Gardner of the Gallatin River Task Force (GRTF) explained their project and the request for an extension.

[00:33:59](#) **Motion:** to approve GRTF: Water Supply Resiliency Projects Contract Extension for 1-year: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:34:41](#) Board members clarified budgeting. Daniel Bierschwale discussed budgeting, liability, and possible 3-year construction project processes.

[00:37:17](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

g. Friends of the Library Project Consideration: Action

[00:37:40](#) Liz McFadden with the Friends of the Library discussed hiring a full-time staff member and district creation.

[00:38:49](#) Board members asked questions regarding Library budget, future costs, and possible district formation and future property tax funding.

[00:47:52](#) Board members and Liz McFadden agreed to adding a 6-month check-in requirement to contract.

[00:52:13](#) **Motion:** to approve Friends of the Library Project with 6-month check-in with the board to present and updated budget and an outlined plan for the library district: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:53:45](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

E. Public Comment

[00:54:04](#) Whitney Montgomery of the Big Sky Community Organization and Big Sky Trails, Recreation, & Parks District, shared updates and thanked everyone for support.

[01:00:12](#) Motion to Adjourn

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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Accountant's Summary
Month Ended May 31, 2023

Balance Sheet

- Reserve funds increased by the infrastructure tax collected through May.
- Two new accounts were added during the month for the DA Davidson Investment accounts. The balances presented at 5/31/23 are the fair values of the account which means unrealized gains/losses are accounted for in the income statement. The investment fund had an overall net increase of \$468 from the initial investment of \$3.5mm and the Operating fund had a net decrease of approx. \$42,900 from the initial investment of \$3.5mm. The decrease in the Operating fund was mostly due to unrealized losses. The total investment fees paid during the month were approx. \$5,700.
- No other significant changes to note.

Profit & Loss

- Tax collections continue to be on par with the budgeted amount. The collections may be a little less than budgeted but nothing to be concerned about at this time. Interest earnings continue to climb due to the significant amount of funds available.
- Bank charges significantly increased this month due to the fees associated with the DA Davidson accounts (noted above).
- The "Other Income" amount of \$43k is the net unrealized loss for both of the DA Davidson accounts as of 5/31/2023.
- This fiscal year to date, tax collections were up 13% from FY22. This is approximately a \$2.6mm increase.
- The total budgeted expenditures for FY23 are approx. \$1,221,350 and \$914,000 (75%) of the budget was expended as of May 31, 2023.

Top 20 Collectors for the Month

Overall change compared to same month last fiscal year	33654%
Overall change fiscal year to date vs. last FYTD	25%
Additional Notes: Several collectors had massive increases compared to May 2022, hence the exponential overall change. Fiscal YTD overall increase is 14%.	

Delinquent Collectors

Short Term Rentals Identified as Unregistered	0
31-60 days past due	3
61-90 days past due	16
90+ days past due	1
Accounts with lawsuits in progress	2

Accounts Receivable & Payment Plans

Total balance owed (of those with sales reported/legal fees)	21637
Number of active installment plans	0
Plans paid off this month & balance paid	0

Registered & Tax Collecting Businesses

Number of Registered Businesses (2023)	1163
Number of Tax Collecting Registered Businesses	526
Number of New Accounts created (by or on behalf of a new business/STR)	34
Number of Closed Accounts	15

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2023

	TOTAL	
	AS OF MAY 31, 2023	AS OF APR 30, 2023 (PP)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
10000 Funds Available		
10100 Reserved Funds	-8,364,019.90	-8,049,846.09
10120 FSB-Checking #80073430	250,000.00	250,000.00
10121 FSB - Repurchase Checking	16,585,071.75	21,220,797.27
10125 FSB - Disbursements #1336	121.52	121.52
10140 FSB-MM #80073422 - .19	5,115.65	5,114.10
10150 FSB Office Acct #2200001403547	700.63	966.46
10160 Petty Cash	200.00	200.00
10170 STIP	11,311.37	11,264.59
10180 DA Davidson - #17191343 Investment	3,500,468.89	
10190 DA Davidson - #65611532 Operating	3,457,101.99	
Total 10000 Funds Available	15,446,071.90	13,438,617.85
10500 Funds Reserved		
10503 TIGER Project - Resolution 2022.01R	573,329.94	573,329.94
10505 Infrastructure Tax Collected, net	4,782,218.61	4,468,044.80
10510 Emergency reserve	593,248.35	593,248.35
10520 Operating reserve	305,338.00	305,338.00
10530 Capital reserve	2,109,885.00	2,109,885.00
Total 10500 Funds Reserved	8,364,019.90	8,049,846.09
1072 Bill.com Money Out Clearing	12.00	12.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$23,810,103.80	\$21,488,475.94
Accounts Receivable		
12000 Accounts Receivable	1,234,966.10	3,893,531.76
Total Accounts Receivable	\$1,234,966.10	\$3,893,531.76
Other Current Assets		
13100 Prepaid expenses		
13100.2 Prepaid software	2,659.05	3,249.96
Total 13100 Prepaid expenses	2,659.05	3,249.96
Total Other Current Assets	\$2,659.05	\$3,249.96
Total Current Assets	\$25,047,728.95	\$25,385,257.66

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2023

	TOTAL	
	AS OF MAY 31, 2023	AS OF APR 30, 2023 (PP)
Fixed Assets		
15030 Capital Furnishings & Fixtures	5,228.49	5,228.49
15040 Buildings & Improvements	546,655.80	546,655.80
16000 Accumulated Depreciation	-71,300.42	-71,300.42
Total Fixed Assets	\$480,583.87	\$480,583.87
Other Assets		
19010 Deferred outflows		
19011 Deferred Outflows - BSWs Agreement	18,842,906.00	18,842,906.00
19012 Deferred Outflows - Appropriations	3,161,277.00	3,161,277.00
Total 19010 Deferred outflows	22,004,183.00	22,004,183.00
Total Other Assets	\$22,004,183.00	\$22,004,183.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$47,532,495.82	\$47,870,024.53
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
21000 General Accounts Payable	22,184.65	5,759.48
Total Accounts Payable	\$22,184.65	\$5,759.48
Other Current Liabilities		
23000 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00
23011 457 Employee	2,508.93	2,508.93
23020 Accrued Leave	7,681.68	7,681.68
23030 Federal Withholding	0.00	5,514.13
23100 State Unemployment	541.89	482.56
23110 State Withholding	58.35	396.84
23401 Health Insurance (company paid)	-834.63	-474.32

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2023

	TOTAL	
	AS OF MAY 31, 2023	AS OF APR 30, 2023 (PP)
Total 23000 Payroll Liabilities	9,956.22	16,109.82
23500 General Appropriations		
Arts Council	0.00	85,750.00
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce	37,088.38	54,245.86
Big Sky Community Housing Trust	561,355.08	571,921.05
Big Sky Community Organization	346,998.39	422,207.59
Big Sky Discovery Academy	7,561.08	7,561.08
Big Sky Fire Department	1,511,520.00	1,585,495.00
Big Sky Owners Association	262,000.00	262,000.00
Big Sky SNO, Inc.	81,568.98	81,568.98
Big Sky Trails, Recreation & Parks District	9,600.00	12,600.00
Big Sky Transportation District	1,212,263.44	1,212,263.44
Food Bank	2,148.87	35,377.65
Friends of the Comm. Library	39,409.34	52,271.63
Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District	356,268.05	497,736.23
Gallatin Invasive Spe. Alliance	32,336.60	38,800.00
Gallatin River Task Force	381,007.05	381,007.05
Montana Land Reliance	15,000.00	15,000.00
Morningstar	111,091.74	143,728.19
Sheriff's Office	835,609.64	841,444.66
Visit Big Sky	315,597.73	330,287.79
Women in Action	128,500.58	180,738.67
Total 23500 General Appropriations	6,246,924.95	6,812,004.87
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$6,256,881.17	\$6,828,114.69
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,279,065.82	\$6,833,874.17
Long-Term Liabilities		
23600 WRRF Phase I Project	18,842,906.00	18,842,906.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$18,842,906.00	\$18,842,906.00
Total Liabilities	\$25,121,971.82	\$25,676,780.17
Equity		
30100 Retained Earnings	8,587,473.67	8,587,473.67
30200 Committed Fund Balance	1,752,883.94	1,752,883.94
30300 Fund Balance	5,482,842.14	5,482,842.14
30500 Investment in Fixed Assets	480,583.87	480,583.87
31000 Restricted Fund Balance	2,773,206.17	2,773,206.17
32000 Nonspendable Fund Balance	2,249.92	2,249.92
Net Income	3,331,284.29	3,114,004.65
Total Equity	\$22,410,524.00	\$22,193,244.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$47,532,495.82	\$47,870,024.53

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Budget vs Actual - Month

May 2023

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
40010 Interest Earned	73,616.60	214.58	73,402.02	34,307.30 %
40020 Interest from Tax Collections	1,369.59	497.16	872.43	275.48 %
40030 Late Fees from Tax Collections	1,189.87	2,857.92	-1,668.05	41.63 %
41000 Tax Collections	310,895.15	448,119.66	-137,224.51	69.38 %
Total Income	\$387,071.21	\$451,689.32	\$ -64,618.11	85.69 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$387,071.21	\$451,689.32	\$ -64,618.11	85.69 %
Expenses				
60000 Bad Debt		41.67	-41.67	
60010 Bank Charges	5,696.36	5.00	5,691.36	113,927.20 %
60080 Dues & Meeting Expenses	9,644.96	4,166.74	5,478.22	231.47 %
60090 Public Information & Engagement	47,291.49	9,624.99	37,666.50	491.34 %
61000 Facilities		2,179.50	-2,179.50	
62000 Insurance	72.65	65.58	7.07	110.78 %
63000 Office Expenses	5,067.60	5,165.92	-98.32	98.10 %
64000 Professional Fees	10,590.56	14,991.72	-4,401.16	70.64 %
65000 Travel	0.00	261.63	-261.63	0.00 %
66000 Utilities	519.45	652.00	-132.55	79.67 %
67000 Personnel Expenses	47,813.09	56,324.18	-8,511.09	84.89 %
68000 Debt service		0.00	0.00	
Total Expenses	\$126,696.16	\$93,478.93	\$33,217.23	135.53 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$260,375.05	\$358,210.39	\$ -97,835.34	72.69 %
Other Income				
70000 Other Income	-43,095.41		-43,095.41	
Total Other Income	\$ -43,095.41	\$0.00	\$ -43,095.41	0.00%
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -43,095.41	\$0.00	\$ -43,095.41	0.00%
NET INCOME	\$217,279.64	\$358,210.39	\$ -140,930.75	60.66 %

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Profit and Loss - Comparative by Month

May 2023

	TOTAL			
	MAY 2023	MAY 2022 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Income				
40010 Interest Earned	73,616.60	4,194.36	69,422.24	1,655.13 %
40020 Interest from Tax Collections	1,369.59	452.30	917.29	202.81 %
40030 Late Fees from Tax Collections	1,189.87	579.38	610.49	105.37 %
41000 Tax Collections	310,895.15	282,064.77	28,830.38	10.22 %
Total Income	\$387,071.21	\$287,290.81	\$99,780.40	34.73 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$387,071.21	\$287,290.81	\$99,780.40	34.73 %
Expenses				
60010 Bank Charges	5,696.36	2.00	5,694.36	284,718.00 %
60080 Dues & Meeting Expenses	9,644.96	3,954.75	5,690.21	143.88 %
60090 Public Information & Engagement	47,291.49	7,662.76	39,628.73	517.16 %
62000 Insurance	72.65	63.70	8.95	14.05 %
63000 Office Expenses	5,067.60	3,328.53	1,739.07	52.25 %
64000 Professional Fees	10,590.56	14,270.00	-3,679.44	-25.78 %
65000 Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66000 Utilities	519.45	385.62	133.83	34.71 %
67000 Personnel Expenses	47,813.09	33,141.13	14,671.96	44.27 %
Total Expenses	\$126,696.16	\$62,808.49	\$63,887.67	101.72 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$260,375.05	\$224,482.32	\$35,892.73	15.99 %
Other Income				
70000 Other Income	-43,095.41		-43,095.41	
Total Other Income	\$ -43,095.41	\$0.00	\$ -43,095.41	0.00%
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -43,095.41	\$0.00	\$ -43,095.41	0.00%
NET INCOME	\$217,279.64	\$224,482.32	\$ -7,202.68	-3.21 %

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

Budget vs Actual: YTD

July 2022 - June 2023

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
40010 Interest Earned	286,008.88	2,575.00	283,433.88	11,107.14 %
40020 Interest from Tax Collections	7,838.46	5,966.00	1,872.46	131.39 %
40030 Late Fees from Tax Collections	14,952.83	34,295.00	-19,342.17	43.60 %
41000 Tax Collections	8,224,719.35	18,143,882.05	-9,919,162.70	45.33 %
Total Income	\$8,533,519.52	\$18,186,718.05	\$ -9,653,198.53	46.92 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$8,533,519.52	\$18,186,718.05	\$ -9,653,198.53	46.92 %
Expenses				
60000 Bad Debt		500.00	-500.00	
60010 Bank Charges	5,749.76	60.00	5,689.76	9,582.93 %
60080 Dues & Meeting Expenses	23,261.28	50,000.00	-26,738.72	46.52 %
60090 Public Information & Engagement	134,884.63	130,000.00	4,884.63	103.76 %
61000 Facilities	13,995.91	15,018.00	-1,022.09	93.19 %
62000 Insurance	6,806.21	7,367.00	-560.79	92.39 %
63000 Office Expenses	69,669.77	71,835.50	-2,165.73	96.99 %
64000 Professional Fees	245,152.26	241,390.00	3,762.26	101.56 %
65000 Travel	152.79	5,045.00	-4,892.21	3.03 %
66000 Utilities	11,397.35	7,209.00	4,188.35	158.10 %
67000 Personnel Expenses	584,643.64	675,000.00	-90,356.36	86.61 %
68000 Debt service	768,003.29	17,926.36	750,076.93	4,284.21 %
Total Expenses	\$1,863,716.89	\$1,221,350.86	\$642,366.03	152.59 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$6,669,802.63	\$16,965,367.19	\$ -10,295,564.56	39.31 %
NET INCOME	\$6,669,802.63	\$16,965,367.19	\$ -10,295,564.56	39.31 %



FY24 BSRAD Subcommittee Representation

All subcommittees supported by Staff

Elevate Big Sky: Grace Young

Wellness District: Kevin Germain

School District: TBD

Library District: TBD

Incorporation Exploration: Sarah Blechta

Application: Ciara Wolfe & Steve Johnson

Reserve Strategies: Grace Young & Steve Johnson

Joint County: Kevin Germain

Strategic Investments: Kevin Germain & Steve Johnson

- **Capital Imp Plan**
- **3% Renewal**
- **1% Renewal**
- **Current 1% Projects**

Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach

FY24 Opportunity Fund

Big Sky SNO (Sustainability Network Organization)

Lizzie Peyton PO
Box 161595
Big Sky, MT 59716

bigskysno@gmail.com O:
612-723-0343
M: 612-723-0343

Lizzie Peyton

PO Box 161595
99 Town Center Avenue, Unit A3
Big Sky, MT 59716

bigskysno@gmail.com O:
612-723-0343
M: 612-723-0343

Application

Project Name*

Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach

Description*

Zero-waste events create uniquely concentrated opportunities to educate residents, visitors & vendors on what is recyclable and compostable in the area. SNO will collaborate with event organizers at 25 events occurring in the next 2 months. At these events, Big Sky can move the needle on landfill diversion outright & through a ripple effect with education.

The deliverables are:

- 1 page guidelines & a full 10 page handbook on how to host a zero-waste event to event organizers
- Zero-waste vendor agreement to provide resources and a commitment from event vendors
- Outreach to vendors to ensure they have the correct resources to correctly purchase
- Event compliance checks: providing vendors with compostable/recyclable substitutes onsite in the case that they're not compliant
- Organizing volunteer "trash talkers" and preparing them with information for event waste management stations
- Waste weights to track the amount of diversion from the landfill

The goals of this program are:

- Increase community recycling and composting
- Divert from the landfill
- Reduce community emissions while preserving and protecting the outdoor lifestyle

As part of our Consumption & Waste Targeted Improvement Priority (TIP) in the Big Sky Community Climate Action Plan (CAP), zero-waste events can be an essential tool in creating widespread adoption of sustainable best practices and an accessible gateway to other sustainable lifestyle choices.

Investment Type*

Programming

Impact Area*

Recreation & Conservation

Location*

Where will the project be taking place?

Big Sky Resort Area District: Primarily Town Center area events and also further afield including Big Sky Resort. Including but not limited to: Summer Farmer's Market, Music in the Mountains, The Biggie, The Rut, Community Rodeo, PBR & the Biggest Week in Big Sky, and Wildlands Festival. Tens of thousands of residents and visitors alike will attend these events with an opportunity to learn more about proper recycling & composting in Big Sky.

Community Benefit*

Please explain the community benefit of the project. Include details such as the measurable and identified need this project will address, populations served, metrics for success, etc.

SNO's recently released Waste Composition Assessment (WCA) reflects a massive need to increase landfill diversion. The WCA reflects Big Sky's overall waste diversion rate to be 10.68%, compared to a 32.1% national average. Improvement will come through consistent and persistent education and accessibility to composting and recycling. Composting is especially imperative as food in a landfill produces methane, a greenhouse gas ~25 times more potent than carbon. Personal interaction and visible effort from community event organizers signals that Big Sky takes landfill diversion seriously. Effectively reaching out to individuals can take a great deal of time, and zero-waste events create efficient widespread outreach to residents, visitors and vendors about actions they can take to reduce what is sent to Logan Landfill. This project will serve every individual organizing and attending these events. Metrics for success will be measured by weight of waste diverted from the landfill.

Amount Requested*

What is the Resort Tax request for this project?

\$7,750.00

Total Cost*

What is the total cost of this project? Include all project expenses from inception to completion of the project in this amount.

\$20,000.00

Date of Funding*

When do you plan to have incurred the costs being requested?

09/20/2023

Additional Information

Please provide any additional information on this request if needed.

We anticipate the initial funds to be requested promptly (for July Farmer's Market, PBR, Music in the Mountains) and final funds to be requested in mid-September for The Rut (Sept 15-17).

Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1

FY24 Opportunity Fund

Gallatin River Task Force

Kristin Gardner PO
Box 160513 Big
Sky, MT 59716

headwaters@gallatinrivertaskforce.org O:
406-993-2519
M: 406-539-2350

Kristin Gardner

PO Box 160513
32 Meadow Village Drive, Unit 6
Big Sky, MT 59716

kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org O:
406-993-2519
M: 406-539-2350

Application

Project Name*

Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1

Description*

The Gallatin River Task Force is applying as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of the The Big Sky Landscape Partnership (BSLP), a collaboration between the Gallatin River Task Force, Grow Wild, Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization, and the Big Sky Fire Department. The purpose of BSLP is to create a website to host information on landscaping practices that prioritize water conservation, native species, drought resilience, & reduced wildfire risk. The website will include resources such as educational videos, landscape design templates, plant lists, and more. In later stages we plan to create classes & workshops, both in-person & online.

The partner organizations have unique, yet overlapping, missions related to a healthy, natural environment and thriving Big Sky Community. The partners have signed a formal Partnership Agreement to ensure shared responsibilities & collaboration. In later stages, we plan to develop a partnership model for retail, landscape professionals, and HOAs to get engaged.

Despite having similar goals, messaging from so many entities can be confusing and overwhelming to the general public. Aligning messaging and delivering resources via a central hub, will result in increased engagement for all partners and make it easier for community members to get involved in landscaping practices that have a positive impact on our natural resources and community safety. This concept was inspired by a similar collaborative, Utah-based localscapes.com.

Investment Type*

Programming

Impact Area*

Recreation & Conservation

Location*

Where will the project be taking place?

The project itself will result in a website that acts as a hub of information for sustainable landscaping practices that positively impact water quality & quantity, wildfire defense, and wildlife habitat. The target area for project impact is all landscapes within the Big Sky Resort Area District. This includes residential and commercial lawns, public park strips, and other common areas. In further phases of the project, we intend to develop in-person and online workshops. In-person events will take place within Big Sky, at community centers or public gardens/open spaces.

Community Benefit*

Please explain the community benefit of the project. Include details such as the measurable and identified need this project will address, populations served, metrics for success, etc.

Increased growth, development, and tourism have placed extreme stress on water quality & quantity, wildlife habitat, and our ability to create wildfire defense. The BSLP intends to address these issues through cohesive, sustainable landscape practices that address the following natural resource and community concerns:

- **Water Quantity:** Reduce water use by prioritizing drought-tolerant plants and efficient

irrigation.

- Water Quality: Reduce fertilizer that can enter our streams and groundwater.
- Wildfire Resilience: Reduce the threat & spread of wildfire.
- Wildlife Habitat: Reduce the spread of invasive species that threaten wildlife habitat and survival.
- Ecosystem Resilience: Reduce the impacts of extreme weather events such as flooding and drought.

Populations served include residents & businesses within BSRAD boundary.

Metrics for success include: website traffic; increased participation in BSLP partner programs, & number of partners organizations engaged (HOAs, landscape partners, etc.).

Amount Requested*

What is the Resort Tax request for this project?

\$25,000.00

Total Cost*

What is the total cost of this project? Include all project expenses from inception to completion of the project in this amount.

\$146,084.72

Date of Funding*

When do you plan to have incurred the costs being requested?

07/31/2023

Additional Information

Please provide any additional information on this request if needed.