



Board Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2023 | 9:00am

September's Board meeting was held on Wednesday, September 13th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:04:06](#) Present: Sarah Blechta, Ciara Wolfe, Kevin Germain, and Steve Johnson. Absent: Grace Young

B. Public Comment

[00:04:35](#) Brad Niva with Visit Big Sky and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce reminded everyone, especially residents, to take their survey.

C. Consent Agenda: Action

a. Approval of Minutes: August 9th, 2023

b. Finance Report: June 2023

[00:05:39](#) **Motion**: to approve the Consent Agenda: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:05:53](#) Steve Johnson discussed ending the fiscal year under budget and the audit is underway. Steve will discuss investment options at the next meeting.


[00:06:26](#) **Vote: Motion Passed**

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. CIP Presentation: Discussion

[00:06:41](#) Daniel Bierschwale introduced TischlerBise and the Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

[00:08:11](#) Colin McAweeney presented a draft of the CIP and explained the process. *The draft of the report can be viewed here:*  [\[link\]](#)

[00:21:51](#) Board Members asked questions and Colin McAweeney discussed timelines and projects. Budgeting based on the CIP and board priorities were discussed.

[00:27:58](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained property tax relief through Resort Tax funding.

[00:36:24](#) *Public Comment*: John Woerner asked about prioritization. The BSRAD Board and other community entities will work together to prioritize projects.

[00:37:35](#) *Public Comment*: Laura Seyfang discussed 'Our Big Sky' report and public surveys.

[00:38:39](#) Sarah Blechta explained how 'Our Big Sky' and the CIP will be used for BSRAD planning and budgeting. Ciara Wolfe discussed definitions around critical needs and differentiating wants. Daniel Bierschwale explained that Water Quality, Housing, and Transportation/Transit were identified as 83% of CIP.


[00:43:45](#) *Public Comment:* John Zirkle asked about prioritization and ongoing maintenance costs. Colin McAweeney discussed best practices.

[00:47:50](#) *Public Comment:* Jackie Haines asked about prioritization and constraints. Colin McAweeney discussed possible concerns.

[00:49:16](#) Kevin Germain discussed using the CIP for budgeting, reserves, and keeping the document updated.

b. Local Governance Work Session Results: Action

[00:50:21](#) Sarah Blechta explained the purpose for the subcommittee and community discussions around incorporation. Sarah discussed next steps and requested approval to house this report on the BSRAD Website, approval to expand the current incorporation subcommittee to include the incorporation exploration working group (The group includes Danny Bierschwale, Erin Bills, Sarah Blechta, Sarah Gaither, Katie Grice, Michelle Horning, Steve Johnson, Matt Kidd, Tallie Lancey, Brad Niva, David O'Connor and Ennion Williams.) and approval to generate a request for proposals (RFP) for a rigorous, unconstrained incorporation study funded by BSRAD.

[00:54:03](#) Emily presented results from the previous work sessions and explained the process. *Report can be viewed here:*  [↩](#)

[01:00:24](#) Committee/group members explained their reasons for participating and their goals.

[01:10:09](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the Draft Incorporation Exploration Committee Charter. Sarah Blechta explained that Steve Johnson is involved on the subcommittee but will refrain from voting due to conflict of interest.

[01:12:35](#) Kim Beatty answered Kevin Germain's questions regarding legal constraints and funding.

[01:13:29](#) **Motion:** to accept Charter and approve housing this report on the BSRAD Website and approve to expand the current incorporation subcommittee to include the incorporation exploration working group: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:13:59](#) Sarah Blechta discussed impacts and identifying impacts to Resort Tax. Ciara Wolfe discussed the need for accurate information and community education around the topic.

[01:16:00](#) *Public Comment:* Mike Scholz asked questions regarding elections, voting, and district boundaries.

[01:17:39](#) *Public Comment:* Barbara Rowley shared comments.

[01:22:18](#) Sarah Blechta explained intention of working session. Daniel Bierschwale explained the reason for the RFP and educating voters. Daniel specified that BSRAD will not be moving forward a vote.

[01:27:37](#) **Vote: Motion Passed**

[01:28:13](#) Kevin Germain asked legal questions related to funding RFP. Sarah Blechta explained the reason for RFP and how it relates to the CIP. Board Members discussed funding. Sarah explained BSRAD is a neutral party as it relates to incorporation and is interested in knowing the facts for our community instead of misinformation.

[01:34:53](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed the roadmap, budgeting, and fiscal impacts of initiatives.

[01:40:41](#) Kim Beatty answered Board member's legal questions.

[01:41:16](#) **Motion:** approval to generate a request for proposals (RFP) for a rigorous, unconstrained incorporation study including in-depth community engagement funded by BSRAD: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:41:23](#) Ciara Wolfe requested to hear from the community regarding funding priorities. Board members discussed funding through other entities.

[01:43:09](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** (Steve Johnsons abstained from vote)

2. New Business

a. Opportunity Fund Application Review: Action

- Music in the Mountains Transport Vehicle (Electric UTV)

[01:44:35](#) Brian Hurlbut with the Art's Council answered questions from Board members.

[01:47:36](#) **Motion:** to approve funding the Music in the Mountains Transport Vehicle (Electric UTV): Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:48:31](#) **Vote: Motion Passed Unanimously**

b. Center for Large Landscape Conservation-

US-191/MT-64 Assessment: Action Plan Development: Discussion

[01:49:03](#) Abigail Breuer with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation presented US-191/MT-64 Wildlife & Transportation Assessment.

[01:54:12](#) Elizabeth Fairbank discussed methods and findings from the assessment.

[01:57:56](#) Elizabeth reviewed priority sites/areas and recommendations including wildlife overpasses, traffic calming, animal detection systems, and fencing.

[02:01:52](#) Elizabeth reviewed next steps for Fall 2023 into Spring 2024. Board members asked questions.

E. Public Comment

[02:08:06](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

S Johnson

S Johnson (Nov 8, 2023 15:55 MST)

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

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