



Board Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 2023 | 9:00am

Big Sky Resort Area District
11 Lone Peak Drive #204
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November's Board meeting was held on Wednesday, November 8th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:01:50](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Kevin Germain and Ciara Wolfe attended remotely, and Sarah Blechta, Steven Johnson, and Grace Young were in attendance.

B. Public Comment

[00:02:10](#) Kristin Drain reminded everyone of the 2024 Annual Business Registration due date. Kristin explained board openings and election information.

[00:03:49](#) Daniel Bierschwale invited the public to join Maddison County Commissioner Bill Todds open hours every 2nd Thursday of the month.

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: September 13, October 4, October 25 & October 31, 2023

b. Finance Report: July, August, & September 2023

[00:04:30](#) **Motion**: approve consent agenda as presented: Grace Young

Second: Steve Johnson

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

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Subcommittee Updates: Discussion

[00:05:27](#) Grace Young discussed next steps with Elevate Big Sky, including housing and the childcare report available on elevatebigsky.org.

[00:07:44](#) Sarah Blechta gave updates on wellness district initiatives and Daniel Bierschwale explained the process.

[00:09:16](#) Sarah Blechta discussed upcoming incorporation exploration meeting.

[00:11:01](#) Daniel Bierschwale invited the public to share feedback and learn more about the MT64/191 optimization plan at mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us191mt64/

[00:12:18](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the 1% and 3% renewals and how they relate; 3% renewal could happen as early as 2024.

2. New Business

a. FY23 Audited Financials: Action

[00:14:41](#) Morgan Scarr reviewed the FY23 Audit and reports.

[00:19:55](#) **Motion:** to approve FY23 Audited Financials as presented: Steve Johnson

Second: Grace Young

[00:20:34](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

b. Investment Update: Discussion


[00:20:55](#) DA Davidson presented an investment update. View here: [!\[\]\(f1c5da15572e3e09d343161be98f508d_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(2a30f8f4aa91bd6e751eede05a6a74ad_img.jpg\)](#)

c. Reserve Strategy: Discussion

[00:26:16](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained long-term planning and reserves. Board members discussed reserve strategies, Capital Improvement Plan, and planning for emergencies.

d. FY25 Allocation Draft Resolution: Discussion

[00:30:23](#) Sarah Blechta explained board work session process and intentions.

[00:31:17](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed allocation process and opportunities for improvement including clarity and up-front expectations. Daniel introduced draft Resolution (view here:  [↔](#)) This resolution will be reviewed and finalized in January.

[00:34:44](#) Sarah Blechta discussed impact areas and proposed allocation percentages.

[00:37:09](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed proposed budget and prioritization. Daniel explained property tax offset through government service funding.

[00:40:49](#) Scoring criteria will be discussed at the Board Work Session following the meeting. (watch here: <https://media.avcaptureall.cloud/meeting/d1b5dbbe-547b-4bbf-9a56-e266a5338cee>)

[00:44:36](#) Board members discussed resolution and encouraged feedback from applicants and the public.

[00:46:11](#) Laura Seyfang made public comments in support of resolution.

[00:46:48](#) Whitney Montgomery of the Big Sky Community Organization shared public comments.

[00:48:22](#) Ashley Wilson from Big Sky Community Organization and Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association asked questions and Daniel Bierschwale explained application process and new software.

[00:52:05](#) Sarah Blechta requested feedback and discussed strategic and thoughtful long-term planning.

[00:53:04](#) Brad Niva with the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce shared public comment and asked questions related to impact areas.

[01:00:49](#) Tally Lancey shared public comments related to public engagement. Board members discussed challenges in engaging the public and encouraged more community involvement.

e. Big Sky Transportation District Update: Discussion

[01:04:55](#) Darren Brugmann Executive Director of the Big Sky Transportation District shared updates on strategic planning

[01:12:25](#) Darren discussed winter schedule which can be view at: <https://skylinebus.com/>

[01:13:26](#) Darren explained record ridership with over 250,000 riders this year. Darren reviewed changes to the service area, schedule, and vehicles.

[01:18:48](#) Sarah Blechta asked questions about alternative fuels and bus timing/delays/cancellation notifications, and Darren discussed.

[01:23:54](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed the MT64/191 Optimization Plan and opportunities for the Transportation District.

[01:26:28](#) Anna Johnson shared public comments related to service area and workforce needs.

f. Position Announcement: Action

[01:27:34](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained need for additional support for strategic initiatives. Daniel requested a Director of Economic and Strategic Development position to support budgeting and roadmap objectives.

[01:30:02](#) **Motion:** accept job description and post as presented: Grace Young

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:30:21](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

E. Public Comment: *None*

[01:31:01](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Jan 12, 2024 14:01 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-Carroll, Office Manager

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