



Big Sky Resort Area District 2023 Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

February 8, 2023

February 27, 2023

March 8, 2023

April 19, 2023

May 3, 2023 (Commission/BSRAD Meeting)

June 5, 2023 (Application Review)

June 6, 2023 (Application Review)

June 8, 2023 (Application Review)

July 12, 2023

August 9, 2023

September 13, 2023

October 4, 2023 (Commission/BSRAD Meeting)

October 25, 2023 (Work Session)

October 31, 2023 (Work Session)

November 8, 2023

November 8, 2023 (Work Session)



Meeting Minutes

January 11th, 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

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

[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.)

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.*



Meeting Minutes

February 8th, 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

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:01:16](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order; all board members present.

B. Public Comment

[00:02:30](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed comments emailed to the District relating to the Transportation District.

[00:03:01](#) Ashley Schwader introduced herself and Two Suns Consulting.

[00:05:09](#) Courtney Jennings representing the Transportation District discussed communication and how they are improving services.

[00:06:27](#) Sarah Blechta clarified for public knowledge that the Transportation District is funded through interlocal agreements like other government services and are not included in the regular allocation process.

[00:07:17](#) Kim Beatty, the District's Attorney, explained Steve Johnson formally declared his conflicts of interest relating to the Local Governance Inc, and will not be participating in any debate, voting, or seeking to influence the board on any issues relating to the Local Governance Inc.

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: January 11th, 2023

b. Finance Report: December 2022

[00:08:21](#) **Motion**: to approve Consent Agenda: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[00:08:27](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Executive Report: *Discussion*

[00:08:39](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed investment opportunities with the state Board of Investments and FY24 Letters of Inquiry updates. Leaders of the Ennis community will be visiting Big Sky and attending a Q&A regarding resort tax, and it's impacts on the community.

b. Committee Reports: Discussion

Application Revision

[00:13:24](#) Steve Johnson discussed the application process and suggested a short-form application process for requests less than \$25,000. Board members discussed a procedure for an opportunity fund.

[00:16:49](#) Kevin Germain considered a streamlined application review and minimizing questions. Board members discussed and encouraged applicants to clearly answer questions.

Elevate Big Sky

[00:18:57](#) Grace Young and Ciara Wolfe gave updates on Elevate Big Sky and the RFP for housing projects.

County Commission

[00:20:34](#) Kevin Germain gave updates on Gallatin and Madison County Commissions, including TIGER Grant and Transportation.

Incorporation Exploration

[00:21:49](#) Sarah Blechta was notified that the Local Governance group meeting is being postponed. Sarah encouraged the public to send her any questions and they will be compiled and asked when the Local Governance group meets next.

Strategic Investments

[00:22:36](#) 2 Capital Improvement Plan Bids were received, and they will be opened later in the agenda.

c. Post Office Update: Discussion

[00:23:53](#) Al Malinowski gave Post Office updates and explained the deadline is being extended for now while USPS discussions are progressing, and long-term options are being considered. Al answered questions from Board Members.

d. FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan: Action

[00:30:36](#) In January the Board met to review and update the District's Strategic Plan. Daniel Bierschwale introduced the revised draft FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan. Board Members discussed and suggested minor edits for clarity.

[00:37:33](#) **Motion:** to approve the FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan with rewording of "Develop a Tax Retention Strategy":
Kevin Germain



Second: Steve Johnson

[00:37:51](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

2. New Business

a. FY22 Annual Report: Discussion

[00:37:59](#) Daniel Bierschwale shared the FY22 Annual Report. This year celebrated 30 years of Resort Tax and the accomplishments throughout our community. The Annual Report will be delivered to mailboxes.

View FY22 Annual Report  

b. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bid Opening: Action

[00:43:15](#) Kevin Germain explained the CIP bidding and the reason for creating a CIP. Steve Johnson discussed the importance for zoning and planning. 2 bids were received.

[00:45:56](#) **Motion:** for the subcommittee to review the CIP bids, decide, and award: Ciara Wolfe

Seconded: Kevin Germain

[00:46:40](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

c. Reserves Strategy: Action

[00:46:56](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the Reserve Strategy which includes the Operating Reserve (3 months of Operating Costs), Emergency Reserve, and Capital Reserve. Board Members discussed reserve commitments.

[00:52:34](#) Sarah Blechta discussed the benefit for long-term capital reserves. Ciara Wolfe discussed the value of making reserve decisions before application review meetings.

[00:56:27](#) **Motion:** fund the Reserve Strategy presented: Steve Johnson

Seconded: Grace Young

[00:56:42](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

d. Government Services Annual Update: Action

Big Sky Water and Sewer District no. 363

[00:57:17](#) Ron Edwards with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District gave updates, shared the project schedule, and discussed costs.

Big Sky Fire Department

[01:07:08](#) Greg Megaard with the Big Sky Fire Department gave updates regarding board elections and operations. The Fire Department is expecting to request funds awarded for the training facility within the next few months.

[01:10:52](#) Greg Megaard shared call volume history and projections. Board Members requested call volume of residents versus nonresidents.

[01:16:42](#) Greg Megaard shared designs for the Fire Training Facility and discussed the timeline for permitting, review, and building.

Big Sky Transportation District

[01:19:11](#) Due to a medical emergency the Transportation District will be presenting at the next Board meeting.

The Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District

[01:19:46](#) Scott Altman and Mace Mangold gave updates regarding board members, upcoming meetings, and annexation documents. Mace Mangold discussed environmental impacts.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

[01:32:47](#) Daniel Haden gave updates and discussed call volume. The Sheriffs Office is planning to increase coverage 24/7 and incorporate Search & Rescue under the Sheriffs Office.

E. Public Comment

[01:37:25](#) Motion to Adjourn

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

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



Meeting Minutes

February 27th, 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

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.

Visit Big Sky

[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

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



Board Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 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

March's Board meeting was held on Wednesday, March 8th at 9:00 am at the Resort Tax office and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:01:08](#) All board members present; Kevin Germain attending virtually.

B. Public Comment: *NONE*

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: February 8th & 27th, 2023

b. Finance Report: January 2023

[00:02:01](#) **Motion**: to accept the Consent Agenda

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[00:02:16](#) Board members discussed finances and investment options. An investment proposal to be introduced in the future. Additionally, the District is considering options for event/vendor collections.

[00:04:59](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Executive Report: *Action*

[00:05:12](#) Daniel Bierschwale gave updates regarding communications and public engagement. The Capital Improvement Plan process is underway. Daniel discussed legislative bills related to special purpose districts.

[00:10:18](#) Daniel reviewed Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) and application processes, and eligibility criteria.

[00:11:54](#) *Public Comment*: Brad Niva, from the Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky, requested an opportunity for applicants to view new/updated applications.

[00:12:26](#) Kevin Germain discussed LOIs and overview infographics.

b. Committee Reports: *Discussion*

Application Revision: *No updates.*

Elevate Big Sky: *No updates.*

County Commission

[00:13:27](#) Kevin Germain reviewed Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District (NRMEDD) scope of work regarding Economic Impact reports.

[00:16:21](#) **Motion:** to move forward with the scope of work with NRMEDD: Ciara Wolfe

[00:16:39](#) Board members discussed importance and value of reports.

[00:17:44](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

Incorporation Exploration

[00:17:57](#) Sarah Blechta explained they met with the incorporation group to learn next steps and facilitate transparent and open conversation. *No updates currently.*

Strategic Investments: *No updates.*

c. Government Services FY24 Funding: Action

[00:18:46](#) Sarah Blechta explained Government Services funding requests and contracts.

[00:19:19](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed the proposed changes to Government Services contracts for FY24 funding. Daniel discussed steps required for water and sewer upgrades and ARPA funding.

[00:24:30](#) Board members discussed the proposed changes and previous awards.

Big Sky Fire Department

[00:25:40](#) **Motion:** approve the proposed Big Sky Fire Department FY24 funding: Steve Johnson

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:26:05](#) **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

Big Sky Transportation District

[00:26:26](#) Board members asked questions and the Transportation District discussed current routes and micro-transit services.

[00:29:37](#) Ciara Wolfe asked questions about Skyline Connect micro-transit service and locations.

[00:31:06](#) Steve Johnson asked questions related to transportation services to work-force housing within Big Sky. Steve and Ciara Wolfe requested consideration for service to work-force housing locations within Big Sky.

[00:34:18](#) Jennifer Boyer discussed the creation of an Urban Transportation District.

[00:37:59](#) Kevin Germain requested resident vs tourist ridership numbers for Skyline Connect. Sarah Blechta expressed the importance of getting drunk drivers off the road regardless of resident or tourist. Board members discussed transportation concerns and needs.

[00:43:08](#) **Motion:** approve the proposed amended amount for the Big Sky Transportation District.

[00:43:15](#) **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

[00:43:39](#) **Motion:** approve proposed increase for 2 additional sheriffs, detectives, and search and rescue for Gallatin County Sheriff's Office FY24 funding: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[00:44:02](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained this request has been vetted by the subcommittee. The board appreciated Search and Rescue's Facebook post thanking Resort Tax.

[00:45:56](#) **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District

[00:46:08](#) **Motion:** to approve proposed amendment to Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District's FY24 contract: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:47:16](#) **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

2. New Business

a. FY24 Request Overview: Discussion

[00:47:34](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed highlights from LOI applications and board members discussed.

b. SNO's Climate Action Plan: Discussion

[00:50:21](#) Lizzy Peyton, from Big Sky Sustainable Network Organization, presented their new Climate Action Plan.

[01:07:56](#) Steve Johnson asked questions related to 1% for the Planet and local business and Chamber commitments.

[01:08:32](#) Kevin Germain asked about next steps, additional metrics, and best investment options.

E. Public Comment: *NONE*

[01:12:49](#) Motion to Adjourn

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

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



Board Meeting Minutes

April 19th, 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

April's Board meeting was held on Wednesday, April 19th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

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

B. Public Comment

[00:02:11](#) Daniel Ierscwa reminded everyone of the TIGER Grant meetings.

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: March 8th, 2023

[00:02:54](#) **Motion** to approve Consent Agenda: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:03:05](#) Steve Johnson discussed finances and creating an investment policy

[00:04:20](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Committee Reports: *Action*

 Innovation Revision: *no updates currently*

 Elevate Big Sky: *no updates currently*

 County Commission


[00:04:47](#) Daniel Ierscwa discussed the upcoming joint county commission meeting on May 3.

 Innovation Exploration

[00:05:22](#) Sarah Secata announced a working session that will include herself, Daniel Ierscwa, a facilitator, and the local governance group to discuss concerns and how innovation may or may not solve those issues, and its impact on the community



 Strategic Investments

[00:06:41](#) Daniel Ierscwa discussed a roadmap for community infrastructure investment, funding, and voter

representation. (View here:  [\[link\]](#))

[00:09:48](#) Daniel discussed 5 ways for the community to include additional investment in infrastructure investments, property tax equity and access to government services, voter representation, digital and other online sources, and data-based voter education.

[00:15:40](#) Daniel explained Targeted Economic Development Districts (TEDD) and how they may affect the community

[00:18:29](#) Daniel reviewed a chart outlining strategic initiatives and efforts for Infrastructure Investment, Funding, and Voter Representation. (View here:  )

[00:29:46](#) Kevin Germain discussed the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan and future infrastructure needs and how these may be funded. Kevin stressed community collaboration and partnerships.

[00:31:40](#) Steve Johnson discussed a transportation corridor within a county

[00:32:10](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed Kim Beatty's legal memo and encourage everyone to take the time to read it and learn about these important community topics. Ciara emphasized the need for fact-based information and focus on steps one at a time in the correct order

[00:38:11](#) **Motion:** to move the outlined roadmap forward with the community Ciara Wolfe

[00:39:19](#) Ciara Wolfe asked about next steps and Daniel discussed what he outlined incorporation exploration, forming a wellness district coalition, (Ciara proposed to estimate the current local beverage tax coalition) and continue focus on fact-based voter education and encourage the community to register and vote.

[00:41:28](#) Sarah Eckert suggested creating subcommittees for items on the roadmap and include in committee updates.

[00:43:37](#) Daniel discussed what he outlined steps for districts and items on the roadmap. Sarah Eckert explained term of the Resort Tax and voters can extend/renew Resort Tax.

[00:48:14](#) **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

[00:48:27](#) Sarah Eckert requested that anyone interested in joining a coalition to please reach out. Sarah also discussed how the board election was unopposed

2. New Business

a. FY24 Allocation Update: Discussion

[00:49:33](#) Daniel discussed what he gave an overview of FY24 allocations, project allocations total \$11,044,535 and represent 52 projects from 20 sponsoring organizations. Board members will begin reviewing allocations

[00:52:43](#) Allocation Review Meetings will be held June 5th, 6th, and 8th at 5:30 pm at BASE.

[00:54:17](#) Board members discussed how Resort Tax offsets property taxes by funding local government districts

b. Draft Operating Budget: Discussion

[00:57:19](#) Daniel discussed what he reviewed the Operating Budget draft and discussed inflation and professional fees. The budget will be approved at the May 3rd meeting.

[01:00:31](#) Steve Johnson discussed possible investment income helping to offset operating costs and encourage the board to investigate investment opportunities.

[01:02:03](#) Kevin Germain discussed 20% increase and professional fees.

[01:02:52](#) Ciara Wolfe noted that BSRAD shares the budget openly and posts it publicly for transparency

c. 2023 Business Registration Data: Discussion

[01:04:21](#) Daniel Ierscwa e reviewed the 2023 Business Registration data. Board members discuss

d. Canyon Pipeline Feasibility Request: Action

[01:08:18](#) Daniel Ierscwa e and Kim Beatty explained and reviewed 1% for infrastructure and Canyon Pipeline Feasibility Request and how they are connected

[01:13:26](#) Board members discuss and asked legal questions. Kim Beatty explained 1% vs 3% funds and how they can be allocated

[01:26:19](#) Ace Mangold discuss feasibility studies and section in

[01:38:10](#) **Motion:** to approve request of \$380,000 for feasibility study out of the 3%: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Trace Young

e. Collective Retreats Letter of Recognition Request: Action

[01:39:51](#) Daniel Ierscwa e e ained collective retreats request a letter of recognition and as a policy the district only writes letters of support for projects with direct public benefit. *No one was available from Collective Retreats to answer questions.*

[01:41:50](#) Board members discuss and did not believe this project qualified under the policy for letter of support.

[01:42:55](#) Motion: to decline letter of support recognition as it does not qualify under district policy Ciara Wolfe

[01:43:30](#) Vote: Motion Passed Unanimously

f. Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association Update: Discussion

[01:43:42](#) Daniel Ierscwa e a ained a ey snowmobile association discuss operations and average users so 415 Truck Creek Trail has had 31,574 snowmobile users. Daniel discuss need for a dedicated grooming machine and partners in winter safety gear and rescue and the other were the rooming machine will be store

[01:47:44](#) Sarah Eckert discuss a aication process


[01:48:58](#) Daniel discuss work with legislature and taxes on rentals staying within the district.

[01:49:54](#) The Board shared their appreciation of collaboration and education for finding alternative funding sources

g. Montana Land Easement Update: Discussion

[01:50:41](#) Jordan Vana from Montana Land Easement shared updates.

h. Belonging in Big Sky Update: Discussion

[01:52:23](#) Belonging in Big Sky Presentation was shared. View here:  [\[link\]](#) 

E. Public Comment

[02:03:11](#) Motion: to Adjourn

II. Closed Meeting

Discussion of confidential business information and Resort Tax compliance of various businesses under review.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

[Steven Johnson \(May 31, 2023 17:43 MDT\)](#)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer

BSRAD BOARD & STAFF: Administrator, Airiana O'Neil, Executive Director Steven Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer Kevin Germain, Director Trace Young, Director Daniel Ierscwa, Executive Director Kristin Drain, Finance & Compliance Manager Penny Muscat, Deputy Director Tammy Stensen, Communications & Community Relations Manager Sarah Uer, Office Manager

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT WORK:
SPRING COMMISSION/BSRAD MEETING MINUTES

May 3rd, 2023 | 10:00am

This meeting was conducted in person at the Wilson Hotel
(145 Town Center Ave, Big Sky, MT 59716) and virtually using ZOOM.

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call



[00:01:57](#) Zach Brown called the meeting to order. All present: Scott MacFarlane, Gallatin County Commission; Steve Johnson, BSRAD Board; Kevin Germain, BSRAD Board; Zach Brown, Gallatin County Commission; Jennifer Boyer, Gallatin County Commission; Sarah Blechta, BSRAD Board; Bill Todd, Madison County Commission; Ciara Wolfe, BSRAD Board; Grace Young, BSRAD Board.

B. Public Comment

[00:04:01](#) Jennifer Mohler of Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance announced name change to "Grow Wild" and new logo.

C. BSRAD Consent Agenda: Action

- a. Approval of Minutes: April 19th, 2023
- b. ~~Finance Report: February, March 2023~~
- c. FY24 Budget
- d. Investment Policy

[00:06:04](#) Sarah Blechta explained the February and March 2023 Financials have been removed from the Consent Agenda. (view consent agenda:  )

[00:06:30](#) **Motion:** to approve Consent Agenda: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson



[00:06:46](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

- a. MT64 (TIGER Grant) Construction Status: Discussion

[00:09:19](#) Kristine Fife with Big Sky Public Relations, and primary point of contact for the MT64 TIGER project, gave status updates and reviewed projects and planned improvements along MT64.

[00:13:02](#) Kristine shared and gave an overview of MT64 construction schedule, though the schedule may change due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. (view construction schedule:  )

[00:15:05](#) Kristine discussed traffic control measures. During construction drivers can expect up to 20-minute delays during peak travel times.

[00:16:34](#) A project Hotline is available Monday – Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at 406-207-4484 or email Kristine at Kristine@BigSkyPublicRelations.com

[00:18:36](#) Kevin Germain made everyone aware that a feasibility study is happening with more information to come. Additionally, pothole repairs along 191 have begun.

b. Big Sky Post Office Progress Report: Discussion

[00:20:17](#) Al Malinowski, VP of Gallatin Partners (Post Office LLC), explained the structure of the post office contract station and discussed progress happening with the US Postal Service and future facility.

c. Madison County Polling Station and Redistricting: Discussion

[00:26:19](#) Bill Todd explained a new polling place for Madison County in Big Sky is planned for future elections and discussed the redistricting which was finished in March.

d. Park and Trails District Assessment: Discussion

[00:30:18](#) Al Malinowski, Gallatin County Appointee of the Big Sky Trails, Recreation, and Parks District (BSTRIP), explained the district boundaries which closely match the Big Sky Resort Area District boundaries, representatives, and Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO) collaboration.

[00:35:38](#) Al Malinowski discussed tax assessments for BSTRIP District funding.

[00:40:12](#) Al requested a BSRAD subcommittee working session.

[00:43:01](#) Grace Young and Sarah Blechta volunteered for the subcommittee.

Motion: Grace Young and Sarah Blechta for BSTRIP subcommittee: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:43:48](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

2. New Business

a. 'Our Big Sky' Community Plan Data Overview: Discussion

[00:50:20](#) Ruthi Solari presented the 'Our Big Sky' data platform, a catalog and land-use tool for measurable goals.

[00:52:52](#) Ruthi reviewed data collection and engagement.

b. Gallatin Canyon Water and Sewer District Project Report: Discussion

[01:02:11](#) Mace Mangold explained the creation of the Gallatin Canyon Water and Sewer District. (*Presentation moved to [01:19:21](#)*)

c. Proposed Middle Gallatin River Algae Impairment Listing: Discussion

[01:04:39](#) Andy Ulven from MT DEQ gave an update on the Gallatin River Water Quality Monitoring Project.

[01:14:58](#) Andy shared a list of contacts.

[01:15:17](#) Sarah Blechta asked about boundary and Andy explained the national park boundary and algae blooms.

[01:16:31](#) Andy answered public questions regarding project process and progress.

[01:18:16](#) Kristin Gardner of the Gallatin River Task Force shared information and requested volunteers for monitoring.

Continued, previously in agenda: b. [Gallatin Canyon Water and Sewer District Project Report: Discussion](#)

[01:19:21](#) Mace Mangold discussed goals and reviewed Canyon Area Feasibility Study project timeline.

[01:25:48](#) Mace reviewed study findings.

[01:32:06](#) Andy Ulven and Mace Mangold answered questions from the board and commissioners.

d. [Fehr and Peers Big Sky Transportation Study: Discussion](#)

[01:38:24](#) Darren Brugmann discussed the future of the Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD) and the transportation study.

[01:46:19](#) Darren reviewed the community survey results; the response rate was very impressive with almost 2,000 respondents.

[01:51:01](#) Darren shared a draft of preferred scenarios with a prioritization on frequent local service with extensive coverage.

[01:57:01](#) Darren answered questions from the board and commissioners.

e. [BSCO/WTI Pedestrian Study: Discussion](#)

[01:59:10](#) Whitney Montgomery from Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO) reviewed traffic study focused on pedestrians and cyclist safety, traffic and connectivity, and place making.

f. [Big Sky Capital Improvement Plan: Discussion](#)

[02:03:47](#) Kevin Germain discussed and gave updates regarding the Big Sky Capital Improvement Plan. If anyone has a capital project for the community, please contact Daniel@ResortTax.org.

E. Public Comment

[02:06:50](#) Sarah Blechta invited everyone to the RiverView community housing project ground-breaking at 1:00 pm.

[02:07:43](#) Greg Megaard of the Big Sky Fire District warned drivers of current traffic delays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

[Steven Johnson \(Jun 12, 2023 10:15 MDT\)](#)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer



Application Review #1 Meeting Minutes

June 5th, 2023 | 5:30 PM

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

FY24 Application Review meetings were held on Monday, June 5th, Tuesday, June 6th, and Thursday, June 8th, at 5:30 pm at BASE Community Center (285 Simkins Dr) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

[00:02:08](#) Sarah Blechta began the meeting with a chair statement. Sarah discussed intention for strategic investments and commitment to reserves. Sarah explained how collections have decreased over the last few months and application requests are outpacing revenue.

[00:04:43](#) Sarah explained how resort tax provides tax relief and matches needs in the community.

[00:05:39](#) Sarah thanked everyone in the community who dedicate time and energy to Big Sky.

[00:07:35](#) Sarah explained that Arts & Education, Economic Development, Housing, and Public Works will be reviewed tonight, and preliminary motions will be made but decisions will not be finalized until Thursday, June 8.

A. Roll Call

All Board Members present.

B. Public Comment

[00:08:39](#) Jenny Muskat reviewed how to make public comment.

[00:09:56](#) Jenny reviewed public comments received prior to the meeting. (comments can be read here:  [↔](#))

C. Regular Agenda

~~a. Intro & Chair Statement: Action (moved to beginning of meeting)~~

D. Application Review: Action

[00:11:25](#) Kevin Germain discussed his philosophy and future capital needs. Kevin thanked all the applicants and for all the do for our community.

[00:12:47](#) Ciara Wolfe thanked all nonprofits and the hard work their teams are doing. Ciara explained her approach to assessing a successful project through growth over time and suggested a 7.5% growth increase over last year as a starting point. Ciara also encouraged 1:1 match for every project.



[00:16:08](#) Steve Johnson shared appreciation for previous BSRAD Board Members. Steve shared his philosophy for strategic planning and investments in infrastructure. Steve encouraged matching funds for maintenance and operating requests to demonstrate community support and the value of services.

[00:19:16](#) Grace Young explained her philosophy was making Big Sky a place everyone can call home.

[00:22:04](#) Sarah Blechta explained her philosophy and encouraged matching funds.

[00:23:23](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed prevalent operations reliance and suggested matching funds, project annuity impacts, and matching funds for capital requests.

[00:25:24](#) Daniel reviewed application process and decision-making tools to help guide a comprehensive community strategy.

[00:27:06](#) Daniel explained Prioritize tool and ranking system. (prioritize ranking can be viewed here:  )

[00:28:09](#) Daniel reviewed available funds and the budget, including committed government services funding.

[00:32:12](#) *Public Comment:* Al Malinowski gave an update on the Post Office; the contract has been extended to May 2024 while the US Postal Service finds a location.

a. Arts & Education

[00:34:11](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed the projects, Prioritize rankings, and suggested contingencies for Arts & Education.

[00:36:17](#) **Motion:** fund Arts Council of Big Sky's '2024 Music in the Mountains' for \$235,000 and Warren Miller Performing Arts Center's 'Annual Cultural Programming at WMPAC' for \$250,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:36:30](#) Kevin Germain explained reasoning for funding and discussed minor increases year over year.

[00:37:14](#) Ciara Wolfe calculated a 7.5% increase for Annual Cultural Programming at WMPAC would be \$242,875.

[00:37:30](#) Steve Johnson discussed track record of Arts Council and WMPA. Grace Young agreed.

[00:38:20](#) **Vote: Motion Passed**

[00:38:44](#) **Motion:** fund Morningstar Learning Center's 'Early Childhood Education & Tuition Assistance' for \$425,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[00:38:59](#) Board members discussed the need for childcare and affordability.

[00:39:37](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[00:40:11](#) **Motion:** fund Morningstar Campus Expansion for \$750,000 with contingency of final plan being presented and approved by Board: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Grace Young

[00:40:28](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained contingency.

[00:40:51](#) Kevin Germain shared concerns about the project being ready to move forward and the future costs. Kevin suggested \$200,000 for initial planning, architecture, and bids.

[00:41:54](#) Ciara Wolfe asked, and Mariel Butan from Morningstar Learning Center discussed timeline, options, costs, and funding.

[00:44:16](#) Ciara Wolfe was supportive of project and discussed contingencies. Steve Johnson discussed location and safety concerns but was supportive of the project to meet community needs. Grace Young discussed the need for childcare.

[00:48:35](#) Kevin Germain asked, and Mariel Butan discussed preferred option that would serve the most children. Kevin discussed reserves for funding capital projects when a plan is complete.

[00:52:44](#) **Vote: Motion Passed**

[00:53:26](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Discovery Academy's 'Early Childhood Program & Tuition Assistance' for \$170,000:
Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[00:54:06](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed costs per hour for childcare, Morningstar is under \$8/hour and Discovery Academy is almost \$15/hour. Ciara did not believe funding was equitable and suggested funding the same costs for each. Sarah Blechta discussed the budget for the project and made suggestions for equity.

[01:00:35](#) Steve Johnson was supportive of childcare but shared concerns with location's safety. Steve was interested in a childcare study.

[01:01:18](#) Sarah Blechta discussed equity. Sarah and Ciara suggested funding \$50,000 for tuition assistance. Ciara pointed out this project was ranked low in priority by the public.

[01:03:46](#) Scott Poloff from Discovery Academy explained costs and early childhood education.

[01:06:25](#) Seth made public comments regarding childcare and in support of funding childcare projects.

[01:09:52](#) **Vote:** Motion does not pass.

[01:10:36](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Discovery Academy's 'Early Childhood Program & Tuition Assistance' for \$100,000:
Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[01:11:08](#) Sarah Blechta shared appreciation for Discovery Academy and Morningstar and explained her motion for \$100,000 without restrictions.

[01:13:03](#) Ciara Wolfe shared concerns with spending public funds for twice the price of other options. Ciara and Sarah discussed no longer having wait lists at the Big Sky School District.

[01:15:02](#) Sarah suggested amending motion to include scholarship available for only those ineligible for the 4k program at the Big Sky School District. Board members discussed but did not amend the motion.

[01:16:30](#) Kara Edgar made public comments regarding education cost.

[01:17:34](#) Liz McFadden made public comments in support of Discovery Academy.

[01:18:49](#) Payton Huler made public comments in support of Discovery Academy.

[01:20:01](#) **Vote: Motion Passed 3-2**

b. Economic Development

[01:21:17](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed projects in Economic Development and noted Visit Big Sky's (VBS) 'Destination Research & Stewardship Plan' was not forecasted last year and would build a future annuity. Contingency suggested for VBS's 'Visitor Marketing & Events' to include support from businesses.

[01:22:39](#) **Motion:** fund VBS's 'Visitor Marketing & Events' for \$275,000, 'VBS Operations' for \$240,000, VBS's 'Destination Research & Stewardship Plan' for \$230,000, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's (BSCOC) 'BSCOC Operations' for \$126,000, BSCOC's 'Development of Business Skills Programming' for \$79,000, and BSCOC's 'Workforce Sustainability Research' for \$26,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:22:55](#) Kevin Germain discussed marketing, summer projections and supported economic development and businesses collecting resort tax.

[01:24:11](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed growth and using 7.5% increase year over year for projects which included VBS Operations at \$197,262 and BSCOC's 'Development of Business Skills Programming' at \$75,250.

[01:25:47](#) Steve Johnson discussed tourism promotion and proposed a balanced funding approach with 1/3 from State lodging tax, 1/3 from businesses, and 1/3 from resort tax.

[01:26:57](#) Brad Niva from Visit Big Sky and the Chamber of Commerce discussed \$825,000 state funding and rules.

[01:27:49](#) Sarah Blechta asked about managing shoulder seasons and business needs. Brad Niva explained their focus was on extending seasons not necessarily shoulder seasons.

[01:29:45](#) Sarah Blechta shared support for marketing and agreed with a 7.5% increase from last year.

[01:30:54](#) **Amended Motion:** 'VBS Operations' for \$240,000, VBS's 'Destination Research & Stewardship Plan' for \$230,000, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's (BSCOC) 'BSCOC Operations' for \$126,075, BSCOC's 'Development of Business Skills Programming' for \$79,000, and BSCOC's 'Workforce Sustainability Research' for \$26,000 (*VBS's 'Visitor Marketing & Events' not included in motion*)

[01:31:23](#) Ciara Wolfe proposed VBS Operations at \$197,262 and BSCOC's 'Development of Business Skills Programming' at \$75,250. Board members discussed.

[01:35:21](#) Brad Niva clarified cost of Visitor Center being open 6 days a week verses 5 or 4.5 days a week.

[01:35:46](#) **Vote:** Motion does not pass.

[01:36:05](#) **Motion:** fund 'VBS Operations' for \$200,000, VBS's 'Destination Research & Stewardship Plan' for \$230,000, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's (BSCOC) 'BSCOC Operations' for \$126,075, BSCOC's 'Development of Business Skills Programming' for \$75,000, and BSCOC's 'Workforce Sustainability Research' for \$26,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Grace Young

[01:37:54](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:39:01](#) **Motion:** fund Visitor Marketing & Events for \$150,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[01:39:28](#) Sarah Blechta shared support for marketing and did not support funding events. Board members discussed the needs of businesses and seasonality and requested a survey of businesses.

[01:46:25](#) Seth Griggs Ryan shared public comment related to seasonality.

[01:48:48](#) Brad Niva shared economic data including 14% less visitors this winter and discussed budgets.

[01:52:10](#) Anna Johnson with the Big Sky Chamber discussed the needs of businesses.

[01:53:07](#) Mike Scholtz shared public comments related to tourism development and marketing.

[01:54:44](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

c. Housing

[01:55:24](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed recommendations for housing projects.

[01:56:17](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Community Housing Trust's (BSCHT) 'Good Deeds' for \$800,000, 'BSCHT Operations' for \$225,000, and 'Rent Local' for \$150,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[01:56:37](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed housing needs in the community and BSCHT's operations. Board members discussed the importance of housing projects and fully supported funding.

[01:58:49](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

d. Public Works

[01:59:10](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed public works projects and contingency recommendations.

[02:02:14](#) Ron from the Big Sky County Water & Sewer District explained costs related to Water Tank Land Acquisition.

[02:02:49](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky County Water & Sewer District's 'Centrifuge Sludge Press' for \$780,000 at 60% of request and 'Water Tank Land Acquisition' for 60% of costs up to \$60,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[02:03:19](#) Sarah Blechta explained the basis of 60% and board members discussed.

[02:05:46](#) Ciara Wolfe asked, and Ron explained other funding sources.

[02:07:10](#) Board Members discussed water and sewer district projects and needs.

[02:14:01](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:14:15](#) **Motion:** fund Friends of the Big Sky Community Library projects at 7.5% increase from last year for 'Big Sky Community Library Operations' at \$71,500 and 'Library Programming & Services' at \$67,000, and fund 'Library District Preparation & Ballot' for \$45,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[02:15:40](#) Board members discussed creation of a Library District. Steve Johnson suggested a contingency regarding Library operations and leadership.

[02:18:03](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:18:29](#) **Motion:** fund Visit Big Sky's (VBS) 'Wayfinding Signage Project' for \$200,000 with a contingency not to include LED light board: Sarah Blechta

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[02:19:10](#) Sarah Blechta shared support and concerns for Wayfinding Signage Project.

[02:21:27](#) Brad Nive from VBS explained LED lights, signage location, and messaging.

[02:24:39](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[02:25:08](#) **Motion:** fund VBS's 'Town Center Public Bathrooms' for \$370,000: Grace Young

Second: Kevin Germain

[02:25:18](#) Grace Young explained reasoning for motion and supported public bathrooms. Ciara Wolfe suggested a 50/50 match as this project has no matching funds. Steve Johnson requested support from the Town Center Owners Association.

[02:26:42](#) John Bowersocks from Town Center Owners Association clarified they will be responsible for maintenance of the bathrooms.

[02:27:31](#) Brad Nive of VBS discussed public support for bathrooms.

[02:28:11](#) Whitney Montgomery shared support for public bathrooms.

[02:28:40](#) **Vote: Motion Passed 3-2**

E. Public Comment

[02:28:58](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Jul 12, 2023 13:19 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

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



Application Review #2 Meeting Minutes

June 6th, 2023 | 5:30 PM

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

FY24 Application Review meetings were held on Monday, June 5th, Tuesday, June 6th, and Thursday, June 8th, at 5:30 pm at BASE Community Center (285 Simkins Dr) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

[00:01:47](#) Sarah Blechta called meeting to order at 5:30pm.

A. Roll Call

[00:01:56](#) All board members present.

[00:02:22](#) Sarah Blechta explained review process with tentative decisions being made during this meeting and final decisions will be made on Thursday June 8th.

B. Public Comment

[00:03:56](#) Jenny Muscat explained directions for public comment and reviewed public comment received prior to meeting.

C. Application Review: Action

[00:07:14](#) Kevin Germain explained his philosophy including planning for future infrastructure and capital projects. Kevin thanked all collectors and businesses who make these investments possible.

[00:08:21](#) Ciara Wolfe explained her approach of 7.5% increased growth for projects from last year and discussed declining collections. Ciara encouraged at least 1:1 matching funds. Ciara also heavily weighted public support for projects.

[00:10:36](#) Steve Johnson expressed support for funding strategic investments with lasting value as a priority and matching funds.

[00:12:26](#) Grace Young discussed her process including matching funds and public support.

[00:14:03](#) Sarah Blechta discussed funding process and dispelled misconceptions around cutting budgets and reminded everyone these are public funds used for community needs.

[00:16:54](#) Daniel Bierschwale shared an overview of process, project requests, and contingency recommendations.

[00:20:23](#) Daniel explained the prioritize tool and community engagement.

[00:21:51](#) Daniel reviewed budget, including precommitments and government services, and reviewed preliminary decisions from Monday June 5th.

[00:24:37](#) Emily O'Connor with the Gallatin River Task Force explained they were reducing their request for Gallatin River Access Restoration from \$184,083 to \$127,083.

a. Health & Safety

[00:25:38](#) Daniel Bierschwale gave an overview of the projects under Health & Safety.

[00:26:30](#) **Motion:** fund Wellness in Action's (WIA) 'Counseling Services Hub - Building Remodel' for \$100,000 and 'Sliding Scale Support for Counseling Services' for \$50,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:26:47](#) Ciara Wolfe noted the tax dollars collected from recreational cannabis sales were \$150,000 over the last year and supported those dollars being invested in counseling services. Board members agreed.

[00:28:12](#) Public Comment in support of Wellness in Action.

[00:28:59](#) Seth Griggs Ryan shared support for Wellness in Action and noted Rimrock Foundation will be delivering Narcan kits and training free for the community.

[00:30:30](#) Danielle Osti Chenoweth made public comment in support of counseling services and Wellness in Action's 'Counseling Services Hub – Building Remodel'.

[00:32:56](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[00:33:18](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Community Food Bank's 'Emergency Food & Social Services for \$70,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[00:33:28](#) Kevin Germain thanked Sarah Gaither of the Food Bank for all she does for the community.

[00:33:35](#) Ciara Wolfe shared support for funding \$55,500 as 7.5% increase over last year.

[00:34:36](#) Sarah Gaither from the Big Sky Community Food Bank thanked the board and explained the increase due to 8% inflation (\$1.48/pound of food now \$1.60/pound of food) and 97% increase, almost double, in service numbers and purchased 250% more food over last year.

[00:36:00](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[00:36:34](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Community Organization's (BSCO) 'BASE as Disaster Relief Shelter' for \$100,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:36:45](#) Sarah Blechta shared support for this project as a safe space for children and a place for the community in case the power were to go out.

[00:37:37](#) Kevin Germain questioned circumstances of natural disasters and if the community would use this.

[00:38:22](#) Ciara Wolfe supported project as they had matching funds, if the budget affords, and considered it a want over critical need. Grace Young shared similar concerns but asked about other options.

[00:39:23](#) Sarah Blechta discussed natural disasters and the concern for losing power over a natural disaster.

[00:40:37](#) Whitney Montgomery of BSCO explained the Red Cross had approached BASE as being a disaster relief shelter in the case of any natural disaster and felt it was a need from the community. Whitney explained partnership with the Fire Department who was requesting a FEMA grant for the generator and this project would fund the concrete pad and connection to building.

[00:41:27](#) Greg Megaard of the Fire Department explained generator funding and community need.

[00:42:21](#) Dan Taft shared public comment in opposition to project.

[00:42:50](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

b. Recreation & Conservation

[00:44:30](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin River Task Force's (GRTF) 'West Fork Nitrogen Reduction' for \$316,337: Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah Blechta

[00:44:45](#) Kevin Germain discussed the importance of the Gallatin River to the community.

[00:45:26](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed matching funds and high priority rating from the community.

[00:46:33](#) Seth Griggs Ryan shared public comments related to fertilization and landscaping, and asked how the project would reduce nitrogen related to construction and golf course maintenance.

[00:47:52](#) Kristin Gardner of GRTF explained a wetland designed to treat and reduce 1,000 pounds of nitrogen a year.

[00:48:38](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[00:48:54](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained recommended contingencies and reviewed projects with less than 50% matching funds.

[00:49:42](#) **Motion:** fund BSCO's 'Trail Projects & Safety' for \$150,000 and 'Parks & Trails Equipment' for \$115,000: Steve Johnson

Second: Grace Young

[00:51:01](#) Kevin Germain discussed high scoring for parks and recreation among community and shared concerns with rising costs and compared other cities. Kevin shared support for assessment.

[00:52:35](#) Ciara Wolfe encouraged 1:1 matches with all BSCO projects and suggested funding 'Trail Projects & Safety' for \$100,000 and 'Parks & Trails Equipment' for \$73,718.

[00:53:39](#) Whitney Montgomery with BSCO discussed correlation between recreation and behavioral health. Whitney discussed fundraising to meet 1:1 match next year.

[00:56:16](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[00:56:59](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Trails, Recreation, and Parks (BSTRP) 'Recreational Asset Maintenance' for \$955,346: Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[00:57:25](#) Sarah Blechta shared support for assessment and explained funding 85% of the request. Ciara Wolfe suggested \$1.1 million at a 7.5% increase over last year.

[01:00:25](#) Steve Johnson recused himself from voting on this project as he is a BSTRP Board Member.

[01:03:07](#) Al Malinowski, BSTRP Board Member, answered questions and explained cost increases and expanded services. Al explained the assessment process and timing; and Board Members discussed.

[01:13:37](#) **Vote:** Motion did not pass 1-3

[01:14:08](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Trails, Recreation, and Parks (BSTRP) 'Recreational Asset Maintenance' for \$1,123,936: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:18:06](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 3-1

[01:18:39](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin River Task Force's (GRTF) 'Gallatin River Access Restoration' for \$127,083: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[01:19:23](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:19:57](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization's (SNO) 'Solarize Big Sky: Riverview' for \$215,000 (a 1:1 match): Ciara Wolfe

Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:21:44](#) Lizzy Peyton with SNO discussed matching funds through grants and explained eligibility requirements. Board Members asked questions and Lizzy made clarifications.

[01:23:23](#) **Motion Amended:** fund Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization's (SNO) 'Solarize Big Sky: Riverview' for \$210,000: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:23:40](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 3-2

[01:24:28](#) **Motion:** fund BSCO's 'Big Sky Community Park Implementation Phase 1' for \$718,000 with contingency to formally request funding from the Futbol Club: Sarah Blechta

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:25:02](#) Sarah Blechta explained various entities using the park share funding.

[01:26:11](#) Whitney Montgomery discussed community input and support.

[01:27:09](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:27:56](#) **Motion:** fund GRTF's 'Water Planning, Coordination & Outreach' for \$219,794: Steve Johnson
Second: Kevin Germain

[01:29:23](#) Ciara Wolfe explained recommendation of matching funds and funding \$160,000; Sarah Blechta agreed.

[01:30:34](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 3-2

[01:31:06](#) **Motion:** fund Center for Large Landscape Conservation's 'US-191/MT-64 Assessment: Action Plan Development' for \$85,000: Steve Johnson
Second: Grace Young

[01:31:24](#) Steve Johnson explained unanimous support and recommendation from Gallatin County Commission.

[01:32:56](#) Ciara Wolfe suggested 1:1 match at \$77,500. Steve Johnson discussed current matching funds from Gallatin County and FEMA.

[01:33:41](#) Abigail Brewer with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation shared work on 191 and throughout the state of Montana. Abigail discussed grants and federal funding for wildlife crossings and search for additional funding.

[01:35:39](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:36:34](#) **Motion:** fund GRTF's 'Middle Fork Restoration' for \$82,736, 'Water Conservation' for \$67,791, and 'Watershed Monitoring' for \$50,580: Sarah Blechta
Second: Steve Johnson

[01:36:53](#) Sarah Blechta discussed importance of water to the community.

[01:37:17](#) Ciara Wolfe suggested funding 'Water Conservation' for \$61,000 at 7.5% increase.

[01:37:54](#) Emily O'Connor with GRTF explained scope of work, increased costs, and matching funds.

[01:38:54](#) Whitney Montgomery with BSCO offered to remove 2 of their projects, 'New Accounting Software' and 'Two-Way AV Communications Platform' from funding request.

[01:39:40](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:41:23](#) **Motion:** fund SNO's 'Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation' for \$43,000, a 7.5% increase from last year: Ciara Wolfe
Second: Kevin Germain

[01:42:10](#) Lizzy Peyton with SNO explained the increase was due to hiring a consultant.

[01:43:24](#) Board Members asked questions and discussed SNO's 'Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation' and 'Green Build Toolkit.'

[01:47:03](#) Amy Fonte with SNO discussed the 'Green Build Toolkit' and collaboration.

[01:48:48](#) **Vote:** Motion did not pass

[01:49:21](#) **Motion:** fund SNO's 'Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation' for \$60,000: Kevin Germain
Second: Grace Young

[01:51:01](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:51:26](#) **Motion:** not to fund 'Green Build Toolkit' or 'Solarize Big Sky: Credit Program' projects: Ciara Wolfe
Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:51:58](#) Board Members discussed and asked SNO questions. Lizzy Peyton answered questions and discussed project priorities.

[02:00:03](#) **Amended Motion:** to fund 'Green Build Toolkit' for \$90,000 and not fund 'Solarize Big Sky: Credit Program': Ciara Wolfe
Second: Sarah Blechta

[02:03:33](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[02:04:17](#) *Break*

[02:11:56](#) *Returned from Break at 7:41pm*

[02:12:10](#) **Motion:** fund Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association's (SWMMA) 'Big Sky Community Park Pump Track - Phase 2' for \$50,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[02:12:22](#) Board Members discussed. Ciara Wolfe supported this project as it had more than 50% matching funds.

[02:13:24](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:13:39](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance's (GISA) 'Invasive Species Education Project' for \$36,609, a 7.5% increase over last year: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Kevin Germain

[02:14:27](#) Jen Mohler with GISA, now Grow Wild, discussed projects and their impact.

[02:16:03](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:16:13](#) **Motion:** fund Big Sky Community Organization's (BSCO) 'Community Warming Hut & Green Room' for \$50,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[02:16:33](#) Ciara Wolfe suggested funding for \$37,500 at a 1:1 match and Sarah Blechta agreed.

[02:16:51](#) Sarah asked questions regarding funding from the Arts Council of Big Sky and Whitney Montgomery clarified they will be paying an annual rent.

[02:17:41](#) **Amended Motion:** fund Big Sky Community Organization's (BSCO) 'Community Warming Hut & Green Room' for \$37,500: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[02:18:19](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:18:46](#) **Motion:** fund SNO's 'Carpool Incentivization Program' for \$50,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[02:18:57](#) Sarah Blechta supported this project as a supplement to public transportation and supported fewer cars on the roads. Ciara Wolfe shared support for safety.

[02:19:52](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[02:20:25](#) Sarah Blechta reminded everyone that BSCO pulled their request for 'Two-Way AV Communications Platform' project.

[02:20:46](#) **Motion:** not to fund Big Sky Skijoring's 'Best in the West Showdown Annual Skijoring Event': Sarah Blechta

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[02:20:51](#) Sarah Blechta explained concerns with funding for-profit events and creating a precedent. Ciara Wolfe agreed.

[02:22:12](#) Justa Adams with Big Sky Skijoring explained the need for land and space for track.

[02:23:27](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:23:54](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association's (GVSA) 'Buck Ridge Snowmobile Trail Additional Groomings' for \$30,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[02:24:16](#) Ciara Wolfe suggested \$29,029 at 7.5% over last year.

[02:25:21](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[02:25:53](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance (GISA/Grow Wild) projects at 7.5% over last year, 'Grail Gardens Project' for \$24,837, 'Landowner Stewardship Project' for \$25,180, 'Wildlife Habitat Conservation Project' for \$23,171, and 'Clean Recreation Project' for \$17,608: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Grace Young

[02:26:50](#) Kevin Germain asked and Jen Mohler, with GISA/Grow Wild, explained budget, funding, and rebranding.

[02:30:25](#) Grace Young asked about fees for services and Jen Mohler explained.

[02:32:19](#) Lizzy Peyton made public comment in support of GISA/Grow Wild.

[02:33:12](#) Shawn Simpson with GISA/Grow Wild made public comment in support of GISA/Grow Wild.

[02:38:18](#) Madeleine Feher made public comment in support of GISA/Grow Wild.

[02:39:31](#) Board Members discussed GISA/Grow Wild projects.

[02:42:59](#) Susan Lance shared public comment.

[02:44:17](#) **Vote:** Motion did not pass 1-4

[02:44:45](#) **Motion:** fund Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance (GISA/Grow Wild) projects, 'Grail Gardens Project' for \$37,037, 'Landowner Stewardship Project' for \$36,307, 'Wildlife Habitat Conservation Project' for \$29,167, and 'Clean Recreation Project' for \$25,855: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[02:46:13](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

E. Public Comment

[02:47:00](#) Brad Niva, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky, asked question about previous year's funding awards.

[02:48:29](#) Lizzy Peyton, Big Sky SNO, shared comments regarding equality vs equity, and solutions.

[02:49:48](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Jul 12, 2023 13:19 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

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



Application Review #3 Meeting Minutes

June 8th, 2023 | 5:30 PM

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

FY24 Application Review meetings were held on Monday, June 5th, Tuesday, June 6th, and Thursday, June 8th, at 5:30 pm at BASE Community Center (285 Simkins Dr) and through Zoom.

I. Open Meeting

[00:04:54](#) Sarah Blechta began meeting by discussing expectations and making clarifications. Sarah suggested a board working session to set parameters for future requests.

[00:08:58](#) Sarah reiterated that requests for desired project allocations continues to outpace District revenue.

A. Roll Call: *All Board Members present.*

B. Public Comment

[00:09:40](#) Jenny Muscat explained directions for public comment and reviewed public comment received prior to meeting.

[00:12:55](#) Daniel Bierschwale gave a short summary of tentative decisions from June 5th and 6th meetings. Daniel explained reductions.

[00:14:36](#) Whitney Montgomery of Big Sky Community Organization, explained they were removing 'BASE as Disaster Relief Shelter' from requests due to FEMA grant cycle.

[00:15:14](#) Warren Miller Performing Arts Center's (WMPAC) 'Annual Cultural Programming at WMPAC' project request was reduced to \$240,000.

[00:16:39](#) Brad Niva of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky, shared they reviewed other funding sources and reduced their request for 'Wayfinding Signage Project' to \$100,000.

C. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes: May 3rd, 2023

b. Finance Report: February, March, & April 2023

[00:18:11](#) Motion: Approve Consent Agenda: Steve Johnson

Second: Grace Young

[00:18:37](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

a. ~~Opportunity Fund: Action~~ (Moved to end of meeting)

E. Application Review: Action

All Impact Areas

[00:19:09](#) **Motion:** projects given 7.5% increase and 1:1 matching funds as a starting base line including: ‘Emergency Food & Social Services’ at \$55,473; ‘Centrifuge Sludge Press’ at \$650,000; ‘Town Center Public Bathrooms’ at \$185,000; ‘West Fork Nitrogen Reduction’ at \$227,079; ‘Water Planning, Coordination, and Outreach’ at \$160,000; ‘Trails Project & Safety’ at \$100,000; ‘Parks & Trails Equipment’ at \$73,718; ‘US-191/MT-64 Assessment: Action Plan Development’ at \$77,418; ‘Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation’ at \$43,000, ‘Crail Gardens Project’ at \$24,837; ‘Landowner Stewardship Project’ at \$25,187; ‘Buck Ridge Snowmobile Trail Additional Groomings’ at \$29,025; ‘Wildlife Habitat Conservation Project’ \$23,171; ‘Clean Recreation Project’ at \$17,608: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Grace Young

[00:37:15](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed rational for increase and matching funds.

[00:39:10](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed smart sustainable growth and 1:1 matching funds as best practice.

[00:41:49](#) Grace Young explained her reasoning for supporting this motion.

[00:42:56](#) Sarah Blechta requested to pull ‘Emergency Food & Social Services’, ‘West Fork Nitrogen Reduction’, and ‘Town Center Public Bathrooms’ from motion and explained rational.

[00:44:33](#) Kevin Germain discussed expectations and future project requests.

[00:48:27](#) Jen Mohler from Grow Wild (formerly Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance) discussed budget and projects.

[00:50:17](#) Lizzy Peyton from Big Sky SNO discussed their Climate Action Plan Implementation.

[00:51:20](#) Whitney Montgomery from BSCO shared public comments regarding applications process and criteria.

[00:53:24](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 3-2

[00:53:47](#) **Motion:** fund ‘Emergency Food & Social Services’ at \$70,000, ‘West Fork Nitrogen Reduction’ at \$316,337, and ‘Town Center Public Bathrooms’ at \$370,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[00:56:49](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[00:56:59](#) **Motion:** fund ‘Centrifuge Sludge Press’ at \$500,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:57:45](#) Kevin Germain and Steve Johnson explained reasoning.

[01:00:21](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:00:42](#) **Motion:** fund ‘US-191/MT-64 Assessment: Action Plan Development’ at \$85,000 and ‘Water Planning, Coordination & Outreach’ at \$219,794: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:01:30](#) Kevin Germain discussed reasoning. Board Members discussed support and collaboration.

[01:02:36](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:02:56](#) **Motion:** fund 'Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation' at \$60,000 and 'Crail Gardens Project' at \$37,037:

Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[01:03:32](#) Kevin Germain discussed equality verses equity.

[01:06:32](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:06:59](#) **Motion:** fund 'Wildlife Habitat Conservation Project' at \$29,167 and 'Landowner Stewardship Project' at \$36,307: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:07:38](#) Board Members discussed growth. Ciara Wolfe explained funding Opportunity fund and projects that were not requested due to expectation of Opportunity fund.

[01:11:17](#) Sarah Blechta asked about matching funding and Jen Mohler from Grow Wild explained.

[01:14:52](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 3-2

[01:15:28](#) **Motion:** fund 'Trail Projects & Safety' at \$150,000 and 'Parks & Trails Equipment' at \$115,000: Steve Johnson

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:17:30](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[01:18:19](#) **Motion:** fund 'Buck Ridge Snowmobile Trail Additional Groomings' at \$30,000: Steve Johnson

Second: Kevin Germain

[01:19:49](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:20:21](#) **Motion:** fund 'Morningstar Campus Expansion' at \$200,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:20:33](#) Kevin Germain explained reasoning and shared concerns with timing.

[01:21:53](#) Board members discussed contingencies and Kevin requested a contingency of quarterly updates.

[01:22:38](#) Steve Johnson requested a report and plan regarding childcare needs in the community.

[01:24:36](#) Ciara Wolfe asked, and Mariel Butan from Morningstar Learning Center explained project and timeline.

Board Members discussed and asked questions.

[01:34:00](#) Stephanie Kissel, Morningstar Learning Center board member, shared comments.

[01:34:59](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:35:29](#) **Motion:** fund VBS Operations at \$240,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah Blechta

[01:35:53](#) Kevin Germain discussed collections and marketing and shared support for businesses.

[01:37:37](#) Grace Young and Sarah Blechta discussed.

[01:39:23](#) Brad Niva of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky explained need for marketing funds and did not need funding for Operations.

[01:40:37](#) Laurance shared public comments regarding economic development.

[01:41:17](#) Stacy Masuda, board chair for Visit Big Sky, shared comments regarding marketing.

[01:42:35](#) Muhammad Abdullah shared public comments in support of Visit Big Sky.

[01:43:28](#) Sarah Gaither from the Big Sky Community Foodbank, explained workforce needs during shoulder season.

[01:44:16](#) **Motion Rescinded** at sponsor request.

[01:44:21](#) **Motion:** fund 'Visitor Marketing & Events' at \$275,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[01:44:42](#) Kevin Germain appreciated public comments.

[01:45:22](#) Sarah Blechta was supportive of funding marketing but did not support event funding. Grace Young agreed.

[01:46:29](#) Brad Niva of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky discussed marketing and events and was okay with funding at \$200,000.

[01:48:50](#) Ennion Williams shared public comment in support of marketing.

[01:50:53](#) **Vote:** *Motion does not pass.*

[01:51:08](#) **Motion:** fund 'Visitor Marketing & Events' at \$200,000: Sarah Blechta

Second: Grace Young

[01:52:20](#) Public comment in support of events and marketing.

[01:53:09](#) Kevin Germain asked, and Brad Niva answered questions.

[01:56:06](#) Sarah Blechta shared concerns with funding some events and not funding others.

[01:57:41](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** 4-1

[01:59:33](#) **Motion:** \$550,000 to reserves: Ciara Wolfe

Second: Sarah Blechta

[02:01:30](#) Sarah Blechta explained the reasoning behind the Opportunity Fund.

[02:04:22](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:04:33](#) **Motion:** \$147,829 in Opportunity Fund: Sarah Blechta

Second: Kevin Germain

[02:05:02](#) Grace Young asked, and Sarah Blechta explained the requirements of the Opportunity Fund.

[02:06:32](#) Lizzy Peyton from Big Sky SNO asked questions regarding the Opportunity Fund

[02:07:51](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

[02:08:24](#) **Motion:** Approve contingencies including 'Morningstar Campus Expansion' quarterly updates, 'Wayfinding Signage Project' contingency for no LED lighted signs, and 'Big Sky Community Park Implementation Phase 1' formal request through the Big Sky Football Club for BSCO project: Sarah Blechta

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[02:10:04](#) Joe Connor shared public comment against 'Wayfinding Signage Project.'

[02:11:06](#) **Vote: Motion Passed** Unanimously

F. Public Comment

[02:11:41](#) Ciara Wolfe commended sponsors who reduced their requests.

[02:12:22](#) **Motion to Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Jul 12, 2023 13:19 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 | Jenny Muscat, Deputy Director | Kristin Drain, Finance & Compliance Manager | 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

www.Resorttax.org

info@resorttax.org

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

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.*



Board Meeting Minutes

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

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:02:06](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order. Kevin Germain, Steve Johnson, Grace Young, and Sarah Blechta present. Ciara Wolfe was not present.

B. Public Comment: *None*

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2023

b. Finance Report: May 2023

[00:03:08](#) **Motion**: to approve Consent Agenda: Grace Young

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:04:40](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Finalize Subcommittees & Meetings: *Action*

[00:04:58](#) Following up from previous meetings, Daniel Bierschwale reviewed subcommittee items and their members. Kevin Germain suggested a transit/transportation subcommittee. Board members reviewed and agreed to subcommittee appointments.

[00:07:15](#) **Motion**: to approve subcommittee representation as follows: Elevate Big Sky: Grace Young; Wellness District: Sarah Blechta; 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; Transit & Transportation: Kevin Germain & Grace Young; Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:07:56](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

2. New Business

a. Opportunity Fund Application Review: Action

- Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach

[00:08:15](#) Big Sky Snow gave an overview of their 'Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach' project request.

[00:10:05](#) **Motion:** fund 'Zero-Waste Event Recycling & Composting Outreach' project for \$7,750: Grace Young

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:13:32](#) Vote: Motion Passed Unanimously

- Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1

[00:13:51](#) The Gallatin River Task Force, 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, gave an overview of the 'Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1' project request.

[00:15:56](#) Sarah Blechta asked about a partnership agreement and details. Board members discussed.

[00:17:25](#) **Motion:** to fund 'Big Sky Landscaping Partnership-Phase 1' project for \$25,000: Kevin Germain

Second: Steve Johnson

[00:17:57](#) Grace Young asked about HOA requirements and partnerships. Board members discussed partnerships and planning boards.

[00:21:23](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

b. RiverView Update: Discussion

[00:21:44](#) David O'Connor with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust shared progress report on RiverView project. Board members ask David questions.

E. Public Comment

[00:32:28](#) Whitney Montgomery of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO) gave an update related to Big Sky Owners Association covenants and thanked Daniel Bierschwale and the board for their support with the BSCO housing project.

[00:33:43](#) Motion to adjourn open session.

II. Closed Meeting: Confidential Employee Reviews

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.*



Board Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2023 | 9:00am

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

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:04:06](#) Present: Sarah Eckert, Ciara Wolfe, Kevin Germain, and Steve Johnson. Absent: Tracey Roun

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 Ierscova introduced the discussion and the Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan ()

[00:08:11](#) Colin Mcweeney 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 Mcweeney discussed timelines and projects. Updates based on the board priorities were discussed

[00:27:58](#) Daniel Ierscova explained property tax relief through Resort Tax union

[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 Eckert explained how 'Our Big Sky' and the CIP will be used for BSRAD planning and budgeting. Ciara Wolfe discussed the intentions around critical needs and differentiation wants. Daniel Ierscwa explained the importance of the site, housing, and transportation transit were identified as 83.


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

[00:47:50](#) *Public Comment:* Jackie Aines asked about prioritization and constraints. Colin Cweeney 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 Eckert explained the purpose for the subcommittee and community discussions around incorporation. Ciara Wolfe discussed next steps and requested a resolution to use the website as a resolution to the current incorporation subcommittee to include the incorporation exploration working group (the group includes many Ierscwa, Rinis, Eckert, Aitner, Atierice, Mike Eornin, Steve Johnson, Matt Kidd, Tallie Aancey, Brad Niva, David O'Connor and Dion Williams) and a resolution to generate a request for proposals (RFP) or a rigorous, unconstrained incorporation study undertaken 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 Ierscwa explained the Draft Incorporation Exploration Committee Charter. Sarah Eckert explained the importance of the resolution is involved on the subcommittee but will remain 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 site resolution on the 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 Eckert 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 Cook asked questions regarding elections, voting, and district boundaries.

[01:17:39](#) *Public Comment:* Barbara Owens are comments.

[01:22:18](#) Sarah Eckert explained intention of working session. Daniel Ierscwa explained the reason for the RFP and educating voters. Daniel Secliff stated 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 un in RFP. Sarah ec ta explained the reason for RFP an ow it relates to t e oar embers iscusse un in ara e aine is a neutra arty as it relates to incor oration an is intereste in knowin t e acts or our community instea o misin oration

[01:34:53](#) Daniel iersc wa e iscusse the roadmap, bu etin , and isca im acts of initiatives.

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

[01:41:16](#) **Motion:** approval to generate a re uest for proposals (F) for a ri orous, unconstraine incor oration stu y incu in in- e t community en a ement un e by evin ermain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:41:23](#) Ciara Wolfe re ueste to hear from the community regarding un in priorities. Board members iscusse un in t rou ot er entities

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

2. New usiness

a. O ortunity Fun ication Review: Action

- usic in the ountains Transport e ice (ectric)

[01:44:35](#) Brian ur but with the Art’s ounci answered uestions from Board members.

[01:47:36](#) **Motion:** to approve un in the usic in the ountains Transport e ice (ectric) Kevin Germain

Second: Sarah ec ta

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

b. Center for Large an sca e Conservation-

US-191 -64 Assessment: ction Plan Development: iscusson

[01:49:03](#) Abigail reuer with the Center for Large an sca e Conservation presented US-191 -64 Wildlife & Transportation Assessment.

[01:54:12](#) i abet Fairbank iscusse methods and findings from the assessment.

[01:57:56](#) i abet reviewed priority sites areas and recommen ations incu in wildlife overpasses, tra ic ca min , anima etection systems, an encin

[02:01:52](#) i abet reviewed next steps for Fall 2023 into Spring 2024. Board members asked uestions
ub ic Comment

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

es ect u y ubmitte ,

S Johnson

o nson (Nov 8, 2023 15:55)

teve o nson, ecretary reasurer

BSRAD BOARD & STAFF: ara ec ta, air iara o e, ice air teve o nson, ecretary reasurer Kevin Germain, irector race oun , irector Daniel iersc wa e, ecutive irector Kristin Drain, Finance & om iance ana er enny uscat, e uty irector ammy stensen, ommunications ommunity n a ement ana er ara u er, O ce ana er

Joint-County Commission & BSRAD Meeting Minutes

October 4th, 2023 | 9:00am

This meeting was held at the Wilson Hotel and virtually using ZOOM.

I. Open Meeting

[00:11:05](#) Danny Bierschwale welcomed the community and introduced the meeting.

A. Roll Call

In attendance: Scott MacFarlane, Gallatin County Commission; Kevin Germain, BSRAD Board; Bill Todd, Madison County Commission; Zach Brown, Gallatin County Commission; Grace Young, BSRAD Board; Ron Nye, Madison County Commission; Steve Johnson, BSRAD Board; Jennifer Boyer, Gallatin County Commission; Ciara Wolfe, BSRAD Board. Sarah Blechta, BSRAD Board, attended remotely.

B. Public Comment

[00:13:07](#) Tammy with the Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) invited the public to meet with Bill Todd at the BSRAD office the second Thursday of every month.

C. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. MT64 Updates: Discussion

- TIGER Grant

[00:14:16](#) Danielle Sharf with Sanderson Stewart, thanked the community for their patience during construction and traffic control. Danielle gave an overview of completed projects and updates on projects still in progress. Chipseal and final pavement markings will happen in Spring 2024.

[00:18:03](#) Ciara Wolfe thanked everyone for the work and patience to make this project happen.

[00:18:46](#) Sarah Blechta asked where to direct questions regarding additional work/concerns for MT64 and Danielle directed questions to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

[00:19:43](#) *Public Comment:* Question regarding turn lanes at the Medical Center, Danielle explained that there was not a need to warrant a full turn lane.

- US 191/MT64 Optimization Plan

[00:21:03](#) Dave Gates with MDT gave an update on the US 191/MT64 Optimization Plan and study.

[00:22:41](#) Tim Erikson explained partnerships and collaborative focus of study and Optimization Plan for 191/64 corridor.

[00:26:00](#) Spencer elaborated on goals and strategic funding, including federal funds. Tim discussed partnerships and community engagement.

[00:30:12](#) *Public Comment:* Jim Delzer asked about intentions to fill potholes before winter; Dave Gates explained planning and discussed challenges. Jim Delzer also asked about community impacts and business opportunities to engage in optimization planning. Dave discussed impacts, education/awareness, and opportunities to pursue innovated traffic services.

[00:35:23](#) Danny Bierschwale invited everyone to the Community Celebration where the public can engage directly.

[00:35:51](#) *Public Comment:* Kenny Holtz asked about boundaries of study/Optimization Plan and Dave Gates clarified. Kenny Holtz shared concerns about the intersection of MT64 and Sitting Bull Road.

[00:36:35](#) *Public Comment:* Tracy Gibbons shared concerns with traffic volume, high speed limits, and resident safety on MT64 and shared concern with the 12-18 month wait to fix current issues. Dave Gates discussed challenges and funding opportunities.

[00:38:40](#) Zach Brown and Jenifer Boyer asked, and Dave Gates discussed corridor study's access control plan updates.

[00:42:01](#) Kevin Germain shared appreciation for all partners involved in the TIGER Grant including the state of Montana and all those involved in solving the community's traffic and safety concerns.

b. Madison County Polling Station & Redistricting: Discussion

[00:43:48](#) Bill Todd, Madison County Commission, confirmed the Fire Department can be used as a Polling Station and explained the commission redistricting. Bill Todd is the commissioner for Big Sky, Madison County.

c. Trails, Recreation, and Parks District: Discussion

- District Assessment

[00:45:07](#) Ashley Wilson thanked Gallatin and Madison County commissioners for supporting and passing the District Assessment.

- Big Sky Community Park Renovation Plan

[00:45:56](#) Ashley Wilson shared project updates including the maintenance building which includes workforce housing, skate park expansion, and park redesign.

[00:48:26](#) Ashley shared plans for a new South Fork neighborhood park to include parking, a multiuse sports field, playground, tennis courts, and a dog park.

2. New Business

a. Big Sky Capital Improvement Plan: Action

[00:50:33](#) Colin McAweeney shared background around Capital Improvement Plans (CIP); Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan was last reviewed in 2011 and only included Gallatin County. Colin explained the CIP is intended to be a working document.

[00:53:12](#) Colin explained that the CIP is a guiding document and does not represent BSRAD or County commitment but rather guides long-term planning and partnership opportunities. Colin reviewed population growth and projections. Overall, \$777 million infrastructure needs were identified over a 10-year timeline; Water & Sewer, Roads/Transit, and Housing are the biggest needs.

[00:59:00](#) Colin reviewed funding strategies including BSRAD Resort Tax, Mill Levy authorities, Rural Improvement Districts (RIDs), service charges, and Targeted Economic Development Districts (TEDD). Community lead initiatives exploring a wellness district, library district, park district, and transit districts have the ability to levy stable and predictable revenue.

[01:02:49](#) BSRAD is requesting Madison and Gallatin Counties to accept report as a guiding document to validate future investments.

[01:03:34](#) *Public Comment* asked about the definition of wants versus needs in relation to the CIP; Colin McAweeney explained how wants and needs can vary and are based on community prioritization.

[01:05:09](#) *Public Comment:* Illana Griffith asked about Rural Improvement Districts (RID) and Colin explained the process for RIDs and voted on by local voters.

[01:06:53](#) *Public Comment:* Tracy Gibbons asked about Gallatin Gateway infrastructure needs and property taxes. Colin explained any property tax increases must be voted on by registered voters. Danny Bierschwale explained the scope of the CIP and it does not include Gallatin Gateway.

[01:08:53](#) Gallatin County Commission previously accepted the CIP report.

[01:09:05](#) **Motion:** Madison County Commissioners recognize the 2023 Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan as an update to the existing CIP. Madison County accepts the validity of the report as a guiding document for future strategies to accomplish the community's goals: Bill Todd

[01:09:49](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed

[01:10:27](#) **Motion:** BSRAD Board recognize the 2023 Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan as an update to the existing CIP. BSRAD accepts the validity of the report as a guiding document for future strategies to accomplish the community's goals: Kevin Germain

Second: Ciara Wolfe

[01:10:54](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed

[01:11:29](#) **Motion:** Gallatin County Commissioners recognize the 2023 Big Sky Community Capital Improvement Plan as an update to the existing CIP. Gallatin County accepts the validity of the report as a guiding document for future strategies to accomplish the community's goals: Zach Brown

Second: Jennifer Boyer

[01:11:43](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed

[01:11:51](#) Dustin Tetrault, the Big Sky Fire District Deputy Chief, shared updates regarding Spanish Peaks Station 3 Rural Improvement District. Dustin explained impacts including insurance, response times, and current stations.

[01:17:55](#) Dustin reviewed costs and explained the assessment will only include properties located in Spanish Peaks and will not affect taxpayers outside that area; estimated cost of a fire station with associated fees and factoring in LMLC contribution is around \$14 million. Dustin requested updating Gallatin RID Policy and consider waiving the RID petition process.

[01:22:13](#) Ciara Wolfe discussed the impact of wildfires on the entire community.

[01:22:53](#) Commissioners shared concerns about waiving the RID petition process and asked clarifying questions and requested proof of community support.

b. Economic Impact Study Preview: Discussion

[01:27:08](#) Jackie Haines reviewed the Big Sky Economic Impact Analysis Overview including General Demographics, Regional Employment, GDP Comparison, Taxes Overview, and Total Economic Impact. Jackie encouraged the public to continue to complete community surveys.

[01:29:31](#) Jackie reviewed quick stats related to population growth, BSRAD employment data, and workforce in-migration. Jackie explained direct and indirect impacts for a total gross economic impact of \$2,276,889,870 and 26,065 jobs.

[01:38:15](#) Jackie summarized state-wide, regional, and local impacts. Jackie discussed industry diversity and resiliency, infrastructure needs, and alignment of County priorities with Big Sky community priorities. The economic Impact analysis report is forthcoming and will be posted on the BSRAD and Chamber websites.

[01:41:44](#) Sarah Blechta discussed the need for safe and affordable childcare as a form of infrastructure for a thriving community. Jackie shared statistics including 96% of women with children in Big Sky are working.

[01:44:03](#) *Public Comment:* Asked about funding decisions and visitor verses population impacts. Jackie explained how census data is created and how the study will take account for permanent residents and regional impacts of jobs and spending.

[01:51:17](#) *Public Comment:* Ben Keefe asked about taxability of membership dues and fees and Danny Bierschwale clarified that membership dues and fees are taxable under Resort Tax.

c. Infrastructure Investment, Funding, & Voter Representation Roadmap: Discussion

[01:52:30](#) Danny Bierschwale reviewed topics listed in the Infrastructure Investment, Funding, & Voter Representation Roadmap. Danny encouraged community engagement and involvement.

[02:02:29](#) Danny answered questions related to county boundaries and incorporation, explained that there are many myths and conflicting opinions, and a committee is working to explore facts and education revolving around incorporation.

d. RiverView Housing Project: Discussion

[02:05:47](#) David O'Connor, Big Sky Community Housing Trust, shared updates on the RiverView Housing project which is planned to open Spring 2024.

D. Public Comment: *None*

[02:08:36](#) Kevin Germain thanked the commissioners for attending and encouraged the community to meet with Bill Todd at the BSRAD office the second Thursday of every month.

[02:09:42](#) Scott MacFarlane clarified school/education funding will not be affected by the recent mills and levy adjustments and explained the state's school equalization fund. Zach Brown discussed local and state taxes and accountability. Bill Todd clarified litigation concerns and Madison County discussions.

[02:16:15](#) **Motion to Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

S Johnson

[S Johnson \(Nov 8, 2023 15:55 MST\)](#)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer



Working Session Minutes

October 25th, 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

This work session was held on Wednesday, October 25th at 9:00am at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204)

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:06:26](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order. Kevin Germain, Steve Johnson, and Sarah Blechta present (Grace Young joined later. Ciara Wolfe absent.)

B. Public Comment

C. Application Work Session: Discussion

a. Recap of Last Session

[00:07:25](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the purpose and intent of working session. Daniel reviewed topics from the last working session.

[00:21:52](#) Daniel explained setting budget by impact areas to support board and community priorities.

b. FY25 Process

[00:36:53](#) Jenny Muscat reviewed FY25 Application Process timeline and explained the intent of 2 application review meetings, one being a work session. Board members discussed the timeline and May elections.

c. FY25 Budgets

[00:53:47](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the steps to create a budget by impact areas based on priorities; board members discussed.

[00:57:17](#) Kim Beatty responded to legal questions and concerns.

[01:29:52](#) Board members reviewed their individual budgets, explained their priorities, and agreed on preliminary numbers.

[02:25:11](#) Board members agreed on preliminary numbers and will review pie chart and possible resolution at next work session.

d. New Interlocal Funding Cycle

e. Eligibility Criteria

[02:28:40](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed previous and proposed eligibility criteria/requirements. Board members discussed matching funds and other requirements.

[02:52:58](#) Board members agreed to review the remaining agenda during a working session on Tuesday, October 31, 2:00-4:00 pm.

f. Scores

g. Roll-Out & Communications

D. Public Comment

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

Please visit ResortTax.org for more information.



Working Session Minutes

October 31st, 2023 | 2:00pm

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

This work session will be held on Tuesday, October 31st at 2:00 pm
at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204)

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:00:40](#) Sarah Blechta called to order; all board members present.

B. Public Comment

C. Application Work Session: Discussion

a. Recap of Last Session

[00:01:08](#) Kim Beatty reviewed a rough first draft of a FY25 Allocation Process Resolution based on the October 25th Working Session. View here: [📄 ↩](#)

[00:06:32](#) The draft Resolution will be presented at the November 8 board meeting and will accept public comments, and review again in January. Board members discussed the Resolution and application process.

b. FY25 Process

c. FY25 Budgets

[00:09:45](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed Exhibit B: Impact Area Allocation from the Resolution and Board members discussed.

[00:25:46](#) Ciara Wolfe requested more data reporting from applicants.

[00:57:03](#) The Board discussed reserves and agreed to present a reserve strategy at the November 8 meeting and finalize in January.

d. New Interlocal Funding Cycle

e. Eligibility Criteria

[01:03:10](#) The Board discussed eligibility requirements and matching funds. Board members discussed and agreed to require data reporting from applicants.

[01:35:44](#) Board members discussed minimum score requirements and agreed to allow for appeal process.

f. Scores

[01:41:48](#) Board members will individually review and weight scores in advance of a November 8 working session following the regular board meeting.

g. Roll-Out & Communications

D. Public Comment

[01:52:25](#) Board members agreed to working session following the November 8 board meeting.

[01:56:53](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

S Johnson

SJohnson (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

Please visit ResortTax.org for more information.



Board Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 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

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:  [↩](#)

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.*



Board Working Session

November 8th, 2023 | 10:30am

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

This work session was held on Wednesday, November 8 following the Board meeting at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite #204)

I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

Sarah Blechta, Steven Johnson, and Grace Young were in attendance; Kevin Germain attended remotely; Ciara Wolfe not present.

B. Public Comment

C. Application Work Session: Discussion

[00:00:13](#) Daniel Bierschwale reviewed objectives for Work Session.

a. Scoring Criteria

[00:00:59](#) Board members prioritized scoring criteria and discussed.

[00:16:22](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed scoring for appropriate use of public funds and board members considered options.

[00:23:05](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained SMART community need with measurable results through data and metrics to be added to Our Big Sky plan with input from the community and applicants. Board member discussed.

[00:40:55](#) *Kevin Germain left the meeting.*

[00:52:03](#) Board members reviewed public comment and discussed sustainability recommendations. Kim Beatty shared concerns with nonobjective criteria. Board members considered application questions instead of scoring criteria.

[00:55:20](#) Board members reviewed and discussed weighting of scoring criteria.

[01:12:49](#) Board and staff requested community involvement in process. Public comments and community engagement are encouraged.

D. Public Comment

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

Please visit ResortTax.org for more information.