

**BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT  
11 LONE PEAK DRIVE NO. 204  
BIG SKY, MONTANA**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Kevin Germain	Chair
Sarah Blechta	Vice Chair
Grace Young	Secretary and Treasurer
John Zirkle	Director
Michelle Kendziorski	Director

**STAFF:**

Daniel Bierschwale	Executive Director
Jenny Christensen	Deputy Director
Jackie Haines	Director of Economic and Strategic Development
Kristin Drain	Finance and Compliance Manager
Tammy Estensen	Communications and Community Engagement Manager
Morgan Scarr	Auditor
Kim Beatty	Legal Counsel

Minutes taken by Jolene de Jager of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the open meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**On a motion made by John Zirkle, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Old Business**

**4.1.1 Subcommittee Updates**

**Elevate:** The recent meetings of the Big Sky collaboration, which involved multiple funding partners, have been productive. Discussions with Elevate have been positive.

**Grants:** There was a meeting with subsidiaries to discuss changes in the timing of grant budgeting. They reached out to applicants to inform them of these changes. The Grant Subcommittee's next mission is to determine the updates they want to receive from government entities and how to handle interlocal agreements moving forward.

**Incorporation Exploration:** The Tuesday theories series, held in October and November 2024, had 50 participants, including 12 online attendees. These sessions aimed to foster intimate and meaningful conversations about infrastructure and community values. Virtual office hours have been successful in engaging community members, with some people proactively booking meetings.

**Properties and Facilities:** The subcommittee last met in October 2024. A property was closed in July 2024, reducing the number of tenants from five to two and allowing for lease flexibility due to upcoming intersection improvements. Plans were made to use vacant spaces temporarily for community benefits. An ICE study is underway to support a federal highway grant application.

**CIP:** BSRAD does not have enough cash to handle all the capital improvements in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and would need to borrow money to commit to the projects. The more BSRAD commits to borrowing now, the less financial flexibility it will have in the future, making it important to discover and implement other funding sources annually. Committing to CIP funding now will increase pressure to issue longer-term debt, which means higher interest costs. BSRAD currently lacks the legal capacity to fund every project, necessitating either funding prioritization or changes in the law.

The Board expressed concern over the community's growing tendency to ask for large amounts of funding, emphasizing the need to limit spending and be mindful of future financial plateaus.

#### **4.1.2 Subcommittee Assignment Update**

**On a motion made by Sarah Blechta, seconded by John Zirkle, it was resolved to assign Michelle Kendziorski to the following roles:**

- **Wellness District, replacing Grace Young**
- **Elections and Ballot Issues, replacing John Zirkle**
- **Elevate Big Sky, in addition to Grace Young**
- **Grants, replacing John Zirkle.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **4.1.3 Be Well Big Sky Microgrant Progress**

Shannon Steele, the director of Be Well Big Sky, thanked the community for the microgrant received for the Navigator Network. She highlighted the impact of the grant on the community and navigators, including a live storytelling event featuring navigators sharing their challenges and growth, which significantly engaged the audience. John Loomis also shared a personal story about how community events and networks helped save a friend's life, demonstrating the profound personal impact of these initiatives.

#### **4.1.4 BSTRP Interlocal Amendment**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved to approve the BSTRP Interlocal Amendment as presented.**

The Board discussed the interlocal amendment. The Grants Committee proposed a three-year interlocal agreement with BSTRP instead of an MOU due to statutory requirements preventing counties from committing to annual funding without formal approval.

## **4.2 New Business**

### **4.2.1 FY24 Audit**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved to approve the FY 2024 audit as presented.**

Morgan Scarr presented the FY24 audit and confirmed a clean report. The governance letter included a recommendation to separate funds for better reporting and discussed tracking grant appropriations. There was a discussion on the challenges of tracking grant extensions and their impact on the audit process.

### **4.2.2 Big Sky Discovery Academy Reallocation**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved to approve the Big Sky Discovery Academy Reallocation amendment to the contract, ensuring that the funds are not used for capital expenses, administrative costs, or staff compensation.**

The head of the Big Sky Discovery Academy, Scott Poloff, presented the need for reallocating funds to support various programs and services, particularly for early childhood education. The school has seen changes in enrollment, leading to a surplus in the tuition assistance fund. Scott Poloff proposed incorporating this surplus into the early childhood program to cover costs such as speech and language screenings, vision screenings, and dyslexia screenings.

### **4.2.3 Microgrant-Community Recreation and Medical Training Courses**

**On a motion duly made and failed it was resolved to not award a microgrant to the Mountain Safety Group.**

Connor Goodwin, the founder of Mountain Safety Group, proposed CPR, first aid, and wilderness first aid courses to the Big Sky community. The goal is to make these courses accessible and free for locals, eliminating the need to travel to Bozeman and pay for certification. The proposal included purchasing CPR dummies and covering course fees to train volunteers as instructors.

### **4.2.4 Microgrant-Alpenscapes Outreach and Education**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved to fully fund the request for printed materials to support the Alpscapes Outreach and Education initiative.**

Lizzie Peyton, who represents the Alpscapes partnership, highlighted the importance of certain efforts on insurance eligibility to enhance community outreach and education. To elevate their work, \$15,000 was requested to fund the printing of outreach materials and the strategy to encourage workshops.

The need for printed materials was expressed, noting that even Gen Z prefers reading from printed sources. Lizzie discussed the effectiveness of printed materials in outreach, particularly in making homes more fire-safe, and the role of printed materials in insurance. The outreach program includes articles in Explore Big Sky and the use of the website to amplify the messaging.

### **4.2.5 Microgrant-Big Sky Adult English and Spanish Language Program**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was resolved to fully fund the request for the Big Sky Adult English and Spanish Language Program.**

Ann Swann, the executive director of the World Language Initiative, and Christina Allison, the director of programs, presented their funding application. The program has seen significant growth and is seeking funding to continue offering its services regularly.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:03 a.m.**

**DISCLAIMER**

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Grace Young*

Grace Young (Jan 10, 2025 05:06 MST)

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Grace Young, Secretary and Treasurer



# 2024.11.14 Minutes

Final Audit Report

2025-01-10

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