

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2026, 9:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**STAFF:**

Daniel Bierschwale	Executive Director
Jackie Haines	Director of Economic and Strategic Development
Kristin Drain	Finance and Compliance Director
Tammy Estensen	Communications and Community Engagement Director
Jenny Christensen	Deputy Director (via teleconference)
Kim Beatty	Legal Counsel (via teleconference)

Minutes prepared by Bethany Young 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 meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mariei Butan**, Chair of the Coordinating Council of Big Sky, announced there will be two voter education initiatives in the spring of 2026. A Livable Big Sky campaign regarding the wellness district will begin on February 19, 2026, and a May 2026 election candidate forum will be held on April 21, 2026.

**Taylor Kissell** introduced himself as a candidate for the BSRAD Board.

**Darren Brugman**, Executive Director of the Big Sky Transportation District, provided an update on ridership, updates to the Big Sky Connect service areas, and a grant award to help with technology improvements.

**Jonathan Gans** introduced himself as a candidate for the Big Sky School District School Board.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**On a motion made by John Zirkle, seconded by Michelle Kendziorski, it was resolved to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.**

**Grace Young** reported that December 2025 collections increased 23%. The interfund transfer from the 3% to the 1% collections has been repaid so all 1% collections will now go to fund the Cold Smoke debt service reserve. Interest earnings and meeting expenses have exceeded

budgeted amounts. 190 businesses did not renew their registrations by the December 31, 2025, deadline.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Subcommittee Updates**

###### **4.1.1 Community Investments**

**Jenny Christensen** reported that the Subcommittee met with the Beehive Basin Access Alliance with all parties involved and will meet again in March 2026. The Subcommittee will be piloting an audit of awards and payment requests, starting with two audits in 2026.

###### **4.1.2 Elections and Community Engagement**

**Tammy Estensen** reported that there will be two open BSRAD Board seats on the May 5, 2026, special purpose district election ballot. The three candidates are Lanee Jones, Michelle Kendziorski, and Taylor Kissell. She shared the key dates and details regarding ballots for the upcoming election,

###### **4.1.3 Finance and Operations**

**Kristin Drain** reported that the Subcommittee will be meeting on February 23, 2026, to draft a FY27 operating budget for presentation at the March 2026 Board meeting, with finalization taking place at the April 2026 meeting.

###### **4.1.4 Government Relations**

**Jackie Haines** reported that the subcommittee has been actively meeting with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, has begun working on legislative priorities for the 2027 session, and provided updates on the Local Government Study Commissions for both Madison and Gallatin Counties. The subcommittee is working on proposals for both Study Commissions to recommend the best representation for Big Sky in both counties.

###### **4.1.5 Properties and Facilities**

**Kristin Drain** reported that three of the four spaces at the corner parcel are rented. Engineering work on the corner parcel is continuing as the weather allows. Work is in progress on getting property tax exemptions for the 2025 taxes paid. The employee housing unit is ready for use, thanks to the efforts of Grace Young with help from Stony Creek Contracting and Beautifully Sorted.

###### **4.1.6 SB260/Wellness District**

**Jackie Haines** reported that both Madison County and Gallatin County will vote to create hospital districts on the May 2026 ballot. Three individuals filed to run for the Madison hospital district board, so the board will be acclaimed, and there will be an election for the three Gallatin hospital district board members since four individuals filed to run. There will be five voter education events as part of the Livable Big Sky campaign. It was clarified that the Gallatin County vote to form a hospital district would not result in additional taxes at the outset. Any tax implementation proposed by the elected Gallatin County hospital district board would need to be approved by voters in a future election.

##### **4.2 FY26-FY28 Strategic Plan**

**On a motion made by John Zirkle, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve the strategic plan narrative created by Daniel Bierschwale in support of the one-page summary. Motion carried.**

#### **4.3 BSCO Park Renovation Progress Report**

**Madeleine Feher**, CEO of the Big Sky Community Organization, reviewed work completed before the Community Park bond passed on May 6, 2025, and outlined upcoming projects. fields will be closed through the summer of 2026 to allow new sod to set for at least 60 days. She outlined improvements to the Community Campus, including that the prefabricated public restrooms unit has been ordered and will be delivered mid-July 2026. Continued work on the Community Campus facility will require additional fundraising. She reported that construction is on time and on budget.

#### **4.4 GCWSD Funding Request**

**On a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Michelle Kendziorski, it was resolved to empower BSRAD staff to work with the Gallatin Canyon County Water and Sewer District (GCWSD) and the Big Sky Water and Sewer District to determine a deadline for the Canyon Sewer project to achieve the financial and permitting/regulatory feasibility needed to provide additional funding. The feasibility details and deadlines will be presented as a letter that will be signed by the full board.**

**Mace Mangold**, Vice President of Infrastructure at the WGM Group, reviewed the importance of the Canyon Sewer project and provided a timeline of BSRAD funding. The GCCWSD requested reimbursement for Highway 64 expenditures with an immediate need of \$100,000 by March 15, 2026, to document matching funds for a state ARPA grant. **Kim Beatty** stated that the GCCWSD has not met the conditions of financial feasibility and permitting feasibility required for the use of the funds. The Board expressed concerns about funding availability since all 1% collections are currently going to debt service reserves, and BSRAD cannot be the sole funder of the project. The Board encouraged the GCCWSD to obtain support from the conservation community and to continue pursuing a partnership with Gallatin County on more substantial funding, such as a TEDD or federal grants.

The floor was opened to public comments.

**John Seelye** asked a question about pre-construction and project costs, and **Mace Mangold** responded.

**Matt Elsaesser**, Deputy Director of the Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, explained their lawsuit against the Montana Department of Environmental Quality regarding the Canyon Sewer project permitting is about overall public policy and transparency with agencies to get an environmental assessment in place. They are interested in doing the best for long term water quality, considering the generational investment being made.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 FY27 Microgrant Procedure and Scoring System**

**On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve the general microgrant scoring system and to grant the Community Investments Subcommittee the authority to update the scoring system. Motion carried.**

**Jenny Christensen** reviewed the proposed microgrant scoring system designed to provide a consistent framework for evaluation of microgrant requests on the criteria of matching funds,

annuity, and opportunity. The scoring system is intended to provide a consistent framework for evaluation and clarity on the BSRAD funding priorities. The Board discussed the scoring framework and microgrant requirements.

## 5.2 **Big Sky Fire Department Budget Subcommittee**

**On a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Michelle Kendziorski, it was resolved to form a Big Sky Fire Department Budget Subcommittee with members Grace Young and Sarah Blechta. Motion carried.**

Big Sky Fire Department Chief **Dustin Tetrault** referenced the recent error in fire tax collections by Gallatin County. He requested that BSRAD form a subcommittee to review and possibly make recommendations to the BSRAD Board to update the third year of their interlocal agreement.

The floor was opened for public comments.

**Lanee Jones**, as an advisor to a government technology software company, indicated a system of checks and balances would be easier to implement in a software system than on spreadsheets.

**Carol Collins** encouraged the subcommittee members to be open-minded and understand it was the county that erred, not the fire department.

**John Seelye** encouraged the subcommittee to attend Fire Department Board meetings to better understand the needs of the department.

## 6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Aires**, Big Sky Out, on behalf of Taylor McCaslin, reported that the second annual Winter Pride Week had more than 250 participants at the various events held and received incredible feedback. They thanked the Board for supporting the first Winter Pride event and reported that with increasing partnerships, they are on track to be self-sustaining.

## 7. **NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Board of Directors meeting is March 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

## 8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:07 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 D. Young*  
Grace D. Young (Mar 11, 2026 17:46:15 CDT)

Grace Young, Secretary and Treasurer







# 2026.02.11 Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-03-11

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