

ARPA Task Force

Minutes for 02.08.2022, 8:10 am-9:40 am

BOCC Board Room

Presiding: Jody Bieze, Resource Management Office

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM

Task Force

In-person: Jim Brannon, Jody Bieze, Dena Darrow, Nanci Plouffe,
Pat Braden, Kaitlin Smith, Dorian Komberec, Julina Hildreth

via Teams:

Other Attendees

In-person: William Le

via Teams: Jessie Camburn (NKWSD), Suzanne Scheidt (NKWSD),
Lynda Putz

2. Changes to the Agenda (Action)

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

3. Presiding Officer's Remarks

Presiding Officer Jody Bieze did not have any opening remarks.

4. Announcements

No announcements.

5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for 1 February 2022 was made by Jim Brannon.
Motion seconded and passed.

6. Public Comment

No public comments.

7. Handling of Project Requests Eligible Only Through Revenue Loss (Action)

In the previous meeting, Julina Hildreth asked whether projects eligible only through revenue loss should be considered separately from projects eligible in other categories. The topic was placed on the February 8 agenda.

After discussion, the Task Force agreed to maintain the current procedure by evaluating all eligible projects together regardless of eligibility category, and so made no motion to change evaluation procedure. Projects eligible only through revenue loss will be evaluated next to projects eligible in other categories at this time.

8. Project Scoring Review: Fifth Batch (Discussion)

KC EMSS: Ambulance for COVID response

Prosecutor: Family Justice Center

Sheriff: Radio Refresh

St. Vincent de Paul: Septic to Sewer Transition

Dena Darrow noted that she found the Family Justice Center project requested by the Prosecutor to align closely with the legislative intent behind ARPA SLFRF funds.

9. Project Evaluation Update: Sixth Batch (Action)

The Task Force agreed to evaluate four project requests eligible through the Revenue Loss category this week. The evaluation batch will be due on Tuesday, February 15.

10. Updates: Ongoing Tasks/Project Information (Discussion)

- Master Plan Meeting Docs
- Public Hearing / Evening Meeting
- Website Update and Posting of Evaluation Materials
- Submission of Quarterly Report
- Notice of Submission Deadline

Dena Darrow and Pat Braden reported that the BOCC will be hosting a meeting regarding the Master Plan update at 11 AM on February 18th.

Steve Matheson requested that the Task Force consider whether members prefer that the BOCC host its public hearing on ARPA projects before the Task Force completes and submits its project recommendations, or after. After discussion, the Task Force prefers that the BOCC host a public hearing only after the Task Force has submitted its recommendations. This preference will be communicated to the Board.

Kaitlin Smith has prepared a list overview of all submitted project requests, excluding a set of new requests from Buildings & Grounds for which more information is still needed. She asked whether the Task Force prefers that the overview be posted as-is after receiving Task Force approval, or if the Task Force should wait and post the overview after receipt of the Buildings & Grounds requests. The Task Force preferred immediate posting. After the document has been approved by Task Force members via email, it will be posted.

Jody Bieze provided an update on the ARPA quarterly report. She has had multiple conversations with Treasury staff over telephone and email, and has thoroughly documented that Kootenai County's late submission is due to unavoidable technical difficulties. Jody Bieze was informed that the Treasury's support team is up to 5,000 support requests. Kootenai County's request will be in the queue for one to two weeks before it is reviewed.

The March 1st firm deadline for project requests has been posted on the ARPA webpage. The Task Force discussed whether and how the deadline should be further publicized, and how late submissions shall be treated. This decision shall be made in the February 15th meeting as an action item.

Julina Hildreth relayed OEM staff's intention to once again begin countywide coordination of PPE supplies as they did under CARES. OEM does intend to request ARPA funds in the future to cover PPE costs. Jody Bieze opined that OEM should submit a complete project request in the meantime, so that the Task Force has comprehensive information on all requested or expected expenditures and can evaluate them and report them to the BOCC accordingly.

11. Confirmation of Next Meeting (Action)

The next meeting shall be held on Tuesday February 15th in the BOCC Board Room.

12. Adjournment

Nanci Plouffe moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and passed at 8:41 AM.

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