

NCMEDD Quarterly Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2021, Conrad, MT

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with the following members and guests present:

Attending:

Board: Cyndi Johnson, Shane Etzwiler, Lila Evans, Brenda Schilling, Mary Ann Harwood, Dale Siefert, Sam Carlson, Clarence Sivertsen, Kathy Woodford, Lorette Carter, Mike Mills,
Staff: Sarah Converse, Corey Hageman, Kathy Woodford, and Sean McGuire,
Guests: Department of Commerce Director Scott Osterman, Rob Cook

Special Presentation:

Director Osterman discussed the American Rescue Plan Act, Come Home Montana, and other initiatives from the Department of Commerce in the summer and fall of 2021.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as distributed, motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of March 24, 2021, and annual meeting of April 28, 2021 were reviewed and stand as written.

Financials:

Treasurer Etzwiler reviewed the financials presented. A motion was made to approve the financials with April and May financials to receive in file. Motion carried.

Administrative Report:

Project/Grant/Activity Updates:

ARPA: Staff is monitoring updates from the State of Montana concerning what shape funding will take. Sweetgrass plans to assist entities with the water infrastructure that has been announced.

Brownfields: Petroleum assessments are moving forward with three (3) hazardous substance sites waiting for eligibility approval. With approval, site assessments will begin with Phase II work to follow.

Marketing: Engagement through mass emails and social media has plateaued. Results have come back from Sweetgrass' 2021 Needs Assessment. The City of Shelby was the \$1,000 recipient for most responses.

Training: Sweetgrass Development, in partnership with Native American Development Corporation and Glacier County Port Authority, have filled capacity for 2 business planning trainings, with a third to potentially be offered because of the positive response.

Business Items:

The Board welcomed their newest member: Clarence Sivertsen of the Little Shell Tribe.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Sweetgrass Development to apply for upcoming grant opportunities related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Sweetgrass Development to apply for Brownfields RLF and Assessment funding later this summer.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.