

Montana Coal Board
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020
Conference Call

Board Members Present

Chairman John Williams, Vice-Chair Sidney Fitzpatrick, Amber Henning, Marianne Roose, Tim Schaff, and Sean Smith.

Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present

Jennifer Olson, Division Administrator; A.C. Rothenbuecher, Operations Manager; Rachel Young, Administrative Officer; Anita Proul, Executive Assistant; Jessica Blumberg, Attorney.

Public Present

Bill Hodges	Big Horn Hospital Association
Bob Lewandowski	Superintendent Colstrip Public Schools
Larry Vandersloot	Commissioner, Big Horn County
Robert E. Lee	Commissioner, Rosebud County
Jim Atchison	SEMDC

Welcome – Call to order

Chairman Williams called to order the meeting of the Montana Coal Board at 8:31 a.m.

Roll call

Ms. Young called the roll for board members. The following board members were present: Chairman Williams, Vice-Chair Sidney Fitzpatrick, Amber Henning, Marianne Roose, Tim Schaff, and Sean Smith.

Commerce Updates

Ms. Young updated/reminded the Board on the following:

- Denial letters sent to applicants
- Commerce Legislative Communications Policy and Commerce Communications Contact
 - Sam Offerdahl 841-2893
- Reminder regarding Board Appointments and expired terms

Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public comment provided.

Approval of Minutes (September 10, 2020)

- Chairman Williams indicated that several corrections would need to be made to the minutes regarding the Board's action on the grant applications and resubmitted for approval at the March 2021 meeting.

Budget Status Update

Ms. Rothenbuecher discussed the Budget Update and Revenue History reports.

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2021 Biennium

- Legislative Appropriation (HB 2 and HB 292): \$6,961,000.00
- FY 2020 (7/1/19-6/30/20) Appropriation: \$3,479,000.00
- FY 2020 Revenue Available to Date: \$2,616,661.44
- FY 2020 Awards Made to Date: \$3,223,150.00
- FY 2020 Revenue Available to Award: (\$ 606,488.56)

- FY 2021 (7/1/20-6/30/21) Appropriation: \$3,482,000.00
- FY 2021 Revenue Available to Date: \$ 409,548.91
- FY 2021 Awards Made to Date: \$0.00
- Funds Reverted: \$0.00
- FY 2021 Revenue Available to Award: \$ 409,548.91

- 2021 Biennium Awarded: \$3,223,150.00
- 2021 Biennium Revenue Available: (\$ 196,939.65)
- Revenue Available with Reverted Funds (to award this meeting): (\$ 196,939.65)

- Tribal 7% limitations are being tracked and so far, this fiscal year, the Board has made no awards to State or Tribal projects. Currently the available balance for such is \$243,530.00. Also, Designated vs. Non-Designated funds are being tracked. Statute identifies funds can be spent anywhere but 51% must be in designated impact areas and any other projects must meet statute criteria.

Project Updates

A. Applicant #0742 – Town of Lodge Grass requesting contract extension to December 31, 2022.

Action by the Board: Ms. Henning made a motion to extend contract to December 31, 2022. Mr. Schaff seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public - no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick abstained. Motion passed.

B. Applicant #0787 – Crow Tribe requesting contract extension to December 31, 2023.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick made a motion to extend contract to December 31, 2023. Ms. Roose seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

C. Applicant #0830 – Northern Cheyenne requesting contract extension to September 30, 2021.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick made a motion to extend contract to September 30, 2021. Mr. Smith seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

D. Applicant #0846 – Hardin Public Schools requesting contract extension to March 31, 2021.

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Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick made a motion to extend contract to March 31, 2021. Ms. Roose seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

E. Applicant #0898 – Town of Hysham requesting scope of work change.

Action by the Board: Ms. Roose made a motion to change scope of work. Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public:

- Jim Atchison, SEMDC – spoke in support of request.

No further discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

F. Open and Closed project status

- Ms. Young reviewed spreadsheets
 - 30 Projects Open
 - Three contracts currently being routed

G. Projects awarded at previous meetings contingent upon revenue

- 0890-Carbon County; 0891-City of Colstrip; 0889-Town of Hardin – contracts routing
- 0898-Town of Hysham; 0900-Musselshell County; 0901 Colstrip High School – waiting for revenue
 - Total = \$279,468

Old Business

Application #0904 Rosebud County – Replace HVAC **\$250,000**

Received letter verifying withdrawal of application request from previous meeting.

New Business

Application #0911 Rosebud County – Repair Colstrip Human Services Building HVAC **\$250,000**

- Robert E. Lee, Rosebud County Commissioner – Spoke in support of the application and acknowledged the revenue shortage faced by the Board.

Action by the Board: Mr. Schaff made a motion to deny application based on lack of available funds. Ms. Henning seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

Application #0912 Big Horn County – Big Horn Hospital New Admissions Area **\$498,759**

- Bill Hodges, Big Horn Hospital Association – Spoke in support of the application and acknowledged the revenue shortage faced by the Board.

Action by the Board: Mr. Schaff made a motion to deny application based on lack of available funds. Mr. Smith seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

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Application #0913 Big Horn County – Purchase New Tractor and Construction of Storage Building for the Fairview Cemetery **\$124,870**

- Larry Vandersloot, Big Horn County Commissioner – Spoke in support of the application and acknowledged the revenue shortage faced by the Board.

Action by the Board: Mr. Smith made a motion to deny application based on lack of available funds. Ms. Roose seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

Application #0914 Big Horn County – Purchase Two 4x4 Patrol Vehicles for Sheriff’s Dept. **\$90,086**

- Larry Vandersloot, Big Horn County Commissioner – Spoke in support of the application and acknowledged the revenue shortage faced by the board.

Action by the Board: Mr. Smith made a motion to deny application based on lack of available funds. Mr. Schaff seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public:

- Chairman Williams – shared some fleet vehicle purchase information utilized by the City of Colstrip at a significant savings.

No further discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

Application #0915 Colstrip Public Schools – Replace Fluorescent Lighting with LED Lighting **\$229,470**

- Bob Lewandowski, Superintendent Colstrip Public Schools - Spoke in support of the application and acknowledged the revenue shortage faced by the board.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick made a motion to deny application based on lack of available funds. Mr. Schaff seconded. Discussion from the Board and comments from the public – no discussion or comments. Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion passed.

Application and Manual Review

Ms. Rothenbuecher recapped what was discussed and requested from the Board at the September meeting regarding the approval of the Application and draft Grant Administration Manual.

- Chairman Williams asked for a hard copy to be printed and sent out to the board for them to review for the March 2021 meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

- No additional public comment provided.

Board Matters

- Confirmation of next meeting date
 - March 11, 2021 – Telephone Conference
 - June 10, 2021
 - September 9, 2021

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Adjournment

With no other business, Chairman Williams called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schaff seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.