

ARPA Task Force

Minutes for 01.25.2022, 8:10 am-9:40 am

BOCC Board Room

Presiding: Steve Matheson, Kootenai County Treasurer

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM

Task Force

In-person: Steven Matheson, Dena Darrow, Jody Bieze, Kaitlin Smith
Dorian Komberec, Julina Hildreth

via Teams: Pat Braden

Other Attendees

In-person: William Le, Julie Lynn, Diana Sheredan

via Teams: Necia Maiani (Welch Comer), Kaye Thornbrugh (CDA Press), Sandra White,
Jessie Camburn (North Kootenai Water and Sewer District)

2. Changes to the Agenda (Action)

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

3. Presiding Officer's Remarks

Presiding Officer Steve Matheson did not have any opening remarks.

4. Announcements

Steve Matheson announced his intention to continue attending local political meetings to explain ARPA SLFRF funds and why Kootenai County is comfortable accepting them.

Dena Darrow announced that she will be attending an Innovia Foundation event this week.

Jody Bieze announced that Kim Riley will no longer be participating in ARPA Task Force meetings, though she will continue to contribute to the financial administration of ARPA funds. She will remain on the list of Task Force members.

Jody Bieze also announced that she will be out of office next week, and will not be attending the next Task Force meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

The Task Force agreed that a statement mistakenly attributed to Jim Brannon was in fact made by Pat Braden; the misattribution was corrected. A motion to approve the meeting minutes for 11 January 2022 was made by Dena Darrow. Motion seconded and passed.

6. Public Comment

William Le commented to assert that the Treasury's potential recoupment of ARPA SLFRF funds allocated to Arizona and expended in programs designed in ways which do not comply with the Final Rule constitutes proof that the acceptance of ARPA funds comes with unacceptable strings attached.

Steve Matheson reiterated that Task Force meetings are not question and answer sessions or forums for debate, but invited William Le to stay after the meeting to discuss his concerns.

Necia Maiani commented to commend the Task Force for the thorough processes she has observed in meetings.

7. SLFRF Final Rule (Discussion)

Dena Darrow stated that the Final Rule's requirement for written justification for large capital projects is the change most likely to impact the Task Force in selection and presentation of project recommendations. Pat Braden concurred, and Jody Bieze noted that the written justification required for large capital projects resembles narratives required during application for federal assistance; the only difference in this case is that funds were received before projects were selected.

Steve Matheson invited the Task Force to discuss whether the Final Rule should precipitate a change in process or a hard deadline for project requests. After discussion, the Task Force agreed to announce March 1st as a deadline, with the Task Force reserving the right to reject or accept late requests on an individual basis dependent on project type. This deadline will be conveyed through a statement on the Kootenai County ARPA webpage and through a BOCC statement. Published notice will be discussed in the agenda for February 1, 2022.

8. Requests for Purchase or Reimbursement of PPE (Discussion)

Kaitlin Smith provided an explanation of the Kootenai County EMS System request for reimbursement of PPE expenses starting in 2020. As the obligation of some expenses predate the Period of Performance for ARPA funds, the request is not eligible for ARPA funding. The Task Force must determine whether it is responsible for coordinating requests for or procurement of PPE. Kootenai County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been coordinating the purchase and distribution of PPE for other departments and agencies, but the funds previously set aside for this purpose have been expended. Julina Hildreth will reach out to a representative of the OEM to determine whether the OEM has the staffing resources to continue coordinating requests for PPE.

9. Project Scoring Review: Fourth Batch (Discussion)

- North Kootenai Water & Sewer: Rimrock
- North Kootenai Water & Sewer: Twin Lakes
- BOCC: Airport Sewer Lines
- Hayden Lake Sewer District
- Bayview Water and Sewer District
- Coroner: Mobile Morgue Trailer
- Sheriff: Jail Generator Upgrade

Some members of the Task Force had completed this batch before evaluations were paused to review the Final Rule, but others had not. Steve Matheson suggests setting Tuesday, February 1st as the new due date. The Task Force concurs.

10. Project Evaluation Update: Fifth Batch (Action)

Pat Braden will work on providing concurrence for project requests assessed as eligible. Requests with concurrence by Tuesday, February 1st will be included in the fifth batch of evaluations.

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

Master Plan Meeting Docs

Public Hearing / Evening Meeting

Website Update and Posting of Evaluation Materials

Dena Darrow stated that an update on the Master Plan revision will be included in the January 26th business meeting.

Steve Matheson deferred further discussion of an ARPA public hearing or evening meeting to the February 1st Task Force meeting.

Kaitlin Smith has prepared drafts of a webpage update and revised evaluation plan, and will send them out via email so they can be reviewed by the Task Force. Steve Matheson stated his belief that approval of these drafts is an administrative decision which can be made over email. The Task Force will do so.

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting (Action)

The next ARPA Task Force meeting has been confirmed for Tuesday February 1st at 8:10 AM. The meeting shall be held in the third floor Board Room.

13. Adjournment

Presiding Officer Steve Matheson pronounced the meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM.

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Further information, or requests for assistance or accommodations, can be arranged by contacting the Kootenai County ARPA Task Force at ARPA@kcgov.us with 48-hour notice.