

ARPA Task Force

Minutes for 02.15.2022, 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: Steve Matheson, Dena Darrow, Jody Bieze, Kaitlin Smith, Dorian Komberec, Julina Hildreth
via Teams: Pat Braden

Other Attendees

In-person: Amy Voeller, William Le
via Teams: None

2. Changes to the Agenda (Action)

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

3. Presiding Officer's Remarks

Presiding Officer remarked humorously, hearing that the February 8th meeting was completed quickly, that perhaps the position of presiding officer ought to rotate.

4. Announcements

No announcements.

5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for 8 February 2022 was made by Dena Darrow. Motion seconded and passed.

6. Public Comment

Amy Voeller commented to encourage Kootenai County's ARPA Task Force to look into how other jurisdictions are spending ARPA funds, with particular attention to the proportion of funds going towards each category. She stated that she will forward a presentation on Spokane County's first plan to the ARPA@kcgov.us email address after this meeting.

7. Submission Deadline and Late Requests

Kaitlin Smith reported the receipt of another Water & Sewer category request and summarized last week's discussion on how the March 1st deadline shall be treated, including the suggestion that project requests submitted after March 1st should only be considered by intervention of the Board.

Steve Matheson inquired as to whether the Task Force should disband after providing recommendations to the BOCC. Jody Bieze replied that it may be appropriate to disband as an advisory body. She noted, however, that the members of the Task Force will remain responsible for management of ARPA funds and projects selected by the BOCC. Therefore, the Task Force will be useful as an administrative body. Steve Matheson noted that, as a purely administrative body, the Task Force would no longer be required to host open meetings.

The Task Force shall require an action item to make a final decision on how requests submitted after March 1st should be handled and whether the Task Force should disband.

8. Project Scoring Review: Sixth Batch (Discussion)

KC EMSS: Ambulance for COVID response

Prosecutor: Family Justice Center

Sheriff: Radio Refresh

St. Vincent de Paul: Septic to Sewer Transition

Evaluators had no comments about evaluation and scoring of the sixth batch.

9. Project Evaluation Update: Seventh Batch (Action)

Kaitlin Smith reported sixteen presumed eligible projects in need of evaluation, plus as many anticipated requests from Buildings & Grounds as are determined eligible. The Task Force has agreed to undertake evaluation for eight project requests this week; Pat Braden will provide the specific requests to be evaluated after confirming eligibility.

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

Countywide PPE

IFR-Final Rule Differences check-in

Dena Darrow reiterated that the BOCC will be holding a meeting on the Master Plan on Friday, February 18th, at 11 AM.

Steve Matheson sought confirmation of Task Force preference on when a public hearing should be held; Pat Braden and Jody Bieze confirmed that Task Force consensus is that a public hearing should be held after the Task Force has submitted its recommendations to the BOCC. A date for the hearing has not been set.

Kaitlin Smith stated that the list of all requested projects has been uploaded and linked in the ARPA webpage.

Jody Bieze stated that the first Quarterly Report has now been submitted. It is her belief that the issue which prevented submission has been solved, and will not be an issue again going forward.

Julina Hildreth confirmed that OEM staff will intermittently reach out to construct orders of PPE, and can request funds from the BOCC at the time of each order. Jody Bieze noted that, if OEM does not intend to make a formal project request for evaluation, they will nevertheless need to communicate an amount of funds to be set aside in anticipation of PPE expenses.

Kaitlin Smith provided a summary and check-in for differences between eligibility requirements under the Interim Final Rule and the Final Rule. The Final Rule prompted the evaluation of project requests eligible under "Providing government services," and required that the Sheriff's Radio Refresh project request be categorized as "Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts" instead of "Providing government services." No other eligibility determinations were changed.

The Final Rule provides that each project must establish that it is a proportional response to a harm or need brought about by COVID-19. Capital projects over \$1 million, unless paid for with revenue replacement, must further prove that the proposed capital project is a superior option to alternative responses to the need it addresses.

Kaitlin Smith reported that she and Dorian Komberec are constructing templates for these requirements, along with a Terms and Conditions and Certification and Assurances packet for subrecipients and contractors. They will provide written updates on these efforts as they proceed.

11. Confirmation of Next Meeting (Action)

Steve Matheson confirmed that the next meeting shall be held at 8:10 AM on Tuesday, February 22nd, in the BOCC Board Room.

Kaitlin Smith requested and received confirmation that meetings should be scheduled through the end of March at this time.

12. Adjournment

Presiding Officer Steve Matheson pronounced the meeting adjourned at 8:44 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.