

Minutes of Meeting
Grants Management Office Direction Discussion
June 22, 2015
9:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart, Commissioner Dan Green, and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Accounting Manager Grace Blomgren, Grants Management Office Director Jody Bieze, and Deputy Clerk Theresa Atchley.

A. Call to Order: Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

B. Introductions: There were no introductions.

C. Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

D. Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

E. New Business:

Chairman Stewart requested this meeting to discuss the direction of the Grants Management Office (GMO). He questioned the effectiveness of the GMO and said the department should be staffed with fewer personnel. Chairman Stewart stated the department was developing overreach at a high cost to the County and has caused delays for other departments.

Commissioner Marc Eberlein was concerned that a reduction in GMO staffing might put the County at risk. He mentioned the importance of remaining compliant with various grant regulations, particularly the Department of Transportation's DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program. Commissioner Eberlein suggested the County could save funds by writing more grants in-house.

Commissioner Dan Green stated the GMO reduces the liability of the County tremendously and the current staffing level is necessary. In addition, the GMO is capturing more match money in grant administration than was captured in previous years. He said that many departments did not currently write their own grants and that the County was incurring fees for this service, especially Airport grants written by T-O Engineers.

Chairman Stewart suggested reducing the wages and benefits of the GMO as a way to reduce the County budget.

Commissioner Green did not support a reduction in GMO staffing and recognized the value the Department provides in grant writing and administration. He asked the GMO to bring forth a report at the end of Fiscal Year 2015, which more fully accounted for dollars spent and revenues generated.

Commissioner Eberlein wanted to review such a report before taking action to reduce wages and benefits of the GMO. He reminded the other Board members that ultimately the County would be responsible if we did not remain in compliance with grant requirements.

Commissioner Green moved to open the recruitment for the Transit Program Specialist position. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein: Aye
Commissioner Green: Aye
Chairman Stewart: Nay

The motion carried.

F. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Theresa Atchley, Deputy Clerk
