

# ***Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes***

May 18, 2021

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Amy Kellogg called to order the meeting of the Agriculture Development Council at 9:06 am on Tuesday May 18, 2021.

## **II. Roll call**

Dani Jones conducted roll call and introductions were made my council members and department staff.

Council Members: Chair Amy Kellogg, Vice Chair John Wicks, George Kipp, Megan Hedges, Department of Commerce Director Scott Osterman, and Andy Fjeseth proxy for Department of Agriculture Director Mike Foster. Lars Hanson joined the meeting at 9:15am.

Department Employees: Jim Auer, Tina Bateman, Alicia Hamm, Grace Aklestad, Zach Coccoli, and Dani Jones.

## **III. Public Comment**

Chair Amy Kellogg called for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

## **IV. Approval of the past meeting minutes**

John Wicks made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from previous Council meetings, February 17-19, 2021 and April 29,2021 as presented. Director Scott Osterman 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **V. Department Update**

Andy Fjeseth updated the Council on the changes at the Department. Director Foster is headed to the governor's office to oversee the ARPA funds. Andy discussed the Agriculture Resiliency program with "four stops" that Christy Clark is headed to speak at, starting this afternoon. Alicia Hamm with the Marketing Division introduced herself to the Council.

## **VI. GTA Funding Priorities 2022**

Jim discussed the funding priorities for GTA for the 2022 year, which qualify for 0% interest loans, postponing GTA for ARPA (Ag Resiliency Program). Staff recommendation is to wait to set priorities until we know more about what GTA/ARPA will look like.

1. Commerce Director Scott Osterman initiated the discussion about the impact on growers who are counting on this funding and cycle time.
2. Council agreed that postponing the GTA funding opportunity would be the best approach.

## **VII. Next Meeting Date**

The council set the next meeting date for August 31, 2021

## **VIII. Conflict of Interest**

Zach Coccoli reminded the Council that if any member has a direct financial interest with an applicant they will remove themselves from the meeting. Chair Kellogg stated a conflict with Mission West Community Development and did not participate in the review of that application.

## **IX. GTA Application Process**

1. Jim Auer shared with the Council that there was \$1.5 Million in funding requests. 10 applicants with \$1.2 Million in funding available.
2. Chair Kellogg gave reminders about the presentation. Be specific when you make cuts to services and items. Fund objectives that will show impact. Ranking done "High to Low" priority for funding.

## **X. FADC Applicant Presentations**

1. Beartooth RDC, presented by Joel Bertolino, funded at \$88,683.00
2. Bear Paw RCD, presented by Michael Peters and Paul Tuss, funded at \$184,472.00
3. Dawson Community College, presented by Ryleigh Vaughn and Katie Carrier, NOT FUNDED
4. Great Falls Development Authority, presented by Jolene Schalper, funded at \$144,175.00

5. Great Northern Development Corporation, presented by Tami Burke and Tori Matejovsky, funded at \$102,440.00
  6. Headwater RCD, presented by Courtney Loeffler and Joe Willauer, funded at \$128,880.00
  7. Mission West Community Development Partnership, presented by Taylor Lyon, funded at \$288,676.00
  8. Prospera Business Center, presented by Paul Reichert, funded at \$69,126.00
  9. Ravalli County EDA, presented by Julie Foster, funded at \$21,599.00
  10. Snowy Mountain Development Corp, presented by Abby Majerus, funded at \$96,000.00
  11. A remainder of \$2,350.00 was left to be distributed at the discretion of staff
- b. John Wicks made the motion to approve funding as presented on the spreadsheet. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed

## **XI. Public Comment**

Chair Amy Kellogg called for public comment. Michael Peter from Bear Paw Development thanks the council for their hard work and he is looking forward to the upcoming year. Jolene Schalper from Great Falls Development Authority thanked the council for their hard work and dedication.

## **XII. Adjournment**

George Kipp made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Fjeseth 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor. Chairwoman Amy Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 2:51pm

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones

Minutes approved by: Andy Fjeseth