

***Our vision is to be the best resource for business assistance, through collaborations and partnerships,
for all communities within and surrounding Glacier County.***

Glacier County Regional Port Authority
Tentative March Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022, Cut Bank Office, and Via Zoom

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Present: Mike Wineman, John Overcast, Neal Bartleson, Rod Cline, Tony Sitzmann, Tom McKay, Ken Hoyt; Absent/Excused: Fred Greco, Skye Gilham
 - B. Guests: Jonnalea Tatsey, Sanford Stone, Rich Gannon, Sarah Converse
- II. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 2:04 by Mike
 - A. Tom moved, seconded by Rod, to approve the March agenda. Motion carried.
 - B. Neal moved to approve the amended February minutes, seconded by Rod. Amendment was made to February minutes to excuse John’s absence. Motion carried.
 - C. Tom moved, seconded by John, to table the January and February financials. Motion carried.
 - D. John moved, seconded by Tom, to approve the current budget. Motion carried.
 - E. Bills to present: \$65.25 to Pioneer Press, \$10.00 to SCORE
 - F. Correspondence – advised Board of a letter of support written for the Glacier Park Trading Company regarding their grant application process.
- III. Presentation by Jonnalea Tatsey of Glacier Electric Cooperative regarding the possible community-scale renewable energy installation and efficiency upgrades in the Babb area. Much discussion was generated regarding the USDA grant application process, and the need for an entity to take the lead on the application, as well as serve as the pass-through for grant money, should it be awarded. Follow up will take place on 3/24/22 at the Sweetgrass Development quarterly board meeting.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Economic Development Fund Vote on Glacier Creative Arts application – Tom moved, seconded by Neal to award the \$2000 ask to assist in expanding this business. Motion carried with five votes in favor. John and Tony abstained as they were absent from the previous meeting.
 - B. Overpass Project Update – Mr. Hayes and CBHS welding class have the signs finished and are painting them.
 - C. Update on 501c3 – Status approved by IRS as of June 2021.
 - D. By-Laws Work Session – table for more research.
 - E. Supporting Success Scholarship update- applications have been sent to Browning and Cut Bank guidance counselors, as well as posted on our website. Facebook promotion will begin soon.
 - F. USDA Renewable Energy System – covered in presentation
- V. New Business
 - A. Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce renewal – Tony motioned, seconded by Ken, to renew our Basic Business Membership at \$125. Motion carried.
 - B. Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce request – A letter was received asking for the Port Authority to sponsor the upcoming Chamber Banquet at \$750. After discussion, Tom moved, seconded by John, to purchase a table at \$300. Motion carried.

- C. Other New Business – Discussion took place on the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, and the Rise and Restore Small Business Summit in Billings. Tony moved, seconded by Neal, that the executive director does not need board approval to attend trainings \$500 and under. Motion carried.
- VI. Strategic Planning – By-Law review tabled for more research. Information will be provided by Sarah on the Montana Economic Developers Association By-Law recommendations.
- VII. Activity Reports
 - A. Browning and surrounding communities – Tony expressed concern over the recent crash and fatality in East Glacier Park. The 25-mph speed limit is rarely followed. The Department of Transportation will be contacted with this information. Glacier Peaks Casino held a raffle and is giving away a car on 3/17/22.
 - B. Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce – Banquet discussed
 - C. Sweetgrass Development – Quarterly board meeting on 3/24 in Conrad. The five-year CEDS has begun. Cares Act funding has been generally going to cities and towns for planning. At the recent MACo conference, it was decided that work will begin on placing all bridges in the state into one project for repair.
 - D. GFDA – Website Bootcamp (geared toward e commerce and hotel/motel booking) will be held on 4/8/22 in Browning at 9:00 a.m. A Business Pitch Night will take place on 4/28/22 at the Brewery at 6:00 p.m. GFDA has loan capitol for Glacier and Blaine Counties to deploy for business, community projects, and gap financing.
- VIII. Public Comment – none
- IX. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned by Mike at 3:27. Next meeting to take place April 21, 2022, at 2:00. Venue to be determined based on COVID regulations.

The mission of the Glacier County Regional Port Authority is to promote, stimulate, and advance the general welfare, commerce, economic development, and prosperity of its region.