

***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 February Board Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2023, 2:00 p.m., GCRPA Office, Cut Bank, MT and via Zoom

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Present: Ken Hoyt, Mike Wineman, John Overcast, Rod Cline, Neal Bartleson, Skye Gilham (Zoom), Doug Vermulm (Zoom); Absent/Excused: Tom McKay, Tony Sitzmann.
  - B. Guests: Sanford Stone
- II. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Mike at 2:03 p.m.
  - A. Rod moved, seconded by Neal, to approve the February agenda. All in favor, motion carried.
  - B. John moved, seconded by Neal, to approve the January minutes. All in favor, motion carried.
  - C. Skye moved, seconded by Neal, to approve the December and January financials. All in favor, motion carried.
  - D. Following the explanation of the budget shortfall in the Legal/Accounting category, John moved, seconded by Rod, to approve the amended budget with \$1500 moved from Travel to Legal/Accounting. All in favor, motion carried.
  - E. No bills to present.
  - F. No correspondence.
- III. Old Business
  - A. Six GCRPA Board of Director applications were received. With Mike serving as Board Chairman, three remaining Board members were eligible to vote. Public comment suggested that there was not a majority, therefore Mike was asked to vote. Rod moved, seconded by John, to accept the vote as counted. All in favor, motion carried. Ken, Neal, Skye, Tom, and Tony will remain on the board until such time that terms expire. Vacancies will be advertised and acted upon at the 2023 annual meeting.
  - B. Human Rights Bureau Case No. 00220154 – The dates of March 21-22 were vacated. More research to take place. Port Authority Case No. CV-22-81-GF-BMM-JTJ – The March 20 hearing in Great Falls still stands.
  - C. Loan Application Draft – sent to Carrie Taylor of Sweetgrass Development for review. Sweetgrass has purchased loan software that will also be available for the GCRPA to utilize by contract.
  - D. Special District Insurance Coverage – Leavitt in process of looking for an agent who represents Port Authorities.
- IV. New Business
  - A. The Cut Bank Reimagining Rural group, with a winning grant proposal, will be hosting a Cut Bank Community Involvement Expo on April 27. John moved, seconded by Rod, that the GCRPA register and participate. All in favor, motion carried. After discussion of other Reimagining Rural projects throughout the state of MT, it was requested that the GCRPA contribute to the grant match. John moved, seconded by Neal, to contribute \$500 to the grant match. All in favor, motion carried.
    1. A pitch training will take place on March 23, with a committee from Reimagining Rural group providing training. Location TBA.

- B. A social media post from Northern Transit Interlocal was read and discussed. NTI is also working to match grant funds that will provide no cost transportation for the three days a week that NTI does not already operate. All monies go to riders from Browning, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby, Sunburst, Sweetgrass, and Valier. It was moved by Rod, seconded by John, to contribute \$500 to NTI for the matching funds of the additional appointment grant. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. Strategic Planning Session time was spent encouraging one another to be more prepared for expiring board terms in the future, and to discuss board membership with acquaintances as appropriate.
- VI. Activity Reports
  - A. Browning – BCC is offering HSET Prep classes for testing in the spring. The contact for prep classes is Gordon Bennett at [Gordon.b@bfcc.edu](mailto:Gordon.b@bfcc.edu). The contact for test registration is Cheryl Madman at [cmadman@bfcc.edu](mailto:cmadman@bfcc.edu). BCC will be holding a career fair on April 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
  - B. East Glacier Park – The Blackfeet Business Pitch-In Night will take place on April 12, 2023 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Peak Restaurant.
  - C. Babb/St. Mary – The Cattle Baron had a successful Valentine’s season with dining and live music.
  - D. Cut Bank – Northwest Distributors, LLC has opened at Marketplace on Main for UPS/FedEx shipping and receiving, as well as other services. The Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce is planning their annual banquet for April 29, and is looking for nominations for Citizen of the Year. Nominations due by March 8. The next First Friday event is March 3. There will be new business pitches at the Brewery on February 23.
  - E. Sweetgrass Development – Protecting economic development interests at the MT Legislative Session, Economic Development Day with preceding networking reception, attending MACo conference, moving forward with EPA on clean-up of Glacier Hotel. Sweetgrass had their Q1 Board Meeting on January 26.
- VII. Public Comment – Mr. Sanford Stone had two questions for the board. The first is if there will be advertising in April done for Mr. Tom McKay’s board vacancy? The 2023 vacancies will be acted upon at the annual meeting. Mr. Stone also commented on the lack of a majority in voting for the board positions, therefore Mike Wineman voted in order to make the vote a majority.
- VIII. Adjournment – Mike adjourned at 3:20. The next meeting will take place on March 16, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Venue is TBA, but will also be presented via Zoom.

***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.***