

Regular Meeting Minutes

Roll call: other members vote Aye
Motion Passes Unanimously

Nathan continued: that the end of the month (August) financial report is included. There is \$351,180.38 in the checking account less the two expenses just approved. There is a complete DRA Audit through 2022 with a single CARES program audit included. There were some minor infractions found given the scope of the audit. A total of \$163,618.000 acceptable issues were found, and \$143,122.46 were found in violation. The remaining funds of the FSA program were \$53,722.5. there was \$12,600.09 of indirect costs covered through other programs, and a portion of the above indirect costs after the allowed period totaled \$7,421.34. There was \$48,543.76 of excess indirect funds that were not spent within the period.

Marc recommends tabling the audit until a better majority of the board is present. He has some questions that need further clarification of some of the indirect costs. Nathan stated that he received one RFP for a future audit, but it was for 3 years, not 5 years. He believes they are not comfortable committing to 5 years with current inflation costs.

Motion: Approve the 3-year proposed RFP with Molatore Scroggins to conduct audits.

Motion by: Tim O'Connor Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: other members vote Aye

All other members vote Aye

Motion Passes Unanimously

Receive Report Regarding 2023 Program Administration

Erick Johnson and Co-Owner Marcio Nunes address the board regarding application KDR230506 which was filed a few days late. Nathan informed the board that he invited them to speak today to give details to their late application. Mr. Nunes stated that he and Mr. Jonhson turned in an application late to the DRA based on mail issues. They just purchased the property and stated they did not know of the program. They have had continuous mail theft and carriers delivering mail weeks late. He provided documentation of reports filed and pictures taken of stolen mail found on a public Facebook post by a stranger. The picture post labeled "if anyone is missing their mail, we found it on the side of the road". In that picture was the postcard from DRA that was being sent to the previous owner. According to Mr. Nunes, that is how they found out about the program. Tim O'Conner recommends approving it, as the evidence provided shows it was beyond their control. Paul Crawford stated that he wanted to pay everyone; however, mail was not the only means of communication. Paul thinks that if approved, the DRA is opening a box of worms by approving one late one, which the DRA has always denied. Mike McKoen asked Chelsea Shearer of KWUA what methods they used to spread the word. She stated that they used radio advertising, but maybe only ¼ of the normally paid advertising compared to 2021, but radio ads and Facebook posts ran. Mike stated that he could see on Facebook 5 separate posts right now. Marc Staunton stated he was torn and understands what happened, to move forward, he would need a motion. With no motion on the table, the present members choose to take no action on the subject.

2:15 Scotty Fenters joins the meeting.

KDR230507 for Greg Carlton, also a late application. Mr. Carlton reached out to Nathan on the subject matter and is not present today. Nathan stated that Mr. Carlton applied via email, he filled the form out and even took a picture of the application (dated prior to the deadline). When Mr. Carlton did not receive his confirmation letter as he had in the past, he contacted the DRA. Kyle stated in the metadata of the photo it was dated June 15, 2023. Nathan continued that, somehow, the email did not transfer a sent copy. Mr. Carlton claimed that his internet provider was having issues. Mr.

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Carlton contacted Mike McKoen and Paul Crawford on the matter outside the board meeting. Mike disclosed to the board that he rents a barn from Mr. Carlton and questioned if he needed to recuse himself; Nathan stated that he did not need to recuse. Mike stated he feels that Mr. Carlton, in good faith, electronically applied for the program before the deadline, but there seemed to be a technical issue on his provider's side. When asked by Paul, Kyle stated that Mr. Carlton has applied in the past in person; this was the 1st year he has applied electronically. Marc Staunton asked Nathan if having a photo he took with a time stamp was the same as a postmark as the application's state.. In his experience, a photo could be taken of the application so one could have that information at hand to use online to apply for something. Mike and Paul will both speak to Mr. Carlton about coming in person at the next board meeting to discuss his application.

Marc Staunton stated he feels these subjects should be tabled for a full board discussion. Mike is not comfortable making a motion but feels he could vote based on the information provided. The subject is stalemate and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

2:25 Paul Crawford leaves the meeting due to a farm medical emergency. Quorum lost.

Information Regarding Funding

Nathan stated that he spoke with Mike Neuman of Reclamation about closing out the 2022 program but having reserve funds to cover the cost of the 2022 program while working on the 2023 program, so there is no money out of pocket. Mike N. told Nathan that Reclamation will try to roll 2022 funds to 2023 and modify the wording of 2023 to include paying for 2022 expenditures. This will be easier than holding funds. Reclamation hopes to get all the funds rolled into one package to be able to pay for everything. It is not confirmed this can be done, but Mike N. feels confident that it can be done.

Paul Simmons stated that he is trying to get a meeting with the DOI Commissioner. He said they know we are four million short of funding on the BOR, but no one is responding. Mike McKoen stated he is "tired of kicking the can down the road on funding. We need to have board action on it."

Marc Staunton adjourned the meeting by consensus a 2:49 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary