



State of Nevada - Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by the Nevada Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management (Nevada Grant Office)
406 E. 2nd St Carson City NV 89701 | 775-684-0156 | <http://grant.nv.gov>

September 18, 2019 at 1:00 pm

By Videoconference

From:

Capitol Building
Old Assembly Chambers
101 N Carson St
Carson City NV

To:

Grant Sawyer Building
Governor's Conference Room
555 East Washington Ave
Las Vegas NV

1. Call to Order (For Possible Action)

John Ritter: 1:07 pm

2. Roll Call

In Attendance

John Ritter, Chairman
Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Vice Chair
Zanny Marsh
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel
Senator David Parks
JoVon Sotak, Secretary
Susan Brown, Governor's Finance Office

Absent

None

Also in Attendance

Jimmy Lau, Ferrari Public Affairs
Laena St-Jules, Attorney General's Office
Robin Hagger, Administration-Director's Office
Michael Guss, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Kirsten Van Ry, Treasurer's Office
Sharon Usher, Nevada Grant Office

3. Public Comment

A. None

4. Approval of Minutes (*For Possible Action*)

A. Kathi Thomas-Gibson: **Motion** to approve 11/07/18 minutes. Ellen Spiegel: **Seconded. Carried.**

5. Agenda Topic (*For Possible Action*)

A. Election of Officers (John Ritter)

Clarification on the election of officers was confirmed by JoVon Sotak. Per NRS this is the first calendar meeting of the year and we do need to have election of officers. January we will need to do this again whether it is with this council or potentially new council members as a result of any appointments. The process should be asking for any nominations for three offices: Secretary, Vice Chair, and the Chair, and putting those nominations to a vote.

- i. John Ritter: **Called for nominations** for council Secretary. John Ritter nominated JoVon Sotak as the Council Secretary. Senator David Parks: **Seconded. Carried.**
- ii. John Ritter: **Called for nominations** for Vice Chair. Kathi Thomas-Gibson nominated herself. Senator David Parks: **Seconded. Carried.**
- iii. John Ritter: **Called for nominations** for Chair. John Ritter nominated himself. Senator David Parks: **Seconded. Carried.**

B. 2017-2019 council recommendations review (John Ritter)

- i. Create and fund a pilot program that provides match funding for bona fide grant opportunities – resolved during the 80th session with the passing of the bill AB489.
- ii. Streamline review and authorization process for grant approval and work plans by Executive Branch and Interim Finance Committee – Not able to get this approved.
- iii. Eliminate budgetary disincentives – particularly, section 7 of the Authorized Expenditures Act – that discourage State Agencies from pursuing federal grants – Not able to get done this session.
- iv. Continue to support the budget enhancement for the statewide grants management system – Approved in the 2017 legislature session. Approval of funds as part of the Grant Office 2019-2021 budget.
- v. Expand technical assistance, training, capacity building and coordination related to federal grants. This is ongoing and doesn't require a bill.
- vi. Standardize Nevada's many policies and procedures related to federal grants. This is ongoing and doesn't require a bill.
- vii. Ensure every Nevadan is counted in the 2020 Census – Governor Sisolak approved \$5 million dollars to assist in making this happen.

C. 2019-2021 council priorities and objectives (John Ritter)

- i. Ellen Spiegel: **Motion** to move over #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6 from the 2018 Annual Report. Zanny Marsh: **Seconded. Carried.**

- ii. Zanny Marsh: **Motion** to add the accountability piece to our list of recommendations that we will be reviewing in the coming, biennium year. Ellen Spiegel: **Seconded. Carried.**
- iii. Kathi Thomas-Gibson: **Motion** to reconsider our previous motion so we can include all relevant information. Zanny Marsh: **Seconded. Carried.**
- iv. Zanny Marsh: **Motion** to include the theme of accountability and the additional recommendations therein to be included in the list of 2019-2021 recommendations and priorities that this council will move forward, including items #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6 from the 2018 Annual Report, also with the language that in addition to these specific recommendations, the Council urges policymakers to find opportunities to address: equitable distribution of grant funds and State Grant Office's services statewide; adequate staffing and resources in the State Grant Office as well as grant units within State agencies; and allocating resources that can be used to significantly increase coordination and communication among state government, local government, non-profit and community organizations. Ellen Spiegel: **Seconded. Carried.**
- v. John Ritter: **Motion** to Amend 5.C. To add a specific item for the 2019-2021 council priorities and objectives, which is to explore the possibility of legislation that would specifically empower the Grants Office to have a requirement throughout the state that any entity, whether it be State, Municipal, Charitable, any entity that is applying for a Federal Grant in the state, is required to submit at least high level information into the Grants Management System (GMS) and that as part of this if customization needed to the GMS itself that part of this would be to have a fiscal note on the bill that would pay for such customization. Zanny Marsh: **Seconded. No Carry**
- vi. John Ritter: I move now the **Amended Motion**. Zanny Marsh: **Seconded. Carried. This amended motion differs from what is described above in that Ellen Spiegel recommends that it be submitted as part of the budget request through the Governor's office, so we get it into the budget without there being a fiscal note.**
- vii. **Moved back to Item 7.**

6. Information Only – Presentations

- A. Update of Grant Office (JoVon Sotak) PowerPoint presentation was shown. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
- B. Reading of Council correspondence (Sharon Usher). There was no correspondence to read.
- C. Sharing of any correspondence. Duplicate item, there was no correspondence to share.

7. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items (*For Possible Action*)

A. Future Meetings: The Chairman stated that the finalize date of the next meeting would be sent by email.

i. Before moving on from this Item the council went back to agenda Item 5.C.

ii. Zanny Marsh: Motion to reconsider Item 5.C so that we can have a discussion. **Carried.**

B. Future Agenda items – No discussion

8. Public Comment

A. John Ritter: None

9. Adjournment (*For Possible Action*)

A. John Ritter: **Motion** to adjourn at 2:25. Kathi Thomas-Gibson: **Seconded. Carried.**