



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call and in person, Ketchum City Hall, Ketchum**

The Mountain Rides Transportation Authority's Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting in person and on a conference call.

PRESENT: Chair Melody Mattson (at-large), Vice-chair Tom Blanchard (Bellevue), Secretary Rick Webking (Sun Valley), Kathleen Kristenson (Blaine County), Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley), Neil Bradshaw (Ketchum)

NOT PRESENT: Martha Burke (Hailey)

ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus
Mountain Rides Director, Finance & Administration, Tucker Van Law
Mountain Rides Director, Assets & Planning, Ben Varner
Mountain Rides Director, Transit Operations, Kim MacPherson
Mountain Rides Admin Coordinator, Jerry Garcia
Mountain Rides Manager, Mobility Programs and Resilience, Cece Osborn
Emily Jones, *Idaho Mountain Express*
Juan Martinez, Ex-officio board Member, City of Hailey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Melody Mattson called to order the meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 1:01 pm via conference call and in person at the Ketchum City Hall. Secretary Rick Webking called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

Kathleen Kristenson said she is pleased with the Valley route service and being right on schedule.

Wally Morgus said MRTA had noticed an impact from the rising gas prices. There has been a significant pickup on valley route ridership.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (incl. questions from Press)

There was none.

4. Consent Calendar items

- a. Approve: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, January 19, 2022.
- b. Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for February 2022.
- c. Receive/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee Meeting, March 2, 2022

- d. Receive/file: December 2021 Operating, Capital Facilities, Workforce Housing, and Contingency Fun Financial Statements and Bills Paid.
- e. Receive/file: January 2022 Operating Financial Statements and Bills Paid.
- f. Receive/file: Reports from Director, Assets & Planning; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Manager, Transit Operations; Manager, Mobility Programs & Resiliency; Executive Director

Neil Bradshaw moved to approve, receive, file, and adopt the Consent Agenda. Peter Hendricks seconded. The motion passed.

5. ACTION ITEM:

Approve Pledge of Funds as Local Match for County's FEMA Grant

Wally Morgus said Lynne Barker and her committee had approached MRTA to participate as a local match partner to the FEMA Grant that has not yet been applied for but will be applied for soon. Wally also mentioned that there is no guarantee that the county will get it, but they are looking for local match partners to participate. If it is determined that MRTA wants to go forward with the Microgrid Project, there will be another grant application for the funding to build out the Microgrid(s).

Peter Hendricks asked 1) what is the purpose of FEMA? 2) How many other people are involved in matching the funds? 3) What is the total cost? And 4) how long is it going to take? Wally said that the project would take around nine to twelve months, and a group of experts will be hired as consultants and a report out to the feasibility of microgrid(s). The project's total cost will be around \$73,000, the local match portion, for the scoping study.

Neil Bradshaw said MRTA is not in the business of generating energy, and other people can do that. Neil added that he would not approve anything like that (FEMA) now. Neil is worried that MRTA staff will spend time on anything, not on the transportation angle.

Peter agreed with Neil.

Kathleen Kristenson said she would rather see their (MRTA) money put into their bank for batteries for the Electric Buses.

Wally added that MRTA was preparing to do their own microgrid project before the scoping project was on the table. MRTA might continue with their microgrid project as Federal funds become available. MRTA would like to become an energy-independent organization by creating its own solar panel grid and battery storage.

Ben Varner said that there is an opportunity to get other non-FTA federal funds through FEMA. Ben also added that the decision of saying no to backup power is not forever, because FEMA is one option that MRTA has been approached on.

Tom Blanchard said he would be open to having someone from the Blaine County Sustainability answer some of their questions, but he is not excited about what is in front of them.

Neil Bradshaw moved to not authorize the Executive Director to commit up to \$5,000 of Mountain Rides' funds as Local Match for the County's FEMA Grant for Planning and Scoping a Microgrid Project. Peter Hendricks seconded. The motion passed.

6. ACTION ITEM:

Award contract per IFB # 2022-02-01, Installation of Electric Bus Chargers and Dispensers

Ben Varner said as part of phase two of the new buses and other electrifications, MRTA will need an electrical contractor to install the chargers and dispensers. The project was budgeted at \$156,000, and the bid received was under the budget.

Kathleen Kristenson moved to award Buffalo Electric a contract per IFB # 2022-02-01 in an amount not to exceed \$121,576.00 and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract. Kristin Derrig seconded. The motion passed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Items of Interest to the Board

Neil Bradshaw said that with the extension of the federal mask mandate, he is concerned about the bus drivers and the kind of mental problem they will be facing and would like some clarification on how the bus drivers are being protected.

Kim MacPherson said that TSA had extended the mask mandate until April 18th and nothing has changed. And yes, drivers are getting tired, but the drivers are doing well. A few times, the drivers have let passengers off, which is always a difficult thing.

Neil said he is worried drivers are getting all kinds of verbal abuse because no one else is asking people to wear masks.

Kim said that drivers tell passengers what the law is. Kim said that when they get emails from people, they explain the MRTA policy and that they are federally mandated.

Wally said that drivers have been holding up very well.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Kathleen Kristenson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm. Peter Hendricks seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



Chair Melody Mattson