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FML Meeting May 14, 2014

Notice of this meeting was posted on May 6, 2014 at Grand Junction City Hall, 250 N. 5th Street and at 544 Rood Ave, Grand Junction.

In Attendance:
Craig Springer
David Ludlam
Dave Frankel
Chris Reddin
Carley Nelson

Meeting was called to order at 2:06pm

CSpringer proposed a modification to the minutes to reflect that he had previously moved to fully fund the top three traditional grants and that he did not simply "entertain a motion."

Dludlam moved to approve the April minutes including the change proposed by CSpringer. CSpringer seconded. Minutes were approved.

Dludlam noticed available for Public Comment:
No public comment was offered.

CReddin discussed feedback she received from grant applicants. The City of Grand Junction mentioned in written comment the influence of one board member on the overall score of the applications. CReddin recommended either expanding the board or creating a committee that would review the applications.

DLudlam questioned, as it related to expanding the size of the board, how new board members would be appointed. Would FML board appoint or would the Mesa County Commissioners?

DFrankel reviewed a resolution from the Mesa County Commissioners creating the Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District. He believes the Mesa County Commissioners would have to adopt a resolution expanding the size of the FML District's board.

CReddin noted that she had received informal feedback on expanding the size of the board from various applicants and they believed expanding the size of the board were make the process even more complicated.

CSpringer noted, as related to the City of Grand Junction's public comment letter that the feedback boarded on "tedious and almost offensive." "The board is now being told how they ought to score things?" Noted CSpringer, "the board has a range of 1-10 and should be able to use it." CSpringer noted that he was open to making changes and improving the process but the board cannot make every applicant happy. Also noted that "it is offensive to have to explain your score if it is outside of the recommended range."

DLudlam reminded CSpringer that in a previous meeting the board decided to have to explain their score if it is outside of the recommended range.

CSpringer noted ""that wasn't a good idea". DLudlam agreed.

CSpringer, as related to making changes to the process, “doesn’t want to approve any changes without JJustman present.” CSpringer believed that if “they have to explain a score out of the recommended range it is becoming personal.”

CReddin discussed how having elected officials on the board can bring more baggage than those who are not elected. “They have experiences that may influence their decisions.”

DLudlam inquired as to whether or not the FML board should add to the agenda for next month the question of expanding the board.

CSpringer reinforced that he did not believe such action will improve the process but that the agenda is up to the chair.

CReddin determined, as related to discussion about making improvement to the scoring process, that the scores are only going to improve and become closer in score ranking as applicant get better at writing successful applications.

CSpringer noted the board will be challenged and questioned. He questioned what happens when the highest ranked applicant is asking for all of the money available for the grant cycle.

CReddin responded noting that she believes “it is important to have latitude to have flexibility to make a decision.”

DLudlam asked if there are any recommendations from the staff for potential changes.

CSpringer recommended creating guide lines that will “still allow flexibility.”

The board then discussed the issue of having a conflict of interest policy. After discussion ensued the board agreed to adopt the policy at the next FML board meeting.

Also at the next board meeting the board agreed to officially accept new scoring guidelines as drafted by FML staff.

CReddin presented the board all of the contracts from the spring grant cycle.

DFrankel discussed changes to the mini grant format on the payment process. New proposed changes to the mini-grant contract will, moving forward, look similar to the traditional grant contract template.

CReddin presented board payment requests from CMU and Clifton Sanitation.

CReddin questioned whether the board should motion to approve the payments before the checks are written and distributed.

CSpringer moved to accept the staff’s recommendation for progress payments to CMU in the amount of \$278,499 and Clifton in the amount of \$136,077.64.

DLudlam motioned to approved. CSpringer seconded. Motion approved.

DFrankel discussed that distribution from DOLA of \$190,366.72 from the error that ETice caught.

DLudlam wants the district to send Elizabeth Tice a thank you letter for catching the mistake and getting the money properly distributed.

District received a letter from Clifton Fire Protection District letting the district know that the communication equipment they received money for is not working and are asking if they can spend the money on something else. CReddin told them that won't work and the district will be reimbursed \$29,000 and the money can be used during future grant cycle.

DFrankel recommended that CReddin display money leaving and coming in on a spreadsheet that would be part of a larger staff report.

DLudlam questioned whether the money should go to the top applicant that was not selected in the grant cycle.

CReddin thinks that could cause some issues and recommended against the action.

Staff Updates:

CReddin has created an RFP for financial services but would like to "go over it" with Marsha and Pam.

CReddin thinks district should get a bid from the County to get the audit started.

DFrankel recommended a letter from the district stating the amount that will be paid hourly.

DLudlam motioned to create a letter to approve the rate for preparation of financial documents for the annual audit. CSpringer seconded. Motion approved.

CReddin presented logo options that Cobb & Associates came up with. Stated that she would continue working with Cobb & Associates to come up with an acceptable logo.

DFrankel presented board a conflict of interest resolution. Resolution provides information on how conflicts of interests should be handled and how to decide if conflicts of interest exist.

CSpringer proposed deferring the resolution and instead approving at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15

Minutes for the May 14, 2014 Federal Mineral Lease District Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the 2014 Board Secretary, Mesa County Commissioner John Justman

Signature _____ Date: _____