

Big Sky Resort Area District
(406) 995-3234
PO Box 160661, Big Sky, MT 59716
www.ResortTax.org
info@resorttax.org



BigSkyRelief.org

Operational Partners Coordination Meeting, No. 13 – 6/2/20

On Tuesday, June 2, the 13th BigSkyRelief.org Operational Partners Coordination Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 25 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual bi-monthly meeting is to consolidate regular updates for the Big Sky Community as well as to identify and coordinate needs.

Big Sky Resort Area District Board Executive Director Daniel Bierschwale coordinated the meeting.

Updates in order of presentation:

Taylor Rose, Director of Clinical Services & Operations at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHSMC):

- The transition into phase 2 of re-opening non-essential services at Bozeman Health has been going well
- With Yellowstone National Park opening there has not been an increase in the number of COVID patients. West Yellowstone has seen 2 positive cases since the opening
- Shared updated construction photos of the 4 additional inpatient rooms and they are fully operational
- Ventilators have been difficult to obtain due to COVID, but Taylor is optimistic that the ventilators will be to Big Sky by the end of the month

Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):

- June 1st began Phase II in Montana, monitoring how the next two-three weeks go for possible cases
- Due to an increase in out of state travelers, need to continue encouraging social distancing and wearing masks when possible
- The call volume for the Month of May was back to normal levels compared to years past
- No needs for BSFD at this time

Sergeant Brandon Kelley, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office (GCSO):

- GCSO has no updates currently

Sarah Gaither, Program Coordinator of Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB):

- Phase 2 will not change operations yet, keep doing the pre-packed food box program to ensure safety

- Working with the School District to find what needs Big Sky families may have now that the school year is over, and lunches are no longer being served. Talking about having more kid friendly pre-packed meals for kids and looking at delivering these meals to kids that need summer lunches
- Enrolled in Farms to Family food box program that is funded federally. Will test and see how this program works in Big Sky. With this program they have a lot of produce and dairy and asked that people spread the word about this new program in Big Sky
- Applied for, and will be receiving, MT Relief Funds from DPHHS will help fund different COVID-19 related operations
- Have seen an increase in demand to provide additional services to their clients such as help making medical appointments, getting COVID testing, clothes shopping, rental assistance and more. With social distancing a lot of clients are not able to receive help from friends or family, so they are turning to the Foodbank for extra help
- No needs at this time

Jean Behr, Executive Director of Women In Action (WIA) Update provided by Ciara Wolfe on behalf of WIA:

- 2 groups have been created
 - Larger group is dealing with community effects and is working to develop programs around these effects. While researching the effects the biggest fear or anxiety causing issue is about going out in public. There has also been an increase in substance abuse.
 - Longer term group is planning behavioral health infrastructure for the community and looking at more long-term solutions

David Kack, Coordinator of Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):

- BSTD will operate the Shoulder Season schedule through June 14. However, they will have weekend service on June 6 & 7, and 13 & 14
 - 2 Round trips to Bozeman
 - Local service is demand response (call when needed)
- On June 15, the Link Express service (between Big Sky and Bozeman) will start charging a fare again. The service went fare-free at the end of March in response to the COVID-19 situation
- The Summer Season schedule is available on the BSTD [website](#). They are not planning to print any brochures, as we may need to modify the service based on demand

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) & Visit Big Sky (VBS):

- On Monday, June 1 the NEW Montana Business Adaptation Grants program launched and is now accepting applications to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses related to keeping staff and customers safe. There are certain requirements that make a small business eligible for these Grants. Total funding available is \$20 million, the maximum reimbursement amount per business is \$5,000. More information can be found at <https://www.covidreliefmt.org/submit>
- The Montana Department of Transportation reminds drivers to be prepared to stop near bridge areas for the Big Sky Bridge Decks project. Only proceed when the portable traffic light is green. If vehicles are waiting in line, please remain patient and do not attempt to go around. This is for everyone's safety, including drivers and the construction crew. Residents can report dangerous driving behavior by calling 911 or the Gallatin County Non-Emergency Dispatch number, 406-582-2100.

- June 9 at 12pm the Big Sky Chamber will host a Big Sky TIGER Project Town Hall to provide an update on the project and accompanying timeline for the remainder of 2020. Go to www.bigskychamber.com to register.
- Big Sky Chamber's 23rd Annual Members' Meeting will be held VIRTUALLY on Tuesday, June 23rd from 8:30-9:30am. Due to COVID-19, the Black Diamond Business Awards Dinner scheduled for that evening has been CANCELLED. Go to www.bigskychamber.com to register.
- With Governor Bullock's recommendation letter to Superintendent Cam Sholly, YNP opened the three Montana entrances to the Park on Monday, June 1 to coincide with the expiration of the mandated 14-day self-quarantine for out of state visitors – Buckle up!
- MT Department of Commerce / MOTBD – pushing a Public Health message to visitors
 - Know before you go: Know the local public health guidelines before arriving at your destination.
 - Stay home if you're sick.
 - Understand some services and destinations may be limited.
- VBS Launched the Big Sky Pledge today to communicate with visitors the importance of helping Montana and Big Sky stay safe: BIG SKY LOVES YOU. LOVE BIG SKY BACK BY TAKING THE PLEDGE <https://www.visitbigsky.com/bigskypledge/>
- In addition we are supporting the #StaySafe #StayOpen #StayStrong being embraced by the greater Big Sky community to help protect our residents, second homeowners, employees and visitors safe <http://www.bigskytowncenter.com/stay-safe-stay-open-stay-strong/>
- Big Sky is seeing a significant uptick in reservations for July/August whereas June is a bit slower to pick up. On a call with 18 other mountain resort communities they have seen significant increases in bookings and many extended stays of 3 weeks to 3 months. These calls will continue to happen every 2 weeks.

Ciara Wolfe, CEO of Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):

- No updates on volunteers
- Continuing the mail program and pick up match Program
- Parks and Trails - everything is open and operating
 - Park reservations are now being accepted for up to 50 people
 - Softball will start the week of July 1st and team registration is open
 - Camp has begun and they are following all safety guidelines and protocols

Dustin Shipman, Superintendent of Big Sky School District (BSSD):

- The school is closed for the summer and the School District is busy preparing for the next school year

Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):

- COVID-19 wastewater surveillance has been taking place by the County Health Department
 - Big Sky is clean, no traceable COVID
 - West Yellowstone has found traceable amounts
- County Health Department will post a dashboard with the information from the study and it will be shared once live
- Working with both counties (Madison and Gallatin) to a plan on surveillance and testing in our Community in response to the data received from the surveillance study
- Working with both counties and the state to access CARES funds for Big Sky Relief efforts

- The virtual Q&A session will be hosted tomorrow night and wanted to thank everyone for their understanding as BSRAD is working through a new and ever-changing allocations process

Other Updates:

- Candace mentioned to the group that today is #blackouttuesday and that Bozeman held a peaceful march recently and was wondering what Big Sky can do collectively to display participation in the global effort.
 - It was suggested that a march or some event could happen at the Town Center plaza to allow for social distancing. She will continue to provide the group with more information and work on organizing an event.

A cohort of Resource Partners was also invited to the virtual meeting. Those names and organizations included:

Daniel Bierschwale, *Big Sky Resort Area District*

Taylor Middleton & Troy Nedved, *Big Sky Resort*

Matt Kidd, *CrossHarbor Capital Partners*

Kevin Hinkle, *Lone Mountain Land Company*

Hans Williamson, *Yellowstone Club*

Heather Morris, *Moonlight Community Foundation*

Ania Bulis, *Moonlight Community Foundation, Women in Action*

Loren Bough, *Yellowstone Club Community Foundation*

John Haas, *Spanish Peaks Community Foundation*