



Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

Members:

- NATHAN RIX, *Chair*
- ELIAS VILLEGAS, *Vice-chair*
- DANIEL ALTAMIRANO
- HERNANDEZ
- SIERRA BARNES
- JORGE CRUZ
- SHENIKA CUMBERBATCH
- HEIDI EDWARDS
- TODD JONES
- ADELE MCAFEE
- JAYESH PALSHIKAR

Ex-officio:

- MARY GREUSEL

Commission Staff:

- CARIE BAUER
Director
- AMY HOLLAND
Program Officer
- STEPHANIE SOLOMON
Program Officer
- BRITTANY MELZER
Commission Administrator

Technical Advisor:

- KAREN HUMELBAUGH
Director, Office of Workforce Investments

April 16, 2021

9:00AM – 12:00PM

Meeting Link: [here](#)

Meeting ID: 913 5009 5266 Pass Code: 648 609

Persons wishing to testify need to send an email twelve hours prior to:

Brittany.e.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov

Commented [BCE1]: There's a 1.5 space between Members and Nathan. No space between the other titles/names below. 1.5 looks cleaner. Can you update so that all follow that format?

MEETING MINUTES

- Members Present:** Chair Nathan Rix, Vice-chair Elias Villegas, Mary Greusel, Jayesh Palshikar, Heidi Edwards, Sierra Barnes, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, Adele McAfee
- Guests:** AmeriCorps Program Directors Jeri Lerwick and Elizabeth Cabral, Marianne Sierocinski
- Staff Present:** Director Carie Bauer, Brittany Melzer, Amy Holland, Stephanie Solomon

Commented [BCE3]: This section font is different than other section fonts.

Standing Business

1.0 Standing Business

- 1.1 Chair Nathan Rix called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Introductions and Land Acknowledgement read.
- 1.2 No public comment.
- 1.3 Commission reviewed and approved agenda.
- 1.4 All consent items accepted by commission.
- 1.5 The Commission discussed the Proclamation that member Jayesh Palshikar wrote and proposed for adoption. The decision was reached to continue the discussion in a future meeting before voting to adopt the message.

2.0 Standing Reports & Updates

- 2.1 AmeriCorps West Region Report – Mary Greusel shared that key appointments to leadership positions were announced across the AmeriCorps agency in January and February of 2021. In addition, Mary Greusel noted that the passage of The American Rescue Plan includes funding to further support the Administration's top priorities, which

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include providing relief related to the pandemic. Mary Greusel also shared that the AmeriCorps VISTA request for concept papers notice and timeline have been posted to the AmeriCorps website, and are due on June 1, 2021.

2.2 OWI Director Report – Director Karen Humelbaugh shared the Governor’s office’s announcement that state offices are set to reopen to the public by September 1st and HECC employees will return to the office in person. Director Humelbaugh noted that the State Legislature has a backlog of bills that is beginning to move quickly, but they are also awaiting the May revenue forecast. House Bill 2737 had a hearing and is sitting in the Revenue Committee now. Senate Bill 762 is the large wildfire bill that has many components, including a youth workforce piece. The State of Oregon is receiving \$6 billion from The American Rescue Plan Act, \$1.5-2 billion of which is for the state to use as discretionary funding. The Governor’s Office asked HECC to provide a list of projects to be considered by the Racial Justice Council (RJC) for funding under the state’s American Rescue Plan Act discretionary funding. Seven of those ideas were brought to the RJC, including one to expand our number of AmeriCorps program grantees in BIPOC communities. The proposal was picked up and requested state stimulus funds as grants to operate as match for planning grant and full program grants from BIPOC-led and serving organizations to address systemic funding and philanthropy inequities that exist for these organizations. There is not a timeline released for these moving forward yet.

2.3 Program Spotlights – Elizabeth Cabral, Program Director with Confluence Environmental Center, shared the successes and major projects they have experienced this last year through Covid-19 difficulties, wildfire response, and their Days of Service projects. Chair Nathan Rix asked what the Commission can do to help Confluence or support them moving forward. Elizabeth Cabral shared that access to AmeriCorps is difficult given the multitude of barriers for members to join and be fully supported. Assistance to make sure that their host sites are supportive of their success is an area the Commission could help address. Affordable housing is a big barrier to their members in the Portland-Metro area. Jeri Lerwick, Program Director with Partnerships for Student Achievement (PSA), shared the PSA approach and the specific outcomes on which they focus. Chair Nathan Rix asked what barriers exist that the Commission can help remove for PSA. Jeri Lerwick named the housing costs and insufficient living stipend. She also asked for a better marketing campaign from AmeriCorps to help get the word out for recruiting purposes.

2.4 Policy Workgroup Update – Chair Nathan Rix provided an update on the efforts made to move HB 2737 forward. Former Commissioner Mike Fieldman assisted with moving the bill forward to the House Revenue

Commented [SJ4]: Formatting: Font changes all of a sudden.

Commented [BCE5]: If referring to a specific state legislature, i.e., Oregon State Legislature, you would capitalize. Otherwise, state legislature would be lowercase.

Commented [BCE6]: move

Commented [BCE7]: referring to a specific body, so State would be capitalized.

Commented [BCE8]: You can put (RJC) here after the word, then refer to RJC the rest of the time.

Commented [BCE9]: Doesn’t need italics.

Commented [SJ10]: Grammar: Missing a period.

Commented [SJ11]: Writing style: This is a confusing sentence. Likely something you would want to put a note for Carie about if you were unclear about the details of the proposal.

Commented [BCE12]: Capitalize a title when following name.

Commented [BCE13]: Full name: Confluence Environmental Center

Commented [SJ14]: Grammar: “Assistance” is singular, so this needs to be singular.

Commented [SJ15]: Writing style: Used a version of “support” 3 times in one sentence

Commented [BCE16]: Capitalize.

Commented [SJ17]: Writing style: try to avoid ending a sentence with a preposition.

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April 16, 2021 MINUTES (continued)

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Committee. He reported that 18 written pieces of testimony were submitted. The workgroup is waiting to hear if the bill will be moving forward out of the Revenue Committee.

- 2.5 Equity Workgroup Update – Director Bauer reported on behalf of the workgroup and shared that they are moving forward with the partnership with Engage to Change, who led the anti-racism learning series. Workgroup membership expansion has been discussed as well. They expect the membership recruitment to begin within the next month or so.
- 2.6 OV Director Report & State Service Plan Updates – Director Bauer gave a high-level overview of federal and state initiatives and funding opportunities that have passed or are forthcoming, and the ways in which they align with national service goals. Director Bauer shared Governor Brown’s 10-point Economic Recovery Plan, and the role of the Racial Justice Council, to encourage the Commission to begin thinking about possible community partnership efforts.

3.0 Closing Business

- 3.1 Parking Lot – Discussion of timeline of upcoming meetings. Director Bauer gave an overview of the feedback received in the retreat planning survey. The board retreat will be conducted virtually, with a schedule and agenda forthcoming.
- 3.2 Vice-chair Elias Villegas adjourned meeting at 11:54am.

Commented [BCE18]: Should be hyphenated. Anti-racism.

Commented [BCE19]: Director Bauer gave a high-level overview of federal and state initiatives and funding opportunities that have passed or are forthcoming, and the ways in which they align with national service goals.

Commented [BCE20]:

Commented [BCE2]: Extra space.