

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON  
ENDOWMENTS AND PHILANTHROPY**  
Northwest Power Planning Council Conference Room  
Thursday, September 20, 2007, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Sue Talbot, Chair	Jean Jenkins
Lt. Governor Bohlinger	Amy Kelley
Jackie Williams	Brian Magee
Barbara Anthony	Galen McKibben
Dale Burgeson	Dennis Peterson
Linda Carlson	Major Robinson
Linda Coulston	Peter Sullivan
Dorcie Dvarishkis	Judy Wing
Spence Hegstad	

**MINUTES**

Dale made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed; Jean seconded the motion. All approved by voice vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Brian reported that that Task Force has just over \$14,000 in its account, with \$6,734 of that in the Conversation sub-account and \$7,280 in the general account.

Brian reminded that the GTF was a break sponsor for last year's MNA conference but never paid the \$500, which is still on MNA's books. Sid made a motion to allow Brian to transfer the money to pay the bill; Dale seconded the motion. All approved by voice vote. Brian noted that the GTF conference sponsorship this year would be comped by MNA.

**LUNCH & LEARN**

Brian passed around the L&L brochure (which all GTF members should have received in the mail). Thanks to the great work of Jim Soft, we have 3 sponsors who each put in \$5,000. Brian said that it has been a real team effort to get all of the pieces together in advance of the October events. Already, 150 people have signed up via MNA's web site. MNA will be doing more e-mail reminders as the dates near. Sue thanked Brian and the rest of the team for doing all of the work thus far, and asked whether others could help out at the events (checking people in, etc.) Brian said all help is appreciated, but they have MNA and/or Yellowstone Foundation staff covering the events.

Dennis was impressed that everyone he's talked to about the event has already heard about it and already planning to attend. Brian noted that they mailed information to several lists, including the bar association, CPAs, and community foundations. Dorcie suggested that if there are holes in attendance in certain areas, Brian ask local people to

help with outreach. Dale will have booth at an upcoming bar association gathering; **Brian will send him brochures for the table.**

### **FUTURES COMMITTEE REPORT/DISCUSSION**

Brian reported on the Futures Committee process and noted how interesting the discussion has been concerning the state of philanthropy in Montana today. The recommendations that have been distributed are a DRAFT ONLY – they are intended for discussion by the group. The hope is that by the end of winter the group will have some clarity about the direction the GTF should pursue. He noted that the December 31 timeline put out by MNA as the end of its fiscal sponsorship is flexible, not a hard line.

In summary: Two months ago the GTF received from the Futures Committee a document laying out the philanthropic landscape in Montana. They wanted to get everything on paper that might inform the discussion of advancing philanthropy in the state. Brian hoped that everyone had a chance to look at it and asked for feedback if anything is missing; it will be a good foundational piece in and of itself. That effort led into discussion about the future of the GTF. The group narrowed down the options to four primary alternatives (with each having certain advantages and disadvantages):

1. Maintaining status quo
2. Creating an independent 501 (c)(3) organization
3. Establishing a more formal attachment to the State
4. Integrating the GTF into MNA's overall program

Two overall recommendations that the Futures Committee would like the GTF to consider:

1. Return the GTF to the original mission in helping the State forward philanthropy in Montana; and
2. Develop a formal and broad-based Philanthropy Development Initiative under the aegis of MNA.

### **Discussion**

Most of the members present agreed that alternative #1 is not viable for the long-term. Alternative #2 received few positive responses: there are so many nonprofits in the state already, and one of the goals of the GTF was to assist and perhaps streamline the various philanthropic efforts in the state

Many felt that the GTF needed to move beyond the tax credit, to find other ways to increase endowment and philanthropy in the state. One suggestion was to pursue matching grants or incentives from the State for the donors beyond a tax credit—something to think about now, in advance of the next legislative session, given the surplus the state is currently experiencing. All agreed that there needs to be more education, marketing, and outreach—for nonprofit development people as well as financial advisors—which has been the purpose of the Lunch & Learn sessions.

The Lt. Governor felt strongly that making the GTF a part of State government would face some rather significant hurdles both in the Legislature and with the Governor. Sid clarified that the idea was not to create a state agency, but perhaps an advisory council appointed by Executive order (although the Governor is trying to streamline other advisory councils) that would continue to be privately funded. Spence felt strongly that the group not become more formally associated with the government.

Many GTF members felt that there would be an advantage if the GTF were associated with MNA because they are already set up to continue the work, and because contributions would be tax deductible.

There was much discussion about continuing the name “Governor’s Task Force.” “Task Force” implies a short-term and narrow focus; and any Governor would likely want to have some control over the organization if his/her title were used. Brian said that it would be highly unlikely for the MNA board to approve that since MNA is trying to position itself as an independent body; there may be times when they want to pursue some policy that does not have the Governor’s approval. Others thought there could be a way to maintain that connection even if within MNA.

There was some discussion about how often the group should meet, whether monthly is too often. All agreed that the group shouldn’t meet just for the sake of it, but that it is a group of experts and there is the potential to really help move the mark and expand the work.

There was general agreement that alternative #4 should be further pursued, and that there will need to be a lot more discussion about how it would work. The discussion will continue at the October meeting.

### **INDIAN PHILANTHROPY PROJECT**

Major gave the update on the project. He noted that his role in the Governor’s office has changed slightly: he is the director of Indian Affairs. He will be moving back to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in a few months, but will continue to be involved in the GTF and the project.

Major reported that he’d sent out a letter of invitation to 19 leaders from Indian Country, asking them to serve on an Organizing Committee for a new Indian Initiative. The letter explained that the initiative aims to increase philanthropy and strengthen Indian-led nonprofits that serve both reservation-based and urban Indian communities, building on recommendations made by participants in the Governor’s Conversation on Endowments and Philanthropy last fall.

The Committee will meet in Helena on October 4<sup>th</sup> with the following goals:

1. **Develop Shared Understandings** – share information regarding the current status of developing funding and assistance for nonprofits in Indian Country from

the four participating constituencies: Indian Country, nonprofit sector infrastructure, the state's philanthropic community, and state government.

2. **Utilize Existing Possibilities** – identify priority opportunities for connecting leaders and organizations from Indian Country with programs and initiatives currently underway that hold potential for developing nonprofits and philanthropic resources for the reservations.
3. **Start New Projects** – identify potential new initiatives of strong interest to all four constituencies; determine whose involvement and/or endorsement may be needed to help ensure success; and identify the lead organizations for incubating the start-up phases.
4. **Involve the Most Effective People** – assist with recruiting and engaging leaders and key stakeholders to participate in these emerging opportunities, as well as to secure funding to support these activities.

One of the next steps is to identify where the resources are coming from; they are requesting \$1,500 from the GTF's Conversation budget (since this project initiated at the Conversation) to help cover the travel expenses of Organizing Committee members:

Revenue: BSI \$500; GTF \$1,500 (TOTAL \$2,000)

In-Kind: Blue Cross/Blue Shield \$2,500; BSI \$1,600 (TOTAL \$4,100)

TOTAL REVENUE: \$6,100

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$6,100 (food, mileage, lodging, printing, etc.)

Sid explained that the fundraising committee for the Conversation raised more than needed for the Conversation itself, with the specific idea that extra money would be spent on outcomes from the Conversation.

Peter made a motion that the GTF allocate \$1,500 toward the Indian Philanthropy project; Spence seconded the motion. Discussion: Dorcie wanted to know if there are other competing ideas for that money. Sid said that no other proposals have come forward so far. Judy thought it was important that we show some outcome from the Conversation. Peter called the question: all approved by voice vote. Sue noted that if another proposal were to come forward, we'd have to go out and raise that money.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be **October 18<sup>th</sup>**. Galen would like to have group meet at **Helena's Exploration Works Center** (in the Great Northern). They'll provide coffee/ **Galen will send Amy a map** to distribute to GTF members.

Judy suggested that one agenda item should be organizing small groups (Judy offered to convene one in Missoula) to discuss the Conversation proceedings and what other projects might be pursued. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.