

1. 9:30 A.M. Commission Meeting Agenda & Docs 10-27-2023

Documents:

[10-27-2023 SM.PDF](#)
[10-27-2023 AGENDA DOCS.PDF](#)



Cascade County
Special Commission Meeting
October 27, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m.
Commission Chambers, Room 105
325 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT



The Board of Cascade County Commissioners will be broadcasting the Commission Meeting via Zoom.

Webinar participants must register in advance for the Commission Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XRfmD_qeQsC9-7GQSYcEPA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you need dial in access: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 836 8360 0192 Password: 967377

Please note the agenda order is tentative and subject to change by the Board without prior notice.
Therefore, members of the public are encouraged to be in attendance at the time the meeting is scheduled to begin.
Public comment during public participation is limited to a maximum seven (7) minutes.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rae Grulkowski

1. Motion to Approve or Disapprove:

Contract 23-160:

Approval of the Health Food Financing Initiative Partnership Grant Application.

Purpose: To create a partnership between Cascade County and Great Falls Development

Authority (GFDA) to create a framework for financing healthy food retail and enterprises to increase access and support the Grant Application.

2. Public comment on any public matter that is not on the meeting agenda, and that is within the Commissioners' jurisdiction. (MCA 2-3-103)

3. Adjournment.

Agenda Action Report
Prepared for the
Cascade County Commission

ITEM: **Contract 23-160: Approval of the Health Food Financing Initiative Partnership Grant Application**

INITIATED AND PRESENTED BY: **Carey Ann Haight, Deputy County Attorney**

BACKGROUND:

The Great Falls Development Alliance (GFDA) intends to seek a Federal Grant targeted at food security in Cascade County. Specifically, the grant is the *American's Health Food Financing Initiative Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program* (HFFI). GFDA will be seeking \$ 200,000 in capacity building funds and \$500,00 in grant funds to assist with local food enterprise projects that are in the pipeline for the North Central Montana Health Food Access Partnership. The HFFI grant requires a governmental agency to partner with GFDA and provide support for the HFFI grant application.

Contract 23-160 is a letter addressed to the HFFI Grant personnel indicating our partnership with and support for GFDA in the grant application. If GFDA is fortunate in obtaining a grant funding award, a Memorandum of Understanding or other document memorializing the additional terms and conditions of Cascade County's partnership with GFDA for purposes of the HFFI grant funding will be presented for Commission approval.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Contract 23-160.

TWO MOTIONS PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION:

MOTION TO APPROVE: I move that the Commission APPROVE, Contract 23-160 Approval of the Health Food Financing Initiative Partnership Grant Application submittal by Great Falls Development Alliance.

MOTION TO DISAPPROVE: I move that the Commission DISAPPROVE, Contract 23-160.



CASCADE COUNTY

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October 27, 2023

Anne Misak
Senior Program Manager
Healthy Food Financing Initiative Reinvestment Fund
1700 Market Street, 19th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: North Central Montana's Access to Healthy Food Letter of Commitment for the HFFI Grant

Dear Ms. Misak,

Cascade County is excited to partner with Great Falls Development Alliance (GFDA) in the North Central Montana's Healthy Food Access Partnership (NCMHFA), formed to apply for the Reinvestment Fund's Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnership Program. We hope this letter shows our strong commitment to increasing access to Healthy Food.

Cascade County is a political subdivision of the State of Montana and as such meets the requirement of the HFFI Grant that at least one of the Partners in the NCMHFA. In addition to fulfilling the Public Entity HFFI Grant requirement, the Reinvestment Fund's Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Initiative is the perfect opportunity to establish this new partnership focused on ameliorating the severe food deserts facing both Cascade County and North Central Montana. The Board of Cascade County Commissioners will work with the GFDA to incubate a wide and varied number of food enterprises focused on increasing the access of local and healthy food in our region.

Cascade County is committed to increasing access to healthy food, desires to see more work done and supports the efforts of GFDA in this important community endeavor. We realize that the NCMHFA's capacity to satisfactorily enter into such an agreement is fundamentally dependent on our ability to obtain a substantial grant award from this grant competition.

We urge you to fund this partnership to provide the essential capacity-building and capitalization needed to address the food access needs of the rural, underserved communities of Cascade County and the greater North Central Montana region.

RAE GRULKOWSKI

JAMES L. LARSON

JOE BRIGGS

Chair
Board of Cascade County Commissioners

Commissioner

Commissioner

Cc: Anna Flies, Great Falls Development Alliance