

Humanities Montana
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2026

Present: Glory Blue Earth (Vice Chair), Esther Beth Sullivan (Finance Chair), Slaven Lee (Programs and Outreach Chair), and Karen Reiff (Governance Chair)

Excused: Ray Ekness (Board Chair)

Staff: John Knight (Interim Executive Director)

The meeting convened at 10:01a.m.

Glory Blue Earth and John Knight reviewed the agenda items for the Executive Committee, noting that there were no action items requiring approval.

Committee Updates

- At 10:03a.m., Glory invited the chairs of each committee to provide brief updates. Beth Sullivan gave a brief Finance Committee update, noting that the audit is still ongoing and that a draft of the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual will be available for board review and approval at the May 29–30 board meeting in Helena. She discussed the recommendation for a special meeting of the board in mid-late June to approve of the audit.
- Karen Reiff reported that the Governance Committee had not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. She noted that the next meeting for the committee would be in July.
- Slaven Lee updated the committee on discussions from the most recent Programs and Outreach Ad Hoc Committee meeting regarding FY27 program priorities. They also noted that John Knight had engaged a consultant to lead two envisioning sessions focused on programs and staff capacity at the May board meeting. John provided an overview of the consultant, MC Baumstark, and their familiarity with Humanities Montana. Slaven and John also shared updates on the development of the Case for Support and Annual Report documents.

May Board Meeting Agenda

- At 10:11 a.m., John walked the committee through the May Board Meeting agenda, reviewing the business and action items scheduled for discussion. No questions were raised by the committee, and there was general approval of the meeting structure. John noted that he would send the complete board packet to the full board on Friday, May 15, and that meeting information would also be made available to the public on the Humanities Montana website.

To conclude the meeting, John gave a few fundraising and grants updates to the Executive Committee. **The meeting adjourned at 10:27a.m.**