

## **Humanities Montana Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 24, 2026**

**Present:** Ray Ekness (Board Chair), Karen Reiff (Governance Chair), Slaven Lee (Programs and Outreach Chair)

**Excused:** Glory Blue Earth (Vice Chair), Esther Beth Sullivan (Finance Chair)

**Staff:** John Knight (Executive Director)

**The meeting convened at 11:01a.m.** Ray Ekness reviewed the agenda items for the Executive Committee and invited John Knight to present on the NEH Site Review Discussion.

- John provided an overview of the upcoming National Endowment for the Humanities Site Review, including the anticipated schedule, board participation, and preparation process. The committee discussed the review as an opportunity to highlight Humanities Montana's strengthened governance, financial stewardship, and statewide programmatic impact following a year of organizational rebuilding.

### **Finance Support Discussion**

- At 11:09 a.m., John introduced a proposal to engage Simon Windell of Unwind Consulting for Fractional CFO support to strengthen Humanities Montana's financial infrastructure and long-term organizational capacity.
- Discussion focused on building scalable systems for budgeting, grant management, financial reporting, compliance, and executive and board reporting while implementing long-term improvements identified through the FY25 Audit Corrective Action Plan. The committee expressed support for the overall direction and recommended continuing conversations regarding the proposed six-month engagement.

### **Billings Board Meeting Discussion**

- At 11:21a.m., John provided an update on planning for the October 2–3 Board of Directors meeting in Billings, noting that the Northern Hotel and conference space have been confirmed. The committee discussed potential Mission Moment presentations featuring Great Reads authors and the Montana Poet Laureate.

### **Humanities Montana Updates**

- At 11:26a.m., John shared updates on the FY25 Audit process and recent grants and activity.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:31a.m.**