Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
August 27, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call

Rocky Board Members present: Katelyn Buck, Bruce Day, Susan Geise, Debbie Havens, Andy Hunthausen, Paula Jacques, Trever Kirkland, Cory Kirsch, Teri Lilletvedt, Erin Lyndes, Dan Rispens

Rocky Board Members absent: Kate Anderson, Dannai Clayborn, Jesse Swenson

Others present: Sarah Adydan, Beth Branam, Laura Craft, John Gorton, Joanna Halland, Lori Ladas, Jean Leischner, Samara Lynde, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Tom Robel

Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. and a quorum was present. Guests attending the meeting were introduced, including Sarah Adydan and Laura Craft from Pinion.

Approval of Minutes

> **Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve the July 30, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting minutes, and the June 25, 2026, Finance Committee minutes. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Director's Report – Lori Ladas
Lori referenced her written Board of Directors report and asked if there were any questions about the monitoring report. Lori noted that there were two findings in the report. One finding was in the current records retention policy, and the other was that Rocky did not have a policy that would allow Low Income Clients a method to petition the Board for adequate representation. Rocky's answers to the findings were included in the Board packet.

Rocky FY26 Audit Entrance Conference – Sarah Adydan and Laura Craft, Pinion
Laura Craft and Sarah Adydan from Pinion were introduced. Laura has been working on Rocky Audits for about 15 years, and Sarah has been working on them for the last 3-4 years.

Sarah asked the Board if they had any questions about the Audit or its processes. There were no questions. The fieldwork for the Audit is scheduled to begin in October.

Approval of FY26 Pinion Service Agreement
The Board reviewed the service agreement for the FY26 Audit. Rocky is in the second year of the three-year agreement. Lori made a year-over-year Audit and Tax Fee comparison, noting that the Rocky Single Audit fees increased by 6% and the Housing Audit fees increased by 3 & 4%. The overall increase was 4%. Trever mentioned that the Finance Committee had voted to recommend approval of the service agreement.

> **Debbie Havens made the motion to approve the Pinion Service Agreement. Andy Hunthausen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

General Fiscal Update – Lori Ladas
Cash balance today is $3,122,516 which is about $260,000 higher than last month. The preliminary numbers for FY26 show that Rocky had a net income of $591,000. This was driven by several programs, including Affordable Housing, General and Admin, Pre-School, and Energy Services. Jonathan noted that the Account Receivables were down, but fiscal staff are still working on final numbers. No financial statements were presented this month, due to fiscal year end.

Approval of Procurement Policy Update – Lori Ladas
Lori explained that the Procurement Policy has been updated to provide additional flexibility for the Silver Mountain Apartments Project. The specific update was to section 5(e) *Noncompetitive Procurement*. This flexibility is intended only for projects that do not involve federal funding or any other funding source requiring compliance with 2 CFR 200.320. Discussion continued about whether Rocky planned to create a prequalified vendors list; there are no plans to do that. It was noted that the Silver Mountain Project is a unique project, as Rocky has never developed a project without Federal funding before.

> **Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve the Procurement Policy update as recommended by the Finance Committee. Andy Hunthausen seconded, one Board member opposed, and the motion passed.**

Approve Contingent Hire of Finance Director – Lori Ladas
Rocky recently concluded a search for a Finance Director. Four applicants were interviewed, with two invited for a second interview. The interview committee selected Bree Sandoval for the role. Bree is a CPA candidate and is currently employed as the Director of Finance at the Montana Primary Care Association.

> **Dan Rispens made the motion to approve the Contingent Hire of Bree Sandoval as Finance Director. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Head Start Update – Ashley Peña-Larsen
Ashley reported that Policy Council is not meeting during the summer months. Katelyn Buck, who had been serving on the Rocky Board as a representative of the Head Start Policy Council, will be moving to a community member role, now that her son has graduated from Head Start. A new Policy Council representative to the Board will be selected soon.

Ashley reported that the Head Start school year is underway, and there is a lot going on. Head Start is being reviewed by Montana Childcare Licensing, CACFP, the Fire Marshall, and the Lewis and Clark Sanitarian. Additionally, the PIR review concluded with no findings. The Office of Head Start sent out a Notice of Proposed Rule Making. These proposed rules would make significant changes to the Head Start program. A copy of these proposed rules was included in the Board packet. Ashley pointed out that these proposed changes are preliminary and that there is a comment period that is currently open until October 6, 2026. She encouraged the Board to comment on the proposed rule changes.

> **Debbie Havens made the motion to approve the Head Start Director's Program Report and Budget. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Conflict Resolution Policy and Form – Ashley Peña-Larsen
Ashley explained that it is a requirement of Head Start to have a Conflict Resolution policy so that clients and members of the community could have a path to resolve any issues that may arise with Head Start. She modified Rocky's policy to suit the Head Start program and created a form to make reporting a conflict simpler for clients.

> **Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve the Conflict Resolution Policy and Form. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

AmeriCorps Seniors Program Presentation – Samara Lynde, Angela Nelmark, Kelley Moody
Samara Lynde provided an overview of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The 117 volunteers in RSVP served 10,869 hours last year. Volunteers assist at Rocky's senior center, leading exercise classes, greeting at the front desk, and taking seniors' blood pressure at the Be Well Clinic. Rocky's Crafty Quilters make and donate sewing projects, and a RSVP volunteer named Mary assists seniors with their technology questions every two weeks. RSVP volunteers also assist at the Augusta Food Share, along with the gift shop at St. Peter's Hospital. The largest group of RSVP volunteers work with Rocky's Meals on Wheels program, packing and delivering approximately 200 meals each day. The Rocky Go-Getters are volunteers who give rides to medical appointments; in 2025, 400+ rides were provided, and it looks like that number will be exceeded this year. Samara spoke about some upcoming RSVP events. Rocky Handmade will be held on December 3, when the Crafty Quilters and Rocky's woodcarvers will sell their homemade items. The 9/11 Day of Service blood drive is scheduled for next month at the Neighborhood Center.

Angela Nelmark spoke about the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). Last year, 28 volunteers served 25,760 hours assisting students in elementary schools, Head Start, and Early Head Start. The program has volunteers at 24 stations. Four new volunteers were recruited, but three volunteers retired from the program. FGP volunteers had a direct impact on 1,165 students, with almost 100% showing academic improvement over the course of the year. Volunteers earn $4 per hour and are reimbursed $0.60 per mile for their drive to school and back. Volunteers state that the stipend makes a positive impact on their quality of life, and that the program adds purpose to their days.

Kelley Moody shared information about the Senior Companion Program (SCP), which helps homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities through companionship, transportation, and respite services. Last year, SCP volunteers served 30,061 hours and covered 88,176 miles with their clients. Volunteers with SCP earn $4 per hour and $0.55 per mile for a mileage reimbursement. In FY2026, 39 SCP volunteers served 193 clients through seven counties. Five volunteers retired from the program, and no new volunteers were hired. Client surveys revealed that 95% of SCP clients had an increase in social support due to the program. Kelley provided an overview of various recruitment activities, and shared highlights from the June 2026 Volunteer Recognition Events held in conjunction with FGP in Helena and Butte.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna M. Halland

Joanna Halland
Human Resource Director

Approved by the Board of Directors:

Paula Jacques
Name

10/28/26
Date