



Board Member Job Description

Who We Are

As of January 1, 2025, we've officially transitioned from the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) to Abundant Montana (AMT). This decision reflects our 50-year evolution, driven by our constituents' needs and our commitment to a sustainable Montana. Founded during the 1970s energy crisis, AERO helped rural communities develop alternative energy solutions. In the 1980s, we addressed the farming crisis by promoting sustainable agriculture, or "regenerative agriculture" as it's known today, helping train a generation of farmers and ranchers and putting over 250,000 acres into organic production. "Abundant Montana" was the name of our first directory in 1998, listing local farmers markets and producers.

Now, we face a new challenge: food insecurity. Montana's food self-sufficiency has plummeted from 70% in 1950 to just 3% today. We're convinced Montana can be food self-reliant again. Therefore, we're dedicating all our resources to the 33x33 for Montana initiative: a bold goal to get 33% Montana-grown food on all Montana plates by 2033. Our new name, Abundant Montana, reflects this core mission.

Our Mission

We're growing a resilient and reliable food system that nourishes all Montanans today and for generations to come.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The overarching responsibility of board members is to understand and support Abundant Montana's mission and goals and to review the organization's performance in achieving them. In addition, the board has seven core responsibilities:

1. Ensure effective organizational planning

The board is responsible for AMT's strategic and long-range planning. This strategic planning includes, but is not limited to, creating a plan that accounts for:

- the mission of the organization
- current and new programs
- staffing (both current and projected)
- financial projections, including income and expenditures

Part of effective strategic planning also includes periodically assessing AMT's progress toward achieving our previously set goals. For example, the board is responsible for determining which programs are consistent with AMT's mission and for monitoring their effectiveness.

2. Ensure adequate resources

One of the board's foremost responsibilities is to secure adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission. The board is also responsible for assisting with fundraising as deemed appropriate.

3. Ensure legal and ethical integrity

The board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.

4. Provide proper financial oversight

The board must assist in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place. Annually, the board is responsible for reviewing and approving the organization's funding plans, financial goals, and budget. The board is also responsible for being adequately informed of the financial condition of the organization and ensuring that published reports properly reflect the financial condition of AMT.

5. Select, support, and evaluate the executive director

The AMT board must reach a consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and, if/when needed, undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position. The board should ensure that the executive director has the moral and professional support they need to further the goals of the organization.

6. Enhance the organization's public standing

The board should clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community. Board members are responsible for actively seeking opportunities to communicate AMT's programs to appropriate audiences.

7. Build a resilient board, recruit and orient new board members

The AMT board has a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their performance. Annually, the board is responsible for reviewing the performance of the board (including its composition, organization, and responsibilities) and taking steps to improve its performance.

Other responsibilities of the board include:

- Provide candid and constructive criticism, advice, and comments.
- Be able to devote a fair amount of time each month to AMT's programmatic and fundraising activities. The time commitment required as a board member is approximately 4 to 10 hours a month.
- Attend monthly board of director meetings. Notify the board chair of any necessary absences. May be removed from the Board of Directors for missing half of meetings in one year.
- Make a personal donation at a meaningful level.
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be an AMT member in good standing.

By signing this form, I acknowledge the above-listed Board Responsibilities.

[signature]

[printed name]