



MINUTES

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, July 21, 2011

Reminder: Meetings scheduled for third Thursday of odd numbered months.

<p>Board Members Present Chuck Egan, Chairman, Town of Columbus Jeffrey McDowell, City of Hardin Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky EDA Ed Ulledalen, City of Billings Ken Gomer, Town of Bridger Katie Callahan, Town of Joliet Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District</p> <p>Members at Large Present Kendall Hartman, Billings Job Service Melissa Kramer, Stillwater Economic Development Lisa Skiner, MSU-Billings, College of Technology</p>	<p>Sponsors Not Represented Marvin Carter, Vice-Chairman, City of Laurel Sidney (Chip)Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioners John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Brian Roat, City of Red Lodge Susie Mosness, Sweet Grass County Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Page Dringman, City of Big Timber Doug Tucker, Carbon County Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Penny Landon, Treasurer, Carbon Conservation District Ada Iron, Crow Nation</p> <p>Members at Large Not Present</p>
<p>Guests Mayor Judy Swan, Town of Joliet Laura Lowe Matt Holben Bob Holben</p> <p>Congressional Staff Liz Ching Vicki Stephens</p>	<p>Staff Chris Mehus Jillann Knutson Joel Bertolino Diana Spint Dick Rath</p> <p>Staff Not Present</p>

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 6:15p.m. by Chairman Egan in Joliet, MT at the Joliet Community Center.

FINANCIALS

Beartooth Financials- 2010 Audit Report(2), 2011 Projection, 2011 Financial Stmts.(3)
RLF Financials- 2011 Financial Stmts. (4)
 Katie Callahan moved Dan Lowe seconded to file the financial statements for audit. APPROVED

Program Funding- Good News for 2011!...Food and Ag Center, EDA, CRDC, Housing, Fuels

Staff members provided funding updates for various programs: Food and Ag Center funding was approved for two years beginning July 1, 2011; EDA approved full funding for the current fiscal year of \$62,000; CRDC approved full funding for the current fiscal year of \$46,000; Housing program funding is expected to last through the current year; new fuels grants have been approved, funding the program for the next three years.

SERVICES

BUSINESS-

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

Ken Gomer shared information about the town of Bridger's vacant industrial facility and the need to find a business that would like to locate there; Jeff McDowell discussed several new developments in Hardin including the new JCPenny business outlet that has committed to move downtown; Ed Ulledallen shared information about recent developments in Billings.

RBEG Grants — The following projects were considered for approval by the Board

Healthy Pantry(5) Grant funding amount for this project is \$45,000

Jeff McDowell moved Ken Gomer seconded to accept the Healthy Pantry project. APPROVED

Emma's Bakery(6) Grant funding amount for this project is \$20,000

Bob VanOosten moved Lisa Skriner seconded to accept the Emma's Bakery project. APPROVED

Laurel TP(7) Grant funding amount for this project is \$7,500

Ken Gomer moved Dan Lowe seconded to accept the Laurel Trading Post project. APPROVED

Range Riders--This project was approved at a previous meeting. Grant funding was approved for \$8,000

Red Oxx Mfg.-- Staff provided an update on this project which is attached in the newsletter.

Sweet Grass Natural Lamb market expansion-- Staff provided an update on this project which is in the newsletter.

COMMUNITY-

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

Board members shared recent events and developments in their respective areas with regard to business activity: Dick Rath talked about the impact of this year's high water and flooding has had on agricultural operations and businesses dependent on tourism and recreation; Board member Katie Callahan discussed the flood damage in Joliet and introduced Mayor Judy Swan who further elaborated on the damage to a majority of homes and businesses throughout the community.

Eastern MT Homebuyer Class—Staff updated the Board regarding the successful kick-off of this effort. Local banks and other businesses have been supportive and attendance is good.

Ag Program Vista Volunteer—Staff discussed the Vista Volunteer we are co-hosting with the town of Red Lodge. She is available to assist with the use of locally produced foods.

Pioneer Medical Center-CDBG Grant—this project is moving along very well.

NADC-Indian Housing Project—Staff has been assisting NADC with the application materials and scope of work for this start-up project.

CONSERVATION- *CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion*

Renewable Energy America Program Grants- Torskey Land and Livestock (8)

No action was taken on this project, as it is not likely to take more staff time to complete.

Justin Down-Pleasant Valley Beef

As it was getting late, we decided to begin the next Board meeting with the CONSERVATION program and move to close the meeting.

Fuels Project Update - Huntley Butte, Beartooth Mtn. Christian Ranch, YBRA

--September meeting agenda

Fire Department Capacity Building

--September meeting agenda

Grassland Partners Program

--September meeting agenda

OTHER

Outreach/Communication- *Joliet Flood Meeting; Local CEDS Meetings*

Facilitation- *Business Finance Class—Sweet Grass Chamber of Commerce*

NEXT MEETING – September 22, 2011 - in Red Lodge

Adjournment: 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Mehus

Economic Development Director