



MINUTES

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, November 10, 2011

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

<p>Board Members Present Chuck Egan, Chairman, Town of Columbus Susie Mosness, Sweet Grass County Jeffrey McDowell, City of Hardin Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky EDA Kathryn Callahan, Town of Joliet Page Dringman, City of Big Timber Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District</p> <p>Members at Large Present</p>	<p>Sponsors Not Represented Marvin Carter, Vice Chairman, City of Laurel Penny Landon, Treasurer, Carbon Conservation District Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Sidney (Chip)Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioners Ken Gomer, Stillwater Mine Corp. John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Brian Roat, City of Red Lodge Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Ada Iron, Crow Nation Ed Ulledalen, City of Billings Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District</p> <p>Members at Large Not Present Melissa Kramer, Stillwater Economic Development Lisa Skriner, MSU-Billings, College of Technology Kendall Hartmann, Billings Job Service</p>
<p>Guests Anne Boothe, Triangle Communications Rick Reed, Sweetgrass County Commission Bill Wallace, Sweetgrass County Commission</p> <p>Congressional Staff</p>	<p>Staff Chris Mehus Jillann Knutson Joel Bertolino Valentine Smith Earl Atwood Dick Rath</p>

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 1:40 p.m. by Chairman Egan in Big Timber, MT at the Sweetgrass County Annex. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by guest Anne Booth (Triangle Communications).

Minutes from the July (1) and September (2), 2011 meetings were reviewed. **Jeff McDowell moved for approval of the minutes as written for both meetings, seconded by Katie Callahan. APPROVED.**

The Board discussed the status of Board Officers. Chairman Egan reminded the members that election of officers would take place at the January meeting, and requested they all consider nominations in advance of the next meeting. The idea of naming an alternate to the Executive Committee was put forward by Chairman Egan to ensure full attendance and coverage for all Executive Committee events. After discussion, **Jeff McDowell moved to appoint Kathryn Callahan as alternate Executive**

Committee Member, with authority sign checks for RC&D. The motion was seconded by Dan Lowe. APPROVED

New RC&D staff members Valentine (Val) Smith, Housing Coordinator, and Earl Atwood, Special Projects Coordinator were introduced to Board, and each provided a short background on themselves and updates on their staff assignments. Val Smith will be taking over the First Time Homebuyer Education courses for Diana Spint, and will be working on opportunities to extend other parts of the housing program including replacement of lost funding streams. Earl Atwood is currently providing support for the Montana Broadband Project, and will be lending support for the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program as needed.

FINANCIALS

Beartooth Financials-

Beartooth RC&D draft budget for 2012 **(3)**: Chairman Egan opened discussion by pointing out that the apportioned fees for each jurisdiction served has not changed in over ten years; it would be appropriate to review our service rates to determine if an increase is called for in conjunction with other revenue stream options being considered. Chris Mehus reported that meetings to discuss updates to the CEDS strategic plan are being scheduled in each county. While the CEDS review is underway, he encouraged Board members to consider and support opportunities for additional funding streams for RC&D.

Jillann Knutson reviewed the proposed 2012 budget and answered questions pertaining to several categories for Board members. The final 2012 budget will be presented for Board approval at the January, 2012 meeting in Laurel.

RC&D Financial Statements as of October 31, 2011 **(4)** were presented for Board review by Jillann Knutson. **Jeff McDowell moved, seconded by Dan Lowe to accept the financial statements and put them on file for audit. APPROVED**

RLF Financials-

2011 RLF Financial Statements as of October 31, 2011. **(5)**; RLF financial statements were presented and reviewed briefly. **Dan Lowe moved Katie Callahan seconded to file the financial statements for audit. APPROVED**

SERVICES

BUSINESS

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

McDowell – Hardin is a finalist to house the new Pacific Steel Auto Shredder in their industrial park.

Local officials are working hard to recruit this large expansion of the facility currently located on 4th Avenue in Billings.

McDowell - Hardin Detention Facility is working on a few new opportunities to contract prisoners and potentially open for business.

Mehus – revised billing arrangement for SBDC services (transferred to Big Sky EDA for direct bill to counties). Beartooth RC&D will continue to endorse SBDC and partner with the staff to successfully deliver services across our five county region.

Arveschoug- reported that Berry Y&V received a MDOC grant for workforce training – indicated 250 new steel fabrication jobs to Billings in support of oil sands industry in Canada and Bakken formation work in ND

COMMUNITY- CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

Board members shared recent events and developments in their respective areas with regard to community development activity:

Joel B. reported on CEDS meetings held so far this year and plans to get remaining counties initial discussion scheduled. Participation thus far has been good.

Mossness- County Annex Project and Courthouse remodel projects completed in Sweetgrass County. Big Timber still in running for Cowboy Hall of Fame. FEMA funding now becoming available for flood mitigation, will assist with Main Boulder Road project and other critical repair work in the county.

PMC CT Scan Project – Beartooth RC&D assisted with successful CDBG grant application for a new CT Scanner and other equipment. Triangle Telephone provided \$500,000 in USDA-RDLG funding in the form of a 0% interest loan for remodeling of the medical facility and construction of a new ambulance barn. Total project cost is \$1.4million.

CONSERVATION- CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

Dick Rath – Public meetings being scheduled about pine beetle infestation on east slope of Crazy Mountains. Beartooth RC&D is partnering with local entities to host forest stewardship classes for local landowners to create forest plans for their properties.

OTHER

Outreach/Communication- *Dan Lowe inquired about status of Park County request to join the Beartooth RC&D area. Mehus reported that recently the request was revoked by Park County in light of their decision to reassemble their own EDA and work in partnership with Gallatin County.*

NEXT MEETING – 1:30pm - January 19, 2011 - Laurel, Mt.

Adjournment: 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl Atwood
Special Projects Coordinator