



MINUTES

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, September 22, 2011

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

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 6:15pm by Chairman Egan in Red Lodge, MT at the Red Lodge Rural Fire District building.

The incorrect minutes were provided in the meeting packets, thus the committee moved the minutes review for the July meeting on to the November agenda.

Stillwater Mining Company formally requested to have Beartooth RC&D accept Ken Gomer to represent their company on the Beartooth RC&D Board of Directors.

Marv Carter moved Bob Van Oosten seconded to accept Ken Gomer as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors representing Stillwater Mining Company APPROVED

FINANCIALS

Beartooth Financials-

2010 Audit Report(2); Audit copies were handed out to each Board member and a brief discussion ensued , 2011 Projection, 2011 Financial Stmts.(3); considering 8 months of many uncertainties and significant changes, both current and year-end financial pictures look fairly good at this point.

RLF Financials-

2011 Financial Stmts. (4); RLF financial statements were presented and reviewed briefly Doug Tucker moved Bob Van Oosten seconded to file the financial statements for audit. APPROVED

SERVICES

CONSERVATION-

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

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

- *Gerry Dell reported on several potential wind energy projects pending in Stillwater County—many interior roads are being built on private property, issues are still being worked out regarding county road access and maintenance; Susie Mosness contributed information about the development that would span the border of Stillwater and Sweet Grass counties as well as another project proposed for the Springdale area*
- *Doug Tucker briefed the group on the Coal Mtn. development in southern Carbon County—currently drilling test holes, very high quality coal, proposed mine locations near Bridger and Belfry, possible rail spur and conveyor systems to be built, same developers and similar markets to Signal Peak in Roundup; Ed Ulledalen expressed some concern over additional coal train traffic moving through Billings, as traffic issues continue to compound in the downtown area*
- *Chris Mehus provided fuels program updates including several larger scale projects and new funding sources*
- *Mehus also presented the recent opportunity for Beartooth to contract with MTDNRC to represent the state on vegetation survey work in reseeding many staging and work areas damaged during the clean-up efforts following the Exxon-Mobil oil spill in July; Marvin Carter and Ed Ulledalen shared perspectives gained through meetings with Exxon executive; they agreed that the economic impact of the contractors and other workers has been quite positive; the replacement pipeline is nearly completed; this allow flow of crude oil to resume, which is the main supply line for the Exxon-Mobil refinery*

BUSINESS-

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

- *Jeff McDowell shared recent inquiries regarding the Hardin Industrial Park and rail spur, including the good possibility that a pea and lentil processing facility will commit to locating in Hardin.*
- *Jillann Knutson will need the amount of money each city/county invested originally in the CDBG portion of our RLF. Anyone with information regarding this is requested to please contact the office.*
- *Hartman provided an update on Berry Y&V, an oilfield manufacturing company that is ramping up productivity and hiring due to recent growth of the oil sands in Canada.*
- *Susie Mosness discussed Sweet Grass County's application to host the MT Cowboy Hall of Fame and funding for the expansion of Pioneer Medical Center and new ambulance barn.*

- *Ed Ulledalen mentioned that more new businesses have plans of locating to the Cabella's business park, including a Holiday Inn Express which will soon be open.*

COMMUNITY *CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion*

- *Gerry Dell updated the group with regard to the groundbreaking for the new hospital being built in Columbus.*
- *Diana Spint updated the group on housing program activities; numbers are down, but the classes have been going well; feedback has been good for the successful Eastern MT classes in Miles City; a special class is scheduled for Columbus on Oct. 18;*

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OTHER

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

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

NEXT MEETING – 1:30pm, November 17, 2011 - in Big Timber

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Mehus

Economic Development Director