



MINUTES

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, February 2, 2012 – Laurel, MT (rescheduled from 1/19 for weather)
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 Gerald Dell, Stillwater County John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Ada Iron, Crow Nation Clinton Giesick, Town of Bridger Bill Wallace, 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 Melissa Kramer, Stillwater Economic Development Lisa Skiner, MSU-Billings, College of Technology Kendall Hartmann, Billings Job Service Ken Gomer, Stillwater Mine Corp.</p>	<p>Sponsors Not Represented Penny Landon, Treasurer, Carbon Conservation District Sidney (Chip) Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioners Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Ed Ulledalen, City of Billings Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District</p> <p>Members at Large Not Present</p>
<p>Guests</p> <p>Congressional Staff Liz Ching, Sen. Baucus' Office Rachel Court, Sen. Tester's Office</p>	<p>Staff Chris Mehus Jillann Knutson Earl Atwood Dick Rath</p>

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Egan in Laurel, MT at Emma's Baking Company and Deli. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stillwater Co. Commissioner Jerry Dell.

Minutes from the November, 2011 **(1)**, meetings were reviewed. **Jeff McDowell moved for approval of the minutes as written for both meetings, seconded by Ken Gomer. APPROVED.**

Year-End Financials **(2)**, were presented as an information item to the Board by Jillann Knutson.

The 2012 RC&D Budget **(3)**, was presented by Jillann Knutson for the Board's approval. Budget categories where some variance was expected were discussed, notably travel and car expenses. Subsequent to the withdrawal of NCRS resources, the staff share one vehicle for RC&D business, which results in an increase in travel reimbursement since personal vehicle use is required on a more frequent

basis. **Jeff McDowell** moved for approval of the budget as presented, seconded by **Bill Wallace**. APPROVED.

RLF Financial statements (4) were presented as an information item for the Board by Jillann Knutson. Also, the RLF Plan Rules will require re-certification by the Board for the coming year. Board members requested that a written summary of the rules and changes (if any) be presented to the Board at the March meeting in Hardin, at which time the re-certification action will be considered.

SERVICES

Chirs Mehus presented the 2012 RC&D Work Plan (5) to the Board for approval. **Jeff McDowell** moved for approval of the work plan, seconded by **Kathryn Callahan**. APPROVED.

New Project Requests were presented to the Board for approval to proceed:

(6) Yellowstone Valley Farms, Laurel, MT requesting assistance with greenhouse business project. **Ken Gomer** moved for approval, seconded by **Marvin Carter**. APPROVED.

(7) Styxworks Manufacturing, Bozeman, MT is requesting assistance to expand their facility and incorporate a new process for manufacturing Cross Laminated Timbers (CLT) at the Timberweld Mfg. plant in Columbus, MT. **Jeff McDowell** moved for approval, seconded by **Ken Gomer**. APPROVED.

(8) The Wild West Project is a four-state collaborative entrepreneurship program centered on tourism. **Kathryn Callahan** moved for approval, seconded by **Dick Rath**. APPROVED.

(9) Triangle Telephone Youth Entrepreneurship Education Grant project was presented by Melissa Kramer, Stillwater Economic Development. The project will assist Stillwater Economic Development in creating educational opportunities for High School age entrepreneurs in the Stillwater and Sweetgrass County areas. **Jerry Dell** moved for approval, seconded by **Bill Wallace**. APPROVED.

(10) Little Big Horn Days, incorporating the Custer's Last Stand Reenactment has an opportunity to obtain grant funding in support of the event, but requires a 501(c)(3) non-profit status to qualify for the grant. **Jeff McDowell** is requesting permission to utilize the RC&D's 501(c)(3) to support the grant request. No staff time will be required of the RC&D office. **Marvin Carter** moved for approval, seconded by **Ken Gomer**. APPROVED.

2011 Project Closeout report (11) was presented to the Board for approval by Chris Mehus. **Jeff McDowell** moved for approval, seconded by **Kathryn Callahan**. APPROVED.

BUSINESS

CURRENT LOCAL EVENTS—Board Member discussion

Jerry Dell – The proposed wind farm in Stillwater County may be proceeding faster than thought before. Plus, a \$15.8 million grant was approved by the US Forest Service to improve the West Rosebud Road into the Custer National Forest at Mystic Lake.

Bill Wallace – expressed hope that Sweetgrass County would soon see approval for improvements to the Boulder River Road, which is now rolled into the NEPA process. They should see this sometime in the next 18 months.

Meliss Kramer – “Save the Date” for Columbus Community Foundation Day Session for Strategic Planning and Organizing Non-Profits. The event is scheduled for the end of March at Columbus High School – the fee will be \$30 and includes lunch.

Jeff McDowell – The Hardin Detention Facility has some near-term prospects that are still being studied. He noted a general pick up in business activity in the Hardin area recently.

Ken Gomer – Stillwater Mining Corp. purchased the liquor store building in Columbus to house its headquarters IT systems. The Blitz project in Nye is expanding with a new Tunnel Boring Machine.

Dick Rath – 2011 was a great year for the Fuels and Forestry programs. For 2012 he anticipates an additional \$100,000 in funding for Carbon and Stillwater Counties. Activities should restart in April. A very productive meeting was held recently in Melville with landowners to discuss beetle in-migration in conifer stands. A three day Master Forest Steward program has been developed. This spring there will be three 1-day workshops to teach what a landowner can do to make their properties less fire-prone. There will be an upcoming field review of the Huntley Butte Project.

Jeff McDowell returned the discussion to the RC&D budget and asked the staff about their prospective needs for a newer or an additional staff car. After discussion, **Jeff McDowell moved and Kathryn Callahan seconded a motion that RC&D staff should investigate the need and financial options for obtaining a second vehicle for RC&D staff use. APPROVED.**

Earl Atwood presented the 2012 Board Meeting Schedule **(12)**, as follows:

January 19 –	Laurel, MT (day meeting)
March 15 –	Hardin, MT (day meeting)
May 17 –	Columbus, MT (evening meeting)
July 19 –	Joliet, MT (evening meeting)
September 20 –	Red Lodge, MT (evening meeting)
November 15 –	Big Timber, MT (day meeting)

Board members were reminded to complete the 2011 Board of Directors Survey **(13)** and submit to Chairman Egan when possible to aid the staff and Executive Committee with the continuing transition away from NRCS support.

NEXT MEETING – 1:30pm - March 15, 2012 - Hardin, Mt.

Adjournment: 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl Atwood, Special Projects Coordinator