



Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting Agenda
1:30 P.M. - Thursday, March 21, 2013
Big Horn County Courthouse, Hardin
Lunch on your own prior to meeting – Join the gang at La Chalupa!

12:00 noon	Dutch Lunch at La Chalupa for anyone wishing to come (we reserved seating for a group of 12-15 people)		
1:30 P.M.	Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order, Introductions	Chairman	Information
	A presentation of recent projects in Big Horn County	Sidney Fitzpatrick	Information
	Approve Minutes – January 17, 2013 (1)	Chairman	Decision
	Regional Roundup – What's been going on in <i>Your</i> area?	Directors/Guests	Information
	Beartooth Financial Report General Status of Financials and RLF program	Knutson	Information
	Old Business Project Status Report (5) Carbon County Extension Office project status	Mehus, staff Atwood	Information Information
	<u>Program Updates / Staff Reports</u>		
	Economic Development Housing Program Food & Ag Forestry and Fuels	Mehus Smith Bertolino Rath	Information Information Information Information
	<u>Next Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting</u> May 16, 2013 – Columbus, MT	Egan	Information
3:30 P.M.	<u>Adjourn</u>	Egan	Decision

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MINUTES
 Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, January 17, 2013 – Laurel, MT

<p>Board Members Present Marvin Carter, Vice Chairman, City of Laurel Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Clinton Giesick, Town of Bridger Royce Njos, City of Red Lodge Yolanda GoodVoice, Crow Nation Page Dringman, City of Big Timber Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District Bob Faw, Sweet Grass County Commission Mike Creeden, Carbon Co. Conservation District Jeffrey McDowell, City of Hardin</p> <p>Members at Large Present Marissa Hauge, Stillwater County Ec. Development Lisa Skriner, MSU-Billings, College of Technology</p>	<p>Sponsors Not Represented Chuck Egan, Chairman, Town of Columbus Sidney (Chip)Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioners Ed Ulledalen, City of Billings Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky EDA Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Kathryn Callahan, Town of Joliet Doug Tucker, Carbon County</p> <p>Members at Large Not Present Kendall Hartmann, Billings Job Service Ken Gomer, Stillwater Mine Corp John Klaman, SBA</p>
<p>Guests Bill Foisy, Red Lodge Rebecca Heddigaard, Big Sky EDA</p>	<p>Staff Chris Mehus (not present) Joel Bertolino (present) Jilann Knutson (present) Dick Rath present) Valentine Smith (present) Earl Atwood (present)</p>

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 1:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Carter in Laurel, MT at the Palace restaurant. The Pledge of Allegiance was returned by all present.

Members introduced themselves and *New Directors were introduced to the Board:*

- Bob Faw**, Sweet Grass County (replacing former Director Bill Wallace)
- Mike Creeden**, Carbon Co. Conservation District (replacing Penny Landon)

Minutes from the December 13, 2012 (November meeting - delayed) (1), meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were identified and adopted. **Jeff McDowell** moved for approval of the minutes as corrected, seconded by **Dan Lowe**. APPROVED.

Region Roundtable Discussion

Vice Chairman Carter called for Board Member reports on activities or projects going on in their areas that would be of interest to attendees:

Dan Lowe – Big Horn Conservation District, reported on a tour he attended during the Montana Association of Conservation Districts in Kalispell. They visited a sawmill there which had adopted new technology to scan logs and control saw equipment to optimize cut patterns and material yields, in addition to more complete processing of waste cuts and chipping into useable products.

Gerry Dell – Stillwater County, reported that he was elected Stillwater County Commission Chairman for 2013. They anticipate a busy season covering the Legislature. Recently they were contacted by WKN (wind power company) after a 4 month hiatus, but are still awaiting specific news about progress on upcoming projects in the County.

Joel Bertolino – RC&D Staff, reported on the Legislative Day attendance in Helena earlier in the week. Chris Mehus, Joel and Jillann Knutson traveled to Helena to meet Legislators and explain RC&D's mission, projects and accomplishments. They talked with quite a number of lawmakers during the event.

Bob Faw & Page Dringman – Sweet Grass County, reported that although there were not any notable new projects or events to call out, generally things are going quite well across the county and they are optimistic about the coming year.

Bill Foisy, Red Lodge, indicated that the City of Red Lodge is working with NW Energy conservation issues, LED lighting in particular. He asked for assistance from anyone who may have past experience working with NW Energy on rate tariff issues. Also, he reported that Red Lodge will be undertaking a \$2 million water project to lay new mains and laterals, and that several highway department projects intersecting with the city will be undertaken in the coming year. The Red Lodge City Council has adopted a disaster mitigation plan. The city has also written a letter to Governor Bullock advocating for continued support and funding on alternative transportation projects, including bike paths and greenways.

John Pulasky – Yellowstone Conservation District commented on recent issues relating to distribution of FEMA flood relief funds. He will be attending the upcoming meet-n-greet with the Legislature on January 24th. They have a lot of youth projects underway currently.

Jeff McDowell – City of Hardin, reported that the bondholders of the Detention Facility in Harding have indicated they will accept the latest offer by Big Horn County to purchase the facility, which has been under negotiation for some time. The New World Energy deal is inching forward, with the latest step being the approval of a subdivision plat that will make it

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possible for future transfer of the property. There are 2 new restaurants and one rent-to-own furniture and electronics business in downtown.

Yolanda Goodvoice – Crow Nation, reported that they received news in January that their State Economic Development grant renewal was approved for 2013. They are continuing work on establishing a CDFI on the reservation. Construction activities on reservation projects are slow right now due to winter conditions.

Clinton Geisick – Town of Bridger, reported that they are very close to re-establishment of a Bridger Chamber of Commerce. The Town of Bridger has a new web site (www.bridgermontana.com) put together by Rich and Annette Andersen. A new business, Blue Mountain Express, has opened. The Belfry Highway Phase 3 project is now underway.

Royce Njos -Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce, reported that the new Economic Development Committee had their first meeting recently with 8 new members. FEMA and the American Flood Association has remapped a lot of properties in the Red Lodge area which resulted in changed designation on some as within a flood zone. This will affect insurance requirements on these properties, which may be appealable. Red Lodge Chamber is working on a web site that will include tickets sales for venues in Red Lodge that charge admission (movies, concerts, etc.).

Marrisa Hauge – Stillwater Co. Economic Development, stated the Commission has approved the Gran Network project. Youth Entrepreneurship Day planning is underway (event will be on April 19th). Stillwater Economic Development Committee had its first meeting on January 9th, to begin its work on updating the ED plan from 1997.

Rebecca Hedegaard – Small Business Development Center (Billings), introduced herself and gave some background on her office. They will soon be hosting business management training over 12 weeks. They will also be conducting a circuit ride each quarter to bring them to different areas in the region to perform outreach with local businesses.

Lisa Skriner – City College, MSUB reported that new classes for the Spring Semester have begun. This semester will include a class on Social Media for Businesses and a Hazardous Materials Refresher course in March.

Marvin Carter – City of Laurel, gave a brief update on the water intake situation for Laurel's water supply. A new theater will be open in Laurel by March 15th. A new business is now open behind Fox Lumber, construction portable lodging modules for placement in the Bakken area.

Current Beartooth RC&D Financial reports (2), RLF Financial Statements (3) and a verbal report on the status of our annual audit were presented to the Board by Jillann Knutson. **Jerry Dell moved and Bob VanOosten seconded to accept the reports and authorize Knutson to file them for audit purposes. APPROVED.**

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2013 Final RC&D Budget The draft budget for 2013 presented to the Board at the December 13th meeting was put on the table for final approval. No changes were recommended by staff. **Dan Lowe moved approval of the budget as presented, seconded by Jeff McDowell.**
APPROVED.

Old Business:

Jillann Knutson updated the Board RLF bankruptcy (Foral Expressions, Hardin) and customer death (Perfection Cycle, Bridger) . As directed from the last meeting, fire insurance was obtained for the Perfection Cycle Building, although theft coverage was not available without alarm systems on the building. Measures have been taken to physically secure the facility.

A list of completed projects for 2012 were presented to the Board. Bob VanOosten moved to accept the list and authorize staff to close the files on these projects, seconded by Dan Lowe.
APPROVED.

The updated 2013 RC&D project list was included in the meeting packet for the Boards information, review and discussion.

Earl Atwood reminded the Board to review and comment on the draft RC&D 2013 Business Plan.

Officer Elections for 2013

The RC&D ByLaws call for election of officers at the first Board Meeting each year. Vice-Chairman Carter advised the Board that all current officers were willing to continue in their present capacity, but encouraged any Board member interested in assuming a leadership position to make their interest known. Nominations were called for three times for each of the officer elections, with no additional nominations being brought forward. Following are the election results:

Chairman: Chuck Egan (nominated by Jeff McDowell, seconded Dan Lowe) APPROVED
Vice Chairman: Marvin Carter (nominated by Dan Lowe, seconded Jerry Dell) APPROVED
Treasurer: Kathryn Callahan (nominated by Jeff McDowell, seconded Royce Njos)
APPROVED
Alternate: Jerry Dell (nominated Jeff McDowell, seconded Marvin Carter) APPROVED

Scope of Work and Implementation Methodology FY 2013

RC&D is required to develop and update a planning document to comply with EDA grants which outlines its scope of work and implementation strategies. Chris Mehus prepared the updated 2013 document, which was presented to the Board for their consideration and approval. Joel Bertolino reviewed the purpose and content of the document. The Board deferred approval action until the March, 2013 meeting to provide members an opportunity to reiview and comment. The March meeting agenda will bring the matter for final action.

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Request for Assistance

Joel Bertolino presented a request for assistance for the Joliet Fire Station project for the Boards consideration. The project will involve staff support and assistance with planning, grant application and administration exceeding 10 hours during the next year. Jeff McDowell moved for approval and acceptance of the project, seconded by Mike Creeden. APPROVED

Program Updates / Staff Reports

Housing Program – Val Smith: reported on her efforts to expand class offerings to new locations, including Sidney and Big Timber. Also, she is working with City College, MSUB in Billings (assisted by Director Lisa Skriner) to organize classes for students and instructors. Val will be attending additional training in Atlanta in February related to coaching skills for credit management.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 PM

2013 Board Meeting Schedule

January 17 – Laurel – daytime

March 21 – Hardin - daytime

May 16 – Columbus - evening

July 18 – Joliet – evening

September 19 – Red Lodge - evening

November 21 – Big Timber – daytime

Winter meetings (Nov-Mar) held 1:30 PM

Summer meetings (May-Sep) held 6:00 PM

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