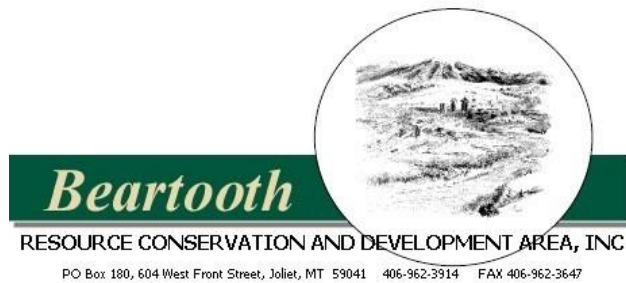


Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting Agenda
5:30 P.M. - Thursday, May 16, 2013
Community Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
138 N 4th St, Columbus, MT 59019

Dinner - (\$13.00 – cash or check payable to: CCC Mission Committee)

5:30 P.M.	<u>Meeting at Community Congregational Church Fellowship Hall</u> <u>Welcome & Dinner served</u>		
	Pledge of Allegiance	Egan	
6:00 P.M.	Call to Order and Introductions	Egan	Information
	<u>Approve Minutes</u> – March 22 , 2013 (1)	Egan	Decision
	<u>Round Table:</u> Business, Community and Conservation topics – What's been going on in <i>your</i> area?	ET AL	Information
	<u>Beartooth Financial and Revolving Loan Fund Updates</u> (2, 3)	Knutson	Information Information Information
	<u>Economic Development Director-Chris Mehus</u> Staff Update Requests for Assistance: Elation Planning (4) Little Big Horn Rest Area (5) Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame (6)	Mehus Mehus Mehus	Information Decision Decision Decision
	<u>Housing- Valentine Smith</u> Staff Update	Smith	Information
	<u>Ag Program Technician- Joel Bertolino</u> Staff Update Requests for Assistance: Stillwater Packing (7) Tumblewood Teas (8)	Bertolino Bertolino Bertolino	Information Decision Decision
	<u>Forester – Dick Rath</u> Staff Update	Rath	Information
	<u>Next Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting</u> July 18, 2012 Fishtail (Family Park), PICNIC! 5:00 PM	Egan	Information
8:00 P.M.	<u>Adjournment</u>	Egan	



MINUTES
 Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, May 16, 2013 – Columbus, MT

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Egan in Columbus, MT at the Community Congregational Church. *Our thanks to the Church and its Mission Committee for the use of their meeting room and meal preparation for this event!*

The Pledge of Allegiance was returned by all present, led by Marissa Hauge.

Members introduced themselves and a *New Director was introduced to the Board:*

Scott Geda, Branch President, First Interstate Bank of Hardin

Minutes from the March 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Two spelling corrections were offered by Jeff McDowell. **John Pulasky moved for approval of the minutes as corrected, seconded by Katy Callahan. APPROVED.**

Presentation: Prior to the opening of the meeting, Marissa Hauge presented information to the group about the recent Youth Entrepreneurship Day held in advance of the Stillwater County Business Expo in Columbus. This was the second year for the event, and resulted in an increase of participants from 20 in 2012 to 35 in 2013. It was a very successful day, and feedback from the event indicates it should be continued and expanded. Chris Mehus recommended to the Board members that they should look for opportunities to establish similar opportunities for youth in their respective areas.

Region Roundtable Discussion

Chairman Egan thanked Marissa Hauge for an excellent presentation and called for Board Member reports on activities or projects going on in their areas that would be of interest to attendees:

Scott Geta – President, First Interstate Bank of Hardin, was introduced to the Board as a new Board member. Scott reported that his bank has seen an increase in loans pertaining to re-seeding of crops that were not viable due to dry weather conditions over the winter.

Ken Gomer – Stillwater Mine Corp. – Ken reported on the recent corporate events that have been in the news and offered his perspective on the impact to ongoing mining operations. The newly elected Board of Directors was to have their first meeting today; everyone is waiting to see if the board will be establishing any new direction for the company.

Clinton Geisick – Town of Bridger - It has been a busy spring for his bank with lots of agricultural loans, a few real estate transactions in Bridger. The anticipated Bridger Chamber of Commerce formation has not gone forward as hoped, however Bridger does have a new Neighborhood Watch program established. Das Kukkenhaus Bakery is no longer in operation, however it appears there may be one or two new businesses opening soon. Details on these will be available at a future meeting.

Katherine Callahan – Town of Joliet – Katy did not have new projects to report but did encourage anyone who has not been to the new restaurant in Joliet (*Jane Dough's*) to give it a try!

Royce Njos – Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce – The main street water line construction is moving ahead, hopefully to be completed by mid-summer. His Bank has recently had a flurry of SBA loans – seven in the last two months!

Jeff McDowell – Two Rivers Authority – Jeff reported that Two Rivers Authority was not being funded by the City of Hardin prospectively. As a result Jeff will be leaving his position at the end of June, 2013. The new Family Dollar Store will be opening within a couple of weeks. Work on the new Airport continues. The Sarpy rail spur at Hysham appears to be under expansion with new switching equipment, which could bode a significant improvement in availability of rail service to the Hardin area in the future.

John Pulasky – Yellowstone County Conservation District – The Yellowstone River Basin Advisory Council (BAC) has completed 4 meetings in different locations and are currently collating the information from these events. 28 different concerns about the river have been

identified so far. There will be one more informational meeting before the end of May, after which results and proposals will be generated and presented to the 2015 Montana Legislature.

John Klaman – SBA – reported that there is still a reduced level of activity on the east side of Montana, but April' figures were significantly up compared to last year. He just attended the Energy Forum in Glendive.

Bob VanOosten – Stillwater County Conservation District – The Stillwater Drought Committee meeting held this past week reported that although we had roughly 100% snowpack from winter snows, in the last week 20% to 40% of the snowpack has already gone. Look for low flows in the Yellowstone drainage later this year.

Doug Tucker – Carbon County Commission – Very busy with budget preparation for the coming year. Doug reviewed a number of projects in the County currently underway, and commented on how their county 4-H program has grown and diversified over recent years to include many programs that aren't traditional agriculture projects.

Gerry Dell – Stillwater County Commission - Also very busy with budget preparation for the coming year. Several infrastructure projects have been underway in Absarokee recently including sewer line, new sidewalks and a new water storage facility. The County is busy with a number of 100th Anniversary celebrations occurring in towns all over during the summer. A new cell tower was put up by Verizon near the Town Pump location. Hopefully they will complete their county office relocations to the new annex by July 15th.

Marissa Hauge – Stillwater County Econ. Dev. – Some businesses in the Columbus area are expanding this year, and residential construction is up somewhat. The new NeighborWorks program has been approved by the County for initiation.

Yolanda GoodVoice – Crow Nation – Reported on the Crow Tribe's recent purchase of the Hairpin Ranch. Two new business startups include a bottled water company. Three small business loans were awarded by her office recently. An Economic Development Symposium was held recently, hosted by the Tribe and LBH College. A new housing development project has been created which is structured as a self-help project for residents. Plans for the LBH Battle re-enactments are underway. The municipal park in the center of Crow Agency is being overhauled.

Tim Robbins – Regional Director (Billings), Montana Job Service – Tim reported on the recent Work Force 2013 forum in Billings. They are now putting together a leadership council to drive planning for workforce development in the region. 1st meeting will be June 5th. The Governor has organized a Main Street Montana meeting/event on May 28th. Currently there are 1,000 jobs posted in the Billings area. They will be doing workshops on how small businesses can comply with the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

Chris Mehus – Sweetwater County information – Chris reported on the Cowboy Hall of Fame Project - \$380,000 to be spent in the next 18 months for planning and development to get the project underway. Bob Faw, our Board Member from the Sweetgrass County Commission suffered a heart attack a few weeks ago. He has returned to work and seems to be doing well.

Current Beartooth RC&D Financial reports (2), RLF Financial Statements (3) were presented to the Board by Jillann Knutson. RLF activity is up considerably from the past year. Jillann provided updates to the Board on two foreclosure properties, Flower Expressions in Hardin and Bridger Cycle in Bridger. **Jeff McDowell moved and Gerry Dell seconded to accept the reports and authorize Knutson to file them for audit purposes. APPROVED.**

New Business:

Requests for Assistance:

Elation Planning (4) (Mehus)- *Assist the owners of Elation, Inc. with developing an architectural framework for their electronic curriculum tools.* Elation is a new Billings company founded by Chris Dimock and Bill Simmons (owner of MasterLube and GlassDoctor) that specializes in workforce training and personal enhancement and skills development. Chris Dimock presented his training model at the Beartooth September 2012 Board meeting. Staff was able to help them successfully apply for a Big Sky Trust Fund Planning Grant to be used for software mapping and architectural development that will help the company deliver their educational curriculum electronically. **Ken Gomer moved approval of the project, seconded by John Pulasky. APPROVED**

Little Big Horn Rest Area (5) (Mehus) - *Assist Crow Tribe, Montana Dept. of Transportation, Dowl-HKM with plans for a new Rest Area near Little Big Horn Battlefield.* Due to Beartooth's relationship with members of the Crow Tribe at large as well as a good working relationship with the Tribal Administration, we have been asked to facilitate a planning project for a new MDOT State Rest Area. This project has been proposed more than once in the past ten years, but previous attempts have been unsuccessful due to lack of trust, land ownership issues, additional project partners, and other mitigating factors. **Jeff McDowell moved approval of the project, seconded by Doug Tucker. APPROVED.**

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame (6) (Mehus) - *Assist the MTCHoF staff with developing plans for their tourist destination point to be located in Big Timber.* The 2007 Legislature granted \$500,000 in development funding to the MTCHoF to establish a set of building and financial plans to initiate the process of building a new facility in Wolf Point, MT. For various reasons, final plans for this location never came to fruition. After a lengthy selection process in 2012, Big Timber was selected to host the new facility. Nearly \$400,000 remain to initiate the construction of a facility near Interstate 90 that will hopefully become a major attraction for the area. **Katherine Callahan moved approval of the project, seconded by Jeff McDowell. APPROVED**

Stillwater Packing (7) (Bertolino) Assist Stillwater Packing Co. with Marketing Plan. The project is to assist the small rural business in Columbus Montana develop a marketing effort that will assist them in capturing a larger market share through effective advertising of their unique line of processed and cured meat products. **Gerry Dell moved approval of the project, seconded by Bob VanOosten. APPROVED**

Tumblewood Teas (8) (Bertolino) Assist Tumblewood Teas of Big Timber with Marketing Plan. The project is to assist the small rural business in Big Timber, Montana develop a marketing effort that will assist them in capturing a larger market share through effective advertising of their unique line of fresh blended tea products. **Jeff McDowell moved approval of the project, seconded by Dan Lowe. APPROVED.**

Housing Program Report – Val Smith reported that she would be attending the Montana Board of Housing meeting next week in Missoula.

Fuels Program Report – Chris Mehus provided a recap of recent activity for the fuels program, including the recent award by BLM for additional funds to train and employ veterans on fuels projects in Carbon County. He described the work that RC&D has been doing with Red Lodge Ski area to address fire and forest management concerns on the mountain.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM

Next meeting will be on July 18th in Fishtail, Montana (5:00 pm) at Park in Fishtail. This will be an outdoor picnic meeting – FAMILIES ARE INVITED.