



MINUTES

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, November 14, 2013 – Big Timber, MT

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

Presentation and Tour: Prior to the meeting Aaron Lyles, representing the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, provided a tour of the new mobile museum being developed by MCHOF for promotion and oral history projects at events around the state.

Meeting Called to Order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Egan in the Community Library Meeting Room in Big Timber.

Minutes from the Septmber, 2013 meeting were reviewed. **Jeff McDowell moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Jerry Dell. APPROVED.**

Board Members Jerry Dell and Scott Geda representing the 2014 nominating committee updated the board members present on their discussion and solicited the board for any members interested in seeking an officer position in the upcoming election in January.

Region Roundtable Discussion

Chairman Egan thanked Aaron Lyles, MCHF for bringing the new mobile museum for viewing by the RC&D Board.

Bob Faw – Sweet Grass County: Bob complemented the Cowboy Hall of Fame on its progress and expressed support and anticipation of future development. Key item for him is Stillwater Mine Corp, which is doing well and provides a significant economic input for Sweet Grass County. Bob said the county would like to solve the issue of increasing the number of miners who choose Big Timber as their home, rather than so many continuing to commute in from more distant locations daily.

Page Dringmann – City of Big Timber: Page noted that Family Dollar store and the new hotel project continue to work through the permitting process. The old high school building continues to be a concern to residents. Sonny Todd recently passed away. He was a community pillar for many years, constantly promoting, fundraising and supporting projects for community improvement.

Jeff McDowell – Two Rivers Authority: Two Rivers Oil Field Services built a 17,000 sq' facility near Hardin last year, and they are expanding again. Yokum Contracting (car crusher) is building new offices and a new scale. There are several new housing starts in Hardin. The airport project is on track for completion next Spring (2014).

Scott Geda – First Interstate Bank, Hardin: Hardin Housing Fair is coming up. The Crow Tribe is in the early stages of a power generation project in the Afterbay at Yellowtail Dam (\$43 million). Highway construction projects on Hwy 47 and Hwy 313 are coming up soon.

John Klaman – SBA: John reported that his year-end loan numbers are down about 10%. They are still pulling together from the government shutdown. He mentioned there are incentives in place to stimulate sub-\$150,000 loans to small businesses.

Chris Mehus – BRDC: Chris reported on a tour he recently took with Board Member Sidney Fitzpatrick (not present) in Crow Agency, where the outdated water/sewer system was under a complete rebuild. Very impressive, near completion.

Steve Arveschoug – Big Sky EDA: Steve reported that the Industrial Park Feasibility Analysis is getting underway, with contract expected to be in place within a week. They are continuing to focus on workforce development efforts, having put together a council of 70 area people. A strategic and business plan for the council is begin developed. Big Sky EDA recently held its annual meeting, with featured speaker Steve Scheel. Look for info soon on upcoming 2014 Energy Forum, April 2-3 at Metra Park. They are also conceptualizing now on a healthcare conference in April, 2014 also.

Marvin Carter – City of Laurel: Reparation work on south bank of Yellowstone is underway at present to correct and prevent further erosion. Owl Café in Laurel is for sale!

Bill Foisy – Red Lodge City Council: Ed Williams was elected Mayor in Red Lodge. 3 Department heads in City administration are vacant and will need to be filled very soon. There are some improvements underway at the Red Lodge airport. The city recently wrote a CDBG grant to assist with capital improvements. They are in the process now of updating rules associated to the city resort tax.

Jerry Dell – Stillwater County: Stillwater County is investigating the recent energy production news for Stillwater and Carbon County. They are working on solving a shortage of office space for County workers. The Butcher Creek Bridge project in nearly finished.

Royce Njos – Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce: Things have been very slow in recent weeks in Red Lodge, awaiting the beginning of ski season. Many businesses, restaurants have closed to remodel and will be opening this coming week.

Dick Rath – Sweet Grass Conservation Dist. & Fuels Program: Dick reported that the season's fuels projects have been very successful. The Red Lodge Mountain project was recently featured in a radio article by Jackie Yamanaga at YPR. Dick will be renewing his active role with Firesafe Montana.

Bob Carr – Elation, Inc.: Bob updated the group on Elation, Inc, indicating they have recently hired two people to address growing business (ave. salaries \$70K). The company is doing very well. Their business model is based on the philosophy employed at Master Lube.

Ryan Van Ballegooyen – Billings Job Service: Ryan noted outcome from recent election included passage of the School Bond and re-election of Mayor Hannell. He provided updates on the employment scene, including continued impact felt from the Bakken boom.

Marrisa Hauge – Stillwater County Economic Development: Marissa reported on the feasibility studies for a new library and County Community Center. Her office is now working on updating the Stillwater County economic plan with 3 community meetings coming up in the near term. Tourism effort focusing on the Columbus to Red Lodge area is also under way.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chris Mehus: Chris updated the Board on his recent efforts in support of the following projects:

- CEDS
- Update on Laurel TIF
- Native Montana Magazine – Clara Caufield
- MEDA Web Portal Project
- Lockwood Transload Facility project

Also, Chris advised the Board that he has accepted a new position with Citizens Bank in Big Timber, Montana. He will work part-time in both locations, with full transition to his new job by the end of the calendar year.

Jillann Knutson: Jillann presented and explained the financial reports and 2014 draft budget contained in the meeting materials. She requested Board Action to address an issue related to EDA reporting. The EDA has indicated that they need an officially designated contact on file who is authorized to submit reports and conduct routine business associated with grant compliance. **Jeff McDowell moved, seconded by Jerry Dell that Jillann Knutson be designated the official contact person for purposes of EDA reporting and compliance activities to meet this requirement. APPROVED** Jillann also circulated and explained to Board members present a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy, which also contains provisions dealing with confidentiality, and requested signature acknowledgements on the policy to update her files.

Joel Bertolino: Joel reported on current work on RBEG grants for Tumblewood Teas and Stillwater Packing. Wind development project for Southern Carbon County appears to have some new momentum – they now have EverPower on board working on a 3 phase project which will total 120 turbines. Riverstone Health in Billings needs help with a mini GTA grant. Fishtail General Store is working on an expansion plan. Red Lodge local food group is working on a web site for a local food hub.

Next Meeting: January 16th, 1:30 pm in Laurel Montana – location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm