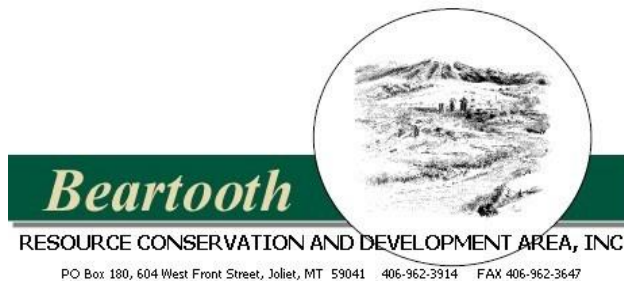


Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting Agenda
5:30 P.M. - Thursday, September 19, 2013
Red Lodge Mountain Golf Course
Red Lodge, MT

Dinner - (\$11.00 – cash or check payable to: Red Lodge Mountain Resort)

5:30 P.M.	<u>Meeting at Red Lodge Mountain Golf Course Clubhouse</u> <u>Welcome & Dinner served</u>	Egan	
	During Dinner: Aaron Lyles, Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame	Lyles	Information
6:00 P.M.	Pledge of Allegiance Call to Order and Introductions	Egan Egan	
	<u>Approve Minutes</u> – May 16, 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>Financial Reports and Loan Committee</u> Final Audit Presentation	Knutson Knutson	Information Information
	<u>Executive Committee</u> Election of Officers – Jan 2014 meeting	Egan	Information
	<u>Economic Development Director-Chris Mehus</u> Requests for Assistance: Staff Update	Mehus	Decision
	<u>Housing- Valentine Smith</u> Staff Update	Smith	Information
	<u>Ag Program Technician- Joel Bertolino</u> Staff Update	Bertolino	Information
	<u>Forester – Dick Rath</u> Staff Update	Rath	Information
	<u>Next Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting</u> November 21, 2013 – Big Timber, MT	Egan	Information
8:00 P.M.	<u>Adjournment</u>	Egan	Information



MINUTES
 Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting
 Thursday, September 19, 2013 – Red Lodge, MT

<p>Board Members Present Chuck Egan, Chairman, Town of Columbus Marvin Carter, Vice Chairman, City of Laurel Ed Ulledalen, City of Billings Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Dick Rath, Sweetgrass Co. Conservation District Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Kathryn Callahan, Town of Joliet Yolanda GoodVoice, Crow Nation Doug Tucker, Carbon County Royce Njos, City of Red Lodge Clinton Giesick, Town of Bridger</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 Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky EDA Page Dringman, City of Big Timber Sidney (Chip) Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioners Bob Faw, Sweet Grass County Commission Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District Jeffrey McDowell, City of Hardin Mike Creeden, Carbon Co. Conservation District Scott Geda, President, First Interstate Bank of Hardin</p> <p>Members at Large Not Present Lisa Skriner, MSU-Billings, College of Technology Kendall Hartmann</p>												
<p>Guests Sue Carter Peggy Reno Aaron Lyles, Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Bill Foisey, Red Lodge City Council Deana Johnson, SBDC Bob Carr, Elation</p>	<p>Staff</p> <table border="0"> <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)
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Jilann Knutson	(present)												
Dick Rath	(not present)												
Valentine Smith	(present)												
Earl Atwood	(present)												

Presentation: Prior to the meeting Aaron Lyles, representing the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, gave an update and progress report on the Big Timber project. The presentation included an overview of the project concept, implementation phases, current progress, and fundraising efforts.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Egan in Red Lodge, MT at the Red Lodge Mountain Country Club. *Our thanks to Red Lodge Mountain Resort for the use of their meeting room and furnishing the meal for this event!*

Minutes from the May, 2013 meeting were reviewed. **Jerry Dell moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Dan Lowe. APPROVED.**

Chris Mehus reported to the Board on a new program at MSU called Student Community Outreach Project (SCOPE), where a student is matched with a community based project, mentored by a MSU Professor, and receives academic credit for their participation. Beartooth has applied to this new program for student assistance with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The application has been approved, and a second year student majoring in Economics has been selected for the project. His assistance with research and updating activity on the CEDS report will begin by October 1, 2013.

Region Roundtable Discussion

Chairman Egan thanked Aaron Lyles, MCHF for an excellent presentation and called for Board Member reports on economic activity or important projects going on in their areas that would be of interest to attendees:

Jim Reno, Yellowstone County: Downtown (Billings) redevelopment efforts have been challenged by “county islands” around the Metra Park. Development in these areas depends on access to city services and utilities. There has been resistance to annexation

Bob Carr, Elation Inc.: Mr. Carr introduced himself – retired from University of Montana after 37 years on faculty. Attended this meeting to learn more about RC&D.

Marvin Carter, City of Laurel: City of Laurel recently received funds from the Army Corps of Engineers to perform flood repairs on the south Bank of Yellowstone River.

John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District: Last week Conoco Phillips split – now the refinery in Laurel is operated by Phillips 66. The Summer Expo event was held in South Park with over 400 people attending. The personnel representing the refinery were very participatory. Now getting ready for NILE – have invited several thousand area 4th graders to check out the Conservation Districts Stream Table (watershed simulator).

Yolanda Goodvoice, Crow Tribe: Recently has been assisting the tribe with loan applications. There is new interest in expanding gambling on the Reservation. A new park is under construction in Crow Agency. Lots of attention being given to the new Rest Area project near the battlefield. Recently applied for Montana Native American Equity Fund Grant for native owned businesses. The Tribe has secured legal counsel to assist with development of a Corporation Code for the Reservation.

Katie Callahan, Town of Joliet: Explained summer water restrictions in Joliet, down to 2 wells out of 5, now trying to locate a new well site. Town received a grant for sewer system upgrade.

Dick Rath, Sweet Grass Conservation District & Staff Forester: Dick reviewed for the Board the current fuels mitigation project at Red Lodge Mountain, which received coverage in the Billings Gazette and will soon be covered by Yellowstone Public Radio.

Ryan Vangollyove and Tim Robbins, Billings Job Service: Reported that Billings economy may be headed to 2% unemployment – a real challenge for employers looking to hire qualified people at competitive wages.

Ed Ulledallen, Billings City Council: Ed discussed recent work undertaken by Billings City Council, saying the Council is challenged these days to address issues that traditionally have been handled elsewhere, i.e. Economic Development. Now planning is even more critical. On the Conservation theme Ed described the Shilo Conservation area project, designed to address requirements of the Clean Water Act. This area will collect and filter runoff destined for the Yellowstone River via the Yagen drain.

Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Commission: Commissioner Dell reported that a new bridge contract was let today, and the county is putting together plans for a new shop for the Roads Department. A feasibility study is ongoing for Courthouse upgrades and a steering committee has been formed for a new Library building in Columbus. Northwest Energy is building new power lines to Stillwater Mine (37 miles) in the planning stage. All wind farm projects in the county appear to be on hold.

Clinton Geisick, Town of Bridger: Expecting major harvest activity for the next few weeks. Family Dollar store will be opening in Bridger, and possible Maverick store expansion as well. Fromberg may see the reopening of a closed restaurant. The Little Cowboy Bar in Fromberg has been sold.

Royce Njos, Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce: Royce commented that one of the RC&D projects in Red Lodge – Cook Simple (formerly Healthy Pantry) – continues to be a successful. The Red Lodge Chamber property is being redesigned to accommodate the new roundabout intersection. At the bank.... They are adapting to several new technology upgrades.

Bill Foisey, Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce: The main street reconstruction has been a focus area over the summer. Studies have shown that resort tax collections in Red Lodge are down 5.9% from last year. For the remaining project time they are looking at having weekly meetings with all the interested parties during the 2014 construction season. An additional economic survey is being conducted to analyze impacts from the annual motorcycle rally. The city is looking for financial assistance with storm water management.

Marissa Hauge, Stillwater County Economic Development: Marissa reported further on the Library project in Columbus, indicating there may be 1 acre available for development within Granite Peak Park. She attended the recent economic development summit in Butte and reported on highlights from her perspective. The Rural BEAR group has Quickbooks training underway in several locations, including Columbus. Marissa is now the County Webmaster.

Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District: The new airport project in Hardin is on track to be completed next year. Hardin has a new Family Dollar Store. The community was recently visited by a team from Conoco Phillips, which held a presentation on how they manage pipelines. There a lots of 310 projects applied for in the area.

New Business:

Requests for Assistance:

MEDA Web portal project: (Mehus) – We are leading a statewide effort to organize the state’s many economic development partners (under MEDA-Montana Economic Developers Assn) under a single web presence. This would tie directly to the Governor’s Small Business Portal and much better represent the economic development profession in terms of significance and accomplishment. Moved for approval by Dan Lowe, seconded Yolanda Goodvoice – APPROVED.

- **Trailhead Commerce Park: (Mehus)**

Moved for approval by Jim Reno, seconded John Pulasky – APPROVED.

- **Huntley Senior Center: (Mehus)**

Moved for approval by Kathryn Callahan, seconded Jim Reno – APPROVED.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM

Next meeting will be in November at Big Timber, Montana (day meeting – 1:30 pm) location to be announced.