

Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting  
Thursday, March 19, 2015 – Hardin, Montana

<p><b>Board Members Present</b> Marvin Carter, Vice Chairman, City of Laurel Holly Higgins, First Interstate Bank, Hardin John Pulasky, Yellowstone Conservation District Jeffrey McDowell, Two Rivers Authority Clayton Greer, Hardin City Council Dick Rath, Sweetgrass Co. Conservation District Al Swanson, Billings City Council Gerald Dell, Stillwater County Bill Foisy, Red Lodge City Council Sidney (Chip) Fitzpatrick, Big Horn Co. Commissioners</p> <p><b>Members at Large Present</b> Ryan VanBallegooyen, Billings Job Service Marissa Hauge, Stillwater County Ec. Development Ken Gomer, Retired</p>	<p><b>Board Members Not Present</b> Chuck Egan, Chairman, Town of Columbus Doug Tucker, Carbon County Page Dringman, City of Big Timber Mike Creeden, Carbon Co. Conservation District John Holly Lisa Skriner, MSU-Billings, MSUB City College Jim Reno, Yellowstone County Clinton Giesick, Town of Bridger Bob Van Oosten, Stillwater Conservation District Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky EDA Bob Faw, Sweet Grass County Commission John Beaudry, Stillwater Mining Corp Yolanda GoodVoice, Crow Nation Royce Njos, City of Red Lodge Dan Lowe, Big Horn Conservation District</p> <p><b>Members at Large Not Present</b> Kendall Hartmann</p>
<p><b>Guests</b> Gloria Menkee- Big Horn County Conservation District</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Luke Walawander (not present) Joel Bertolino (present) Jilann Knutson (present) Dick Rath (present) Earl Atwood (not present)</p>

Meeting **Called to Order** at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Carter.

**Minutes** from the January 2015 meeting were reviewed. **Ryan VanBallegooven** moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by **Clayton Greer**. **APPROVED**

Carter announced that it was Chuck Egan's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was feeling under the weather and unable to attend but we enjoyed the cake.

## **Regional Rountable**

Updates were given from Board members concerning economic, community and conservation happenings in their area.

**John Pulasky** reported that he has a source that told him that there was soon to be some supports of the Keystone pipeline that will be having a change of heart.

**Marissa Hauge** reported that they are beginning another Brownsfield assessment. The Business expo this year is a 1 day only event scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-5. They are continuing work on the community center/library project.

**Ryan VanBallegooyen** reported that unemployment is at 3% for Yellowstone County. The Jobs Jamboree had 148 employers, over 1500 job seekers and they are planning another one because they had to turn down so many employers for lack of room.

**Sidney (Chip) Fitzpatrick** announced that Big Horn County is debt free, the budget looks good, taxes are low, and there are plenty of jobs available! The airport is up and going and they have plans to build more hangers. He spoke a little of the building we were in (Senior Center) and informed the crowd that it was built 7 years ago.

**Clayton Greer** said the city had approved the Laundry mat study, Shopko is breaking ground for their new store, a new chiropractor is opening his practice (Beartooth RLF has funded a portion of his startup), a new flooring business is coming to town. All of the Big Horn County representatives spoke of the Mennonites that have come to town and are opening many new business and built themselves a new school. They are contributing hugely to the economics of Big Horn County.

**Holly Higgins** added a few more businesses that the Mennonites had in town.

**Jeff McDowell** talked of a potential multifamily housing unit being built in Hardin. He stated that the detention center is slowly filling up with about 150 inmates in it now from several surrounding areas. There was a long discussion of the happens of the detention center.

**Bill Foisey** stated that the parks plan and the capital improvement plans have been completed. Red Lodge is looking to increase the water/sewer rates. RL Mountain is still open and reportedly had a good season. They are having a meeting for the reauthorization of the resort tax which brings roughly \$700K to Red Lodge every year.

**Al Swanson** spoke about convention center and gave the group a handout. The Home Center has approached the city for \$60,000 in funding to get the center started; the city has not made the decision on that. The city continues to address issues/solutions with the homeless population in downtown Billings.

**Dick Rath** announced that Dan Rostad would be a great resource for neighboring counties. He has been with the SG County CD for many years and he is currently a water coordinator.

**Ken Gomer** recently got married and loves retirement. He is looking to work with the Laurel Swimming Pool to help get some funding for repairs.

**Gloria Menkee** said they are busy with the 210 law and working to reserve district water for irrigation and ag use.

**Jerry Dell** is busy working with his commission on beginning the budget. They are hearing rumblings of a special district to be formed to prevent oil/gas exploration.

**Marvin Carter** said Laurel still has pot holes, a water shortage and sewer problems. Thankfully they had enough water to be able to fight the big structure fire at the fiberglass plant.

### **Financial Reports:**

Knutson reported that the audit has been scheduled for April. So far the Beartooth books are looking pretty sold.

Knutson announced that a new loan was just recently closed in Hardin with First Interstate Bank. It's a loan for Montana Chiropractic Health LLC. The owner is a freshly graduated chiropractor and native of Hardin. He is very energetic and ready to get to work. Another loan has been approved for the campground in Columbus but the loan has been held up with bank financing issues.

Motion was made by Holly Higgins to approve the financial reports. Jerry Dell seconded the motion.

### **Proposed Amendment to By-Laws**

A long discussion took place about the proposed by-law change. The proposal would be to get rid of the number of special appointment number on the bylaws and keep it open. We have several people who are interested in seats on the board but don't have appointments.

Motion was made to move the voting to May for the proposed amendment. Change the 1 year term for at large members to a 4 year term. The motion was made by Ryan VanBallegooyen and seconded by Holly Higgins. The motion was withdrawn from VanBallegooyen.

After much discussion on how best to word the Motion, a motion was made to vote during the May meeting on the proposed changes. Motion was made by Ryan VanBallegooyen and seconded by Dick Rath. Motion carried.