COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN JR

CHILCOTT

FOSS SF

STOLTZ

KANENWISHER

Members Present…….Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Matt Kannenwisher

Date……..November 29, 2011

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

►Commissioner Kanenwisher attended a HEAT team meeting during the morning hours due the occurrence of Whooping Cough.

►The Board met at 9:00 a.m. to review and approve a Resolution to amend the terms of the Airport Board Members in order to coincide with the end of the calendar year as do other voluntary boards. Present at this meeting was Airport Board Member Dave Hedditch and Citizen William Menager. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2790. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion. Discussion: Resolution prepared does not include the last resolution prepared which replaced Resolution No. 1244 and 2192. Commissioner Chilcott amended his motion to include all resolutions. All voted "aye". (4-0)**

Dave Hedditch asked if the Commissioners could have language in the Resolution that removes a member when they miss three un-excused meetings. The Board advised Dave to have the Airport Board send the Commissioners a recommendation for these by-law amendments.

►The Board met at 9:10 a.m. for various administrative matters which included the following: Present at this meeting were Citizens Dave Hedditch and William Menager.

- **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the 2nd and 3rd quarter HOME Grant Reports for submittal to the HOME Program in Helena. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**
- Subdivision Extension Request for Homestretch Subdivision (Applebury Survey): Terry noted while he was a consultant this recommendation comes from Planning Staff. **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to grant a 2-year extension of plat approval. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion**. Terry stated Peggy received a one-year extension was granted a year ago that expires December 6th. This is a request is for 2-years. Terry stated the developer needs to build and pave Homestretch Road to county standards, plus there is a substantial amount of pro-rata. **All voted "aye". (4-0)**

- Subdivision Extension Request for Sunnyside Orchards No. 3, Block 12, Lot 1 (Gordon Sorenson Engineering): **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to accept planning staff recommendation for 2-year extension of plat approval. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0).**
- Minutes: **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2011 through October 14, 2011. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**
- Minute Discussion: Glenda brought up changes made in writing by Commissioner Kanenwishwer on the October 13th minutes, noting that she double checked the recording and her minutes reflect the discussion by the Commissioners. She asked the Board for their direction noting Commissioner Kanenwisher was not present to address this item. **The Board indicated since Glenda is now taking minutes, their instruction is to leave out most of the dialogue/discussion of the Commissioners, recording only what is necessary to define the purpose of the meeting, any necessary background information to understand the purpose of the meeting, any comments made by the Commissioners that they wish to be part of the record, and the motion. In regard to public comment, they wish to capture a summary of the public's comment within the minutes.**
- **Commissioner Foss made a motion to allow I.T. to spend I.T. Capital Improvement Funds for two employees to attend a training conference. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**

▶ Human Resource Director Robert Jenni met with the Board for a Human Resource update at 9:50 a.m. Present at this meeting was Citizen William Menager. Robert presented several employee action forms for signature; addressed potential Tobacco Free Grant program activities; contracted employment issues for the past Animal Control Officer position and various other issues which included a Letter of Agreement between Ravalli County and Laborers International Union Local 1686. Commissioner Kanenwisher was present for a portion of this meeting.

Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve of the Letter of Agreement between Ravalli County and Laborers International Union Local 1686 for the collective bargaining agreement (Road Department Employees) that is in effect between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, and now shall be deemed in effect for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)

▶ The Board met at 10: 33 a.m. with Chief Financial Officer Klarryse Murphy for an update and to discuss and make a decision to accept HB130 Mental Health Grant Funding. Present at this meeting was Citizen William Menager.

HB 130 is an annual grant and Mental Health Settlement Trust is one-time grant money. Commissioner Kanenwisher noted there is money left over in the Mental Health Settlement Trust and the county is asking to use that money to fund a part time medical nurse. In regard to the use of the HB 130 funds, the county is looking at using those funds in the following manner:

- Mental Health part time advocate (employee of Western Montana Mental Health) ($15,000);
- Cell remodel which includes cameras, other electrical ($20,000);

- Intoxilizer room located at the county courthouse (40,000);
- Suicide training video ($500.00)
- Officer training ($23,000)

The original HB grant requested $92,000 but only $63,000 was received. Thus the county will be short approximately $29,000, so the Commissioners need to decide which use of the funds is more aligned with the purpose of these dollars. It was agreed to hold a final decision and vote until after the next agenda item.

▶ The Board met to interview Fred Haaskamp for the airport board at 10: 55 a.m. Present at this meeting was Citizen William Menager and Airport Board Member Dave Hedditch.

▶ At 11:20 a.m. the Commissioners continued with the discussion and motion for the HB130 grant monies. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to submit a revised budget changing the Intoxilizer amount to $11,000 from the original $40,000 budgeted amount due to the population being served at approximately 15%. Commissioner Foss seconded and all voted "aye".**

▶ The Board met at 1:30 p.m. to review the materials submitted to them from Bitterroot Recycling in order to make a decision to move forward on this grant. Present at this meeting were numerous citizens, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, Bitterroot Star Publisher Michael Howell, numerous citizens, Bob Scott, President of Bitterroot Recycling and Mark Hammon, Vice President of Bitterroot Recycling. Commissioner Iman noted the meeting today is to discuss the response from Ravalli County Recycling, Inc. in regard to Commissioners questions posed in a November 2, 2011 letter. Commissioner Iman also gave a brief synopsis of the grant process up to date.

Bob Scott noted the Department of Environmental Quality wrote a response to the Recyclers and the Commissioners addressing the grant funds and final work plan. In regard to sustainability, their group feels comfortable sustaining this endeavor because of the numerous monetary offers given to their group. Volunteers have put in over 3,500 hours for drop off days, transport days, public education, grant application and work plan support. DEQ has also approved their revised scope of work.

Commissioner Stoltz asked what the truck they plan to purchase will haul. Bob stated it is rated at 24,000 lbs of solid waste but they plan to use it for compressed cardboard. It is a diesel truck.

Commissioner Chilcott asked about the current facility not having the proper three phase electrical source to run the large bailer. Bob stated the current site will work for the next year, and it is a month to month lease. The better site will have the electrical capacity available to run the larger bailer and the better site will be larger to house this bailer. This bailer is located in Kalispell and can be moved when a better site is obtained.

Commissioner Stoltz asked if they ever received their licensing. Bob stated DEQ has advised them to wait until they have a better site so they can store materials. The license is not tied to the grant money. Commissioner Stoltz stated he talked to DEQ and that is different information

than what he was given, in that they are to have a license in order to operate. Bob stated DEQ is available by phone if those questions need to be asked.

Commissioner Iman addressed the letter from DEQ in regard to the licensing and receiving donated funds that would place a lien against property to be purchased. Bob stated that licensing is phase three of this project. He also asked that RC&D to be their administrator.

Allen Bjergo of RC & D indicated they have a letter of understanding in that regard.

Public comment:

Doug Soren, Project Mgr. for Ravalli Recycling sees the operation first hand every day. He understands one issue this Board of Commissioners has is the licensing, but central to obtaining their licensing is the site. They have a site now, fencing being completed and the amount of people who came to drop of their materials was quite a site. He encouraged the Commissioners to accept the grant money so they can continue. These grant dollars is to help local government administration in the recycling endeavors. The previous Board of Commissioners was in favor of recycling, and he hopes this Board will accept the grant dollars. There is no price tag to the County and their group will do all the work as they have been doing.

Rick O'Brien, Executive Director of the Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce stated the Board of Directors of the Chambers encouraged this endeavor. Rick cited the previous Commission actions to move this grant and recycling effort forward. He also cited some information on those who support a recycling effort.

Sherry Ireland of Bitterroot Recycling stated their business almost has their license, with a 2 acre site next to the Victor Disposal site. They want to work with Ravalli County Recyclers

Janice Cooper works for the 'Drop off Days' and numerous community members volunteer to help with the recycling efforts, and it makes her job much easier. The response from the community has been great.

Marilyn Saunders stated being a volunteer is important and the amount of cardboard is overwhelming sometimes.

Don Ofreo is a fan of recycling and felt it will save quite a bit of energy for those who try to haul their items to Missoula or to BFI. He started a recycling business in Glacier twenty years ago and it was well received there as well.

Public comment closed.

Commissioner Iman asked about the truck and its capability. Bob stated it is a rear loader. They are also looking into holding bins. They are working with Recycling in the Root as well.

Commissioner Foss asked about working with Bitterroot Recycling. Doug Soren stated they are working with Sherry's group and they all agree there is much work to be done.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated he shares a point of view of some Ravalli County Citizens; one issue is the importance of the free market. While there are some businesses already working in this business of recycling, and it gives him pause to obtain a $60,000 federal grant and give it to one entity to compete with another. He also stated recycling is not a clear public safety issue, rather it is about values. It is not government's job to provide everything we want, so the question is, if it is something we want to become involved with. The only thing he is tasked with now however to accept the dollars as a pass through. While he understands the frustration that this group might have had from their first meeting, he also knows this grant money is tax dollars and a business plan is necessary. He appreciates that the Ravalli County Recyclers have taken the proper steps to come up with a plan.

Commissioner Foss concurred with Commissioner Kanenwisher in regard to grant monies being tax monies. She appreciates the work plan they have come up with as well as answering all of the questions the Commissioners had of this endeavor.

Commissioner Chilcott stated the Commissioners had the responsibility of guarding the tax payer dollars to make sure they would be applied properly. He thanked RC&D for their help and to act as Grant Administrator.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to accept DEQ grant funds on behalf of Ravalli County Recycling designating RC&D as the Grant Administrator for the County of Ravalli. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the county is accepting the money as a pass through. Commissioner Iman noted a form of recycling was offered by another agency but it was for a different purpose. He appreciates all of the work the Ravalli County Recyclers have done. Commissioner Foss, Iman, Kanenwisher, Chilcott voted "aye". Commissioner Stoltz voted "nay". (4-1)

► The Board met at 3:00 p.m. to interview Scott Henderson for the RCEDA board.

► Commissioner Iman, Commissioner Chilcott and Commissioner Foss met at 6:35 p.m. to discuss the concern of large roadside trees along certain sections of Tammany Lane, Big Corral Road and Freeze Lane. Numerous property owners who live along these roads, tree cutting contractors and interested citizens were present as well as Road & Bridge Supervisor David Ohnstad and Bitterroot Star Publisher Michael Howell. Commissioner Iman indicated this meeting tonight is to open a dialogue with residents who live along these roads, noting he would like to address the following issues: Purpose, problem, opportunities, resources, experience and partners/people. He hopes this meeting tonight will bring about some positive ideas noting the county does not have enough money and or time to remove these trees in the next year so the removal will occur over the next 2-3 years. Commissioner Iman noted David has printed out comment sheets which will allow the residents to leave their names and phone numbers. Commissioner Iman addressed the location of the trees, the state of the trees (live, dead and or dying).

Commissioner Iman noted tree removal occurred on Fairgrounds Road a couple years ago due to trees falling and creating a liability situation for the county as well the potential of unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians using the roadway. Commissioner Iman noted the Board of Commissioners is attempting to get this job done in the most efficient and cost effective manner and they hope the county can partner with the landowners for the location of the falling, time of falling etc. Other considerations include power, phone lines etc.

Road Supervisor Ohnstad indicated these are large trees that are compromised by what is around them (infrastructure etc.) and how they are sometimes intertwined with each other. Contracting the tree cutting appears to be the most efficient way to go, but once on the ground, the road employees can handle the clean up. The ideal approach would be to cut these trees while there is some snow on the ground, and hope to utilize some empty lots to fall the trees keeping them away from the roadway. They estimate 412 trees just on Tammany Lane so this is a big venture.

Public Comment was then called for at 6:50 p.m. from land owners.

Sheila Berkley lives on Tammany Lane and they have 6 cottonwoods located on their property. In 2006 she and her husband had these trees trimmed at a considerable cost. The trees are now healthy, provide good shade for her house and provide a home to some wildlife. However she also has fear of the trees on a windy day. She asked why the trees were not completed on Fairgrounds Road.

David stated the logs were stockpiled due to the number of ideas of how the cotton wood could be used which included bio fuel etc. However, those ideas were never put into any action. For the upcoming projects, it appears the best manner to dispose of them is to stack them and possible burn them. Sheila also addressed the trees that were trimmed on Grantsdale Road at the school. David addressed how the easement ownership works, the adjacent property owner sometimes owning the trees.

Discussion included an appraisal of the existing trees and making a decision on which trees to work on first. Commissioner Iman addressed tree disposal from the Fairgrounds Road project and the problems that ended up occurring. He felt once the trees are cut, the county should make sure they are disposed of by spring, unless the property owner wants the trees. Commissioner Chilcott stated the project will be driven by budget.

Darryl Osburn lives on Freeze Lane. There are 11 trees around his property, and while they are in good shape they are dying. He wonders if cooperation between the land owner and the county might exist in order to trim the trees and allow them another ten years of life. When the School removed the trees they stockpiled them, then after a few years had to handle them again. So he feels they should be handled once and not again as that is not efficient.

Discussion of allowing the stumps to rot out after the trees are cut, then a year later pull the stumps out.

Kristen Besseney addressed the open lots around the corridor of trees that might house livestock. The Board indicated the homeowners need to assess that open ground and their fencing. Kristen

also addressed the ditches along Big Corral Road and how the trees have taken over the ditches. Commissioner Iman noted the roots and stumps can be taken care of after the trees have been cut. Kristen stated she would work with the county and would not have any problem having those trees felled to the east. She also addressed replanting the trees and that cost. Commissioner Iman stated the Stock Farm have addressed helping to put a foundation together for replanting the trees but they will want to address where those trees are planted, i.e., out of the county easement.

Thadd Leonardi stated these are garbage trees, but he does use them for burning (heat).

Public Comment was called for from contractors.

Sherry Dunn stated hog trippers shred cotton wood and then run through regular shredders. That can be good bedding and good for landscaping.

Merlin Hostedler stated some of the stumps cut down several years ago now have re-growth that is 20-30' high. He also noted in the past Contractor Jay Gasvoda dug a pit and burned the tree limbs and stumps in the pit. That was an efficient way to get rid of the debris. He also is in favor of replanting the trees. He also agrees any trees replanted need to be 40' away from the easements so this is not being addressed again. He asked if there is a weight estimation of the trees. David stated many of them are hollow so it might be hard to estimate the weights. He also addressed taking a few trees and leaving others will change the dynamics of the wind that will affect the trees that are left standing. Merlin asked if there was any stimulus or grant money available. Commissioner Iman indicated in the past there was none.

Mack Danafro stated he is not a contractor. He does not see what the rush is now, just remove the skeleton trees now and replant. He addressed the value of cottonwood trees which includes housing wildlife naming some of the birds that seek their refuge in them and build their nests. These are historic trees and they are majestic trees that people enjoy. In regard to replanting, maple trees are slow growers, take a lot of water and do not attract wildlife. He would like to see the trees cleaned up as they are taken down so a mess is not left.

Sheila agreed these cottonwoods are full of birds. She also asked if they are thinking of cutting some trees this winter. Commissioner Iman indicated he hopes they do some cutting this winter. She also asked about having someone from the Audubon Society have some input in the birds and what might be done to give them some refuge.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he appreciates the concern over the wildlife but it is important to put public safety first. Commissioner Iman indicated when they determine their first group of trees; the tree cutting will go out to bid by private contract.

Mack also added there are some dangers in falling these trees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.