

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

FOSS *SP*

CHILCOTT *cy*

IMAN *JR*

STOLTZ *RS*

BURROWS *JB*

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....September 17, 2012

▶ Minutes: Glenda Wiles

▶ Commissioner Chilcott spent a portion of the morning at the Sheriff's Office.

▶ The Board met at 9:00 a.m. with Clerk & Recorder Regina Plettenberg to appoint a post election audit board for the general election. Regina brought forth four Ravalli County Employees for this board who will review the machine count. **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to appoint Kelly Christopherson, Mary Sawyer, John Palacio and Trish Harrison to this audit board. Commissioner Iman seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**

▶ The Board met at 9:30 a.m. to review a draft of the Highway 93 Projects Amenities Agreement. Deputy County Attorneys Dan Browder and Howard Recht were present for this meeting. Dan noted they have had a number of meetings with the Park Board and Commissioners in regard to a Master Agreement for all the sections of the sidewalk/bike path. Dan also looked into any possible grants for maintenance, finding none. Dan reviewed some of the changes suggested from the County Attorney's Office (see attached). Discussion included indemnification of the county or another entity while working on a state right of ways; placing landowners on notice for leaving any kind of berm or obstruction along the path as they clear their driveways; potential to close path during inclement weather and current requirement to clear within 72 hours of a weather event; grass and landscaping height in regard to a safety standard. The Board asked Dan to work with MDOT Engineer Shane Stack in regard to the potential changes as discussed today. The Board briefly discussed the August 30, 2012, letter from City of Hamilton Mayor Steele complaining of the entrance to Hamilton.

▶ The Board met at 10:00 to review the applicants and make a decision on volunteer board appointments.

- Airport Board: **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to appoint William Frankenfield to serve on as the Alternate Member with a term ending December 31, 2012. Commissioner Burrows seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**

- **Planning & Zoning Commission: Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to appoint James Canton and Hollis Poe with term ending December 31, 2014. Commissioner Burrows seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**
- **Right to Ranch and Farm: Commissioner Iman made a motion to re-appoint Al Pernichele to the RTR&F Board with a term ending December 31, 2015. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**

▶ **The Board met with Ravalli County Economic Development Authority Director Julie Foster at 10:30 a.m. to discuss and make a decision in regard to a Economic Development District for Ravalli County. Julie gave background on the current district and use of funding through BREDD (Bitterroot Economic Development District - Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli Counties). Due to Missoula's attitude, Board consensus is to pursue Ravalli County's inclusion in the Headwaters Economic Development District due to the stifeling in the current BREDD. Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to have RCEDA request that Ravalli County join the Headwaters RC&D EDD which includes the counties of Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Beaverhead and Madison. Commissioner Iman seconded the motion. Discussion: The County will make it known to Department of Commerce that Ravalli County is no longer part of the BREDD and no representation from Ravalli County will be a part of the BREDD meetings. All voted "aye". (5-0)**

▶ **The Board met at 1:30 p.m. for a discussion of the development of a Natural Resource Policy with public input. The meeting was also continued to September 20th at 11:00 a.m.**

▶ **The Board met at 3:10 p.m. with I.T. Director Joe Frohlich for an update. Joe indicated he would like to add other devices for use (such as unmanaged mobile devices for the Microsoft outlook program) to IT Policy #11 as an appendix. Joe also addressed the possibility of developing Policy #14 - Social Media Use (such as Facebook). Joe will send the Commissioners copies of his drafts for their review.**



The Big Sky Country

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SEP 11 2012

COMMITTEES:
BUSINESS AND LABOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION

Ravalli County Commissioners

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17@
10:30

September 6, 2012

Dear County Commissioners:

An important time line is approaching regarding receiving Economic Development funding for some of the programs that affect Ravalli county. I want to share a few thoughts regarding my involvement.

I am on the Economic Development Advisory Council interim committee this session. It didn't take long for me to realize the complexity of the Department of Commerce, as it relates to administering and funding all the various segments of economic development, and how very overwhelming it can be. Julie Foster and Greg Chilcott spent many hours answering questions, mentoring and preparing me so I could begin to understand some of the issues I was discovering that related to dispersed funds not reaching some of the rural counties, including Ravalli.

This really concerns me. Tax revenue from all counties go into the pool and not all rural counties receive their intended portions because of administration issues with some of the regional hubs. Your regional hub is Missoula and over the past six years or longer, they have not dispersed funds that were rightfully yours. It is my conclusion that Commissioner Chilcott and RCEDA director Julie Foster have done everything in their power to cooperate and partner with Missoula County and have ended up with continuing frustration and failed solutions to the missed funding. The main problem is lack of a common goal. A good partnership works together towards a common goal and Missoula does not share the same needs or vision as Ravalli county.

I have worked with the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce, Andy Poole, to identify what changes might be possible through both statute and policy, that would benefit Ravalli county. There is some encouragement for long term changes through this process, however there is a timeline situation coming up that is very important for you to understand because your decision impacts what happens with funding for

RCEDA over the next two years. That decision must be made within the next 30 days as the funds for the next biennium are committed soon.

Your choices are two; remain in partnership with Missoula county, or discontinue those agreements and choose other more common interest rural counties to make agreements with.

The funds that you have missed would be available through partnering with other rural counties like Beaverhead for example. Julie Foster can provide the details of how this works and the benefits to doing so.

I feel that Ravalli county and RCEDA deserve and desperately need the funding they have not received because of a failed partnership with Missoula county and BREDD. My recommendation to you is to make the change now and not wait two more years. Ravalli County Commissioners made a written proposal in a letter to both Marcy Allen and Jean Curtiss of Bitterroot Economic Development District, dated June 13th, 2012 proposing a different working relationship with BREDD and the dispersement of certain funds. They recently denied that proposal.

I believe Ravalli County will best be served by moving forward with new partners and new ways of receiving your economic development funds. I will continue my efforts in the state legislature to work with the Department of Commerce in finding ways to make a more fair and reasonable way for all rural counties to work with the state on economic development.

Respectfully,



Ed Greef
Representative HD 90
Florence, Mt

Possible Solutions

#1

See the letter from June 13, 2012 from Ravalli County Commissioners to BREDD and Commissioners Curtis. The letter has not yet been answered. Time is critical, as we have only 3 months to get the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy complete.

Notes:

Ravalli County Commissioners Foss and Chilcott and RCEDA Director Julie Foster attended the August 23, 2012 BREDD meeting to see if BREDD was willing to respond to the letter from June 13, 2012 from the Commissioners. There was no meaningful discussion, the result of attending was the same as many other discussions on these matters over the past 3.5 years. Ravalli County has given up.

Ravalli County, for our part, would like to obtain a quality CEDS and contract with someone like Larry Swanson. Larry Swanson has a background in journalism, economics consulting, and policy analysis. He is a native Nebraskan with a Ph.D. in economics and community and regional planning from the University of Nebraska and is the Director of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West. BREDD's preference is for BREDD to write the CEDS; there is a staff of 3. \$2,000 of the federal funds have been set aside for contractual work on the CEDS. BREDD asked if Ravalli County would like to receive 1/3 of the \$2,000. We were also told that according to EDA and Senator Baucus BREDD was not able to sub-contract funds so that Ravalli County could obtain a quality CEDS.

#2

Ravalli County will request joining the Headwaters RC&D EDD. This includes the county's of Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, ✓ Beaverhead and Madison.

#3

Ravalli County could elect not to be in an Economic Development District . This choice could jeopardize future federal funding for projects.

Federal and State Economic Development Planning Organization Information for Ravalli County Commissioners

BREDD [Bitterroot Economic Development District]
Currently BREDD is composed of Mineral, Missoula and Ravalli Counties
EDD [Economic Development District]

FEDERALLY FUNDED

\$50,000

1:1 Match Required

CRDC [Certified Economic Development District]
Ravalli and Missoula Counties are not currently in a CRDC

STATE FUNDED

\$40,000

1:1 Match Required

The purpose of the EDD and CRDC is to ensure collaboration and cooperation on regional planning which hopefully leads to better use of federal and state funds for infrastructure and other economic development projects in the region.

Among other things the EDD is responsible for putting together the Certified Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This is a five year plan, BREDD's plan is good through June of 2012. The plan receives annual updates but must be re-authored every 5 years.

Past and Present Issues

Missoula and Ravalli County in my fourteen years of experience have had trouble communicating and maintaining a trusting relationship. In the past agreements on how funds were to be spent were made and broken first with MCDC (Montana Community Development Corporation) as the lead CRDC and next with Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation (MAEDC). Prior to BREDD the Bitterroot RC&D authored the region's CEDS. The Missoula based BREDD came in to existence in 2006. Communication remains a problem. Missoula and Ravalli counties simply don't speak the same language and Missoula County has a vision of and for Ravalli County that isn't shared by Ravalli County.