

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

BURROWS JB

FOSS

CHILCOTT g

IMAN JR

STOLTZ [Signature]

Members Present.....Commissioner Jeff Burrows, Commissioner Suzy Foss and Commissioner Ron Stoltz

Date.....April 10, 2013

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► Commissioner Greg Chilcott was in Helena for the legislative session.

► The Board met at 2:00 p.m. with Chief Financial Officer Klarryse Murphy and Bitterroot Land Trust Director Gavin Rickleffs to discuss and make a decision on the sale of Open Lands Bonds due to the recent approval of the Lazy J Ranch Open Lands Project Lazy contingent upon the sale of more bonds. Klarryse noted out of the original 10 million dollars in bonds which were approved by the citizens, only 2.5 million has been cashed in, leaving 7.5 million. The Holloran Ranch Project has enough available bond monies, but the Lazy J Ranch will require more of the bond dollars on hand. If the Commissioners wish to complete the Lazy J Ranch project, another 2.5 million dollars of the 10 million dollars in bonds need to be purchased. Gavin stated they won't close on the property until September so that will give Klarryse enough time to work on the bonding issue.

Gavin addressed the increasing number of matching funds that are coming in on the anticipated projects. Discussion included the sequestration and tax code changes that are affecting the county budget. Klarryse recommends not exceeding another 2.5 million dollars of the balance left due to costs.

Public Comment:

Dan Huls urged the Commissioners to move forward on the bonds because of the rates at this time. He feels this is a successful program and the people are in favor of it.

Bob Popham also urged the Commissioners to move forward on the issuance of bonds for these projects as the citizens are seeing the value of this program.

Commissioner Foss made a motion to have Chief Financial Officer Murphy move forward on the purchase of new bonds in the amount of 2.5 million dollars for the Lazy J Ranch

Project as well as other projects that will be forthcoming. Commissioner Stoltz asked for a friendly amendment which would allow another 2.5 million dollars in bonding, but the remaining 5 million dollars (out of the original 10 million dollars) would be placed back on the general ballot in 2014 allowing the voters to reconsider if they want that balance remaining for the Open Lands Program.

Public Comment:

Michael Howell asked if this would be a ballot measure to repeal the previous vote?

Commissioner Stoltz stated they are just asking the question if this program should continue with the balance of 5 million dollars. Commissioner Burrows stated they would need legal council to word the ballot language. Commissioner Foss stated she needs to consider Commissioner Stoltz's request for amendment because it would basically be repealing a vote made by the voters by placing it back on the ballot. Commissioner Burrows stated today's calendar did not reflect the decision on any ballot issue, and this discussion would need to be held at another meeting, therefore he would not be in favor of this amendment.

Dan Hulls stated the voters spoke very loudly in 2006 to approve these bonds for Open Lands. By vote, the Commissioners were assigned to administer the program and bonds. He felt to act on this request with only three Commissioners would be the wrong thing to do.

Michael Howell suggested they do not proceed due to the lack of five Commissioners and lack of public notice.

Skip Kowalski is the Open Lands Board Chairman and felt this are two separate issues.

Bob Popham agreed with Michael and Dan.

Commissioner Stoltz agreed they could wait a month to discuss placing this back on the ballot for possible repeal.

Gavin addressed the public comment last Friday, noting it was families and communities coming together to verbalize their great support, so the Commissioners need to recognize the voters have already tasked the Commissioners to administer this program for reasons of economic, legacy, cultural heritage, agriculture, and hunting & fishing. Please remember this over the next month.

Commissioner Foss stated Commissioner Stoltz's concern is simple economics due to the change in the valley's economy.

Commissioner Foss did not accept Commissioner Stoltz's friendly amendment and noted her motion would stand. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)

It was agreed the Board will place a discussion and decision on the issue of placing the balance of the bonds back on the ballot at a Commission meeting on May 29th at 1:30 p.m.

► At 3:00 p.m., Commissioner Burrows attended a Health Board meeting.