

**BITTER ROOT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES OF March, 2 2010
BREDD Conference Room
Missoula, Montana**

Board Present: Jean Curtiss, Ross Rademacher, BJ McComb, Jim Debree, Ed Childers

Others: Marcy Allen, Mineral county commission candidate (Norm Brovalt) Jerry Marks arrived at 1:45

CALL TO ORDER: Jean Curtiss called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: BJ McComb moved to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting and Ross Rademacher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marcy Allen gave the Q2 financial report. BJ McComb moved to approve financials and Ross Rademacher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Vacancies: Jean Curtiss noted that 51% of board needs to be elected officials. Local government representatives from Ravalli County have been difficult to come by. The board needs to have at least two new members. It would be good to have one more local government representative from Ravalli County and one affiliated stakeholder representative such as the MWTC, Extension office, etc. and one private sector representative.

Jean Curtiss contacted Stephanie Millar of Mountain Lion who is currently the transportation planner. Stephanie has experience in long term stakeholder planning, affordable housing and public involvement (affiliated stakeholder representative).

Marcy hasn't yet asked MWTC or Global Services Division if they have an interest. This would be Nicole Hagerman or Megan Harrington office manager (affiliated stakeholder representative).

Ed Childers offered to talk to Clayton Floyd from the Stevensville City council.

Jean brought up the woman who's in charge of the Main Street Project in Stevensville. Jean asked Ross to check out finding someone from the labs (GSK). Jim Debree brought up the new milk trader businessman for a new to the area perspective. Jean brought up the new WhoCanHelp.com businesses people.

The board and Marcy will solicit recruits, send a brief description of what they can bring to the board and why they would be an asset to BREDD to Marcy who will send them out prior to the May board meeting. The board will then elect new members in May.

Jean suggested that Sheila Sterns as a representative of the Bitterroot Community College could be asked to speak to the Board about the College's status.

ED REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Montana Sustainable Business Center: Grant has been recommended by Denver Regional Office but still has some details to hammer out. The MSBC will be seeking an MOU with the City of Missoula at the next City Council meeting. Home Resource and the COT have also obtained a grant for their ReVamp Program. The program will re-manufacture used construction materials into new products.
- Community Trade Adjustment Assistance: Strategic Plan is not submitted on recommendation of John Rogers. MCDC is not an eligible applicant but we will fold their function into the grant as a contract that they will be able to compete for.
 - Biomass development : \$50,000
 - Mill diversification: \$250,000 contracted out.
 - TA to communities will be:
 - BREDD: staff time
 - BioChar (Pyrolysis) development assistance: \$100,000. This project already has public/private partnership with the Forest Service and other public entities.
 - REC: \$150,000 for architecture and engineering of Phase II.
 - Economic Gardening Strategic Plan: Marcy is meeting with John Engen to discuss how EG will interact with the City of Missoula's recruitment efforts. A successful EG program will require all business service organizations to be knowledgeable and willing to send clients to the most appropriate organization
 - Mineral County Airport: \$60,000 This fund will be used to assess the airport's future options and the potential for an industrial park near it.
 - Green Manufacturing: \$30,000 This project area will be a part of the SESP grant proposal to help manufacturers align with green markets.
- Cleantech: There is an ongoing partnership with MWTC, Chris Allen and Associates and Biomimicry Institute. The group have been building alliances and momentum for the development of a Cleantech Alliance. They have applied for appropriations to launch the Cleantech Alliance. BREDD will set up the organization as Phase 1. Phase 2 will be moved forward by the Board of Directors. The committee has decided to conduct a Cleantech Summit in May. The Governor's office of Economic Development will be sponsoring some part of

the summit. Cleantech companies are growing and are sought after to do business with. The group will continue to explore options for further funding until 2011 appropriations can be applied for.

- Regional Planning: CRDC: Dick King is willing to move the CRDC to a partnership with BREDD, RCEDA and perhaps others. BREDD lacks the revolving loan fund criteria but RCEDA has an RLF. Julie Foster of RCEDA is committed but is waiting for commitment from her board of directors.
- LOS for Rivertop Renewables: Rivertop Renewables is currently housed at MonTech with Mike Kadas as their CEO. They have developed a chemical building block and a cost effective manufacturing process. They are requesting a LOS for Senator Tester's appropriation for \$500,000 to fund a research project to develop a clean/sustainable fertilizer product.
 - **ACTION:** Ed Childers move that BREDD's ED will write a letter of support for Rivertop Renewables. Ross Rademacher seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- EDA Renewals: Kelly Yarns is working on the ED900 for this and the CTAA implementation grant application.
- Warren Miller Youth Entrepreneurship Program: A community must provide a space and some mentors and the Foundation will provide curriculum materials and guidance. Marcy thinks this is especially appropriate for rural communities and will help with applications. Jean suggested 4H could take something like this on.
 - Jean noted that PPL Foundation has a cash grant fund up to \$10,000 for anything to do with education, environment and economic development.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2010 from 12-3 p.m.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.