

**BITTER ROOT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES OF November, 17 2009
BREDD Conference Room
Missoula, Montana**

Board Present: Jean Curtiss, Jim Debree, BJ McComb, Kevin Chamberlain and Ed Childers.

Others: Jerry Marks, Kelly Yarns and Marcy Allen

CALL TO ORDER: Jean Curtiss called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Debree moved to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2009 meeting and BJ McComb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marcy Allen gave the Q1 financial report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Vacancies: Bob Struckman and Tom Gorman have resigned. This leaves 3 Board vacancies.

The Blue Print Letter and subsequent meeting at Quinn's Hot Springs for the Seven County Commissioners. Next meeting will be December 7 and 8, 2009:

Jean Curtis reported that the meeting of Western Montana's seven counties at Quinn's Hot Springs went well. There was no real resolution about the Blue print but the Counties like the idea of regional coordination. There will be another meeting as above. Maybe the Mineral County Challenge can be a model for moving forward. Also who will be the quarter-back for the effort isn't decided. Suzanne Miller of Dunroven Research will be asked to present her Montana Challenge information at the December meeting.

Jim DeBree and Kevin Chamberlain outlined the NWAFF's Horizons Program. Under the Horizons, the community is organized, study groups identify problems, then there is leadership training and an action plan is developed. The action plan may result in projects that can be funded by the NWAFF. Communities must have high poverty rates (Superior and Alberton) to qualify. The Horizon's Program is comprehensive (idea stage through the implementation) and brings the community together. The program includes training on how to do the process, how to resolve conflict and how to lead further efforts.

In discussion about the agenda for Quinn 2, Marcy Allen suggested that the counties work toward identifying similarities including infrastructure. Jim said this sounds like a SWOT analysis and would be useful on a regional basis. Jim said the rural-urban split in MAACO is a problem and a seven county mouth-piece would be useful. Dick King has met resistance in trying to develop this. Kevin said there should be a place to talk about common issues and resources that can be aligned and implemented. If a seven county coalition could align, it would have political clout.

Board Vacancy:

Will come back to Board Vacancies after further discussion of the strategic plan.

ED REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Montana Sustainable Business Center:** The application is in. The EDA came back with an offer for less money, \$1.4 million. Marcy is now meeting with the City of Missoula.
- **Green Jobs:** Our application for the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) was entered under the seven county EDA Region 1. Our proposal has three phases:
 - *Phase I: Education about the Green Building Products Industry.*
 - *Phase II: Evaluation and Assessment of companies who produce potentially green products and develop employee training programs. Montana Manufacturers Extension Center (MMEC) will develop and conduct the training.*
 - *Phase III: Training Implementation*

Funding will be decided by February.

- There is a meeting about the Energy RLF or micro-loan for energy efficiency upgrades for business at the REC in Hamilton on December 2 at 2 p.m.
- **Clean Tech Alliance:** Marcy reported on the Boston Clean Tech meeting. Fifty of over 200 companies were chosen to pitch themselves to venture capitalists. Water will be the next big Clean Tech growth area. Marcy asked Venture Capitals how they would proceed with a Montana alliance. A group who could develop relationships for the dispersed Montana base would be good. Our regional focus would be Calgary not Seattle. Chris Allen and Marcy are talking to businesses. Right now the state government is focused only on clean coal. The Clean Tech Alliance does need further financial support and will appeal to the governor's office.
- **Broadband:** Paul de Wolf and Geospatial services have won the state contract for Broadband mapping but the opportunities for community input has been cut back. Bresnan's project is likely to only augment their own systems.
- **Intern/OJT:** Job Services did not have funding for Kelly's OJT. We are still on the hunt for grant money to fund a second permanent position.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Marcy met with the EDO's to discuss BREDD's role and how we could further articulate the it.

Marcy presented a brief overview of the EDO's in BREDD and our non-traditional ED role. BREDD's role as coordinator was reviewed. The Board only really agreed on the role as a regional planner. The other three roles (catalyst, information broker and facilitator) overlap too much. There's no real message in them, nothing to sell. BREDD serves NGOs, EDOs, local government and communities. The needs of our regional clients vary greatly. The other EDOs said they could use GIS data, research,

assistance for specific projects, coordination, market analysis and area trend analysis. Essentially compiling the information needed to prepare grants and other informational products. The Board summed BREDDs role as providing technical assistance for EDOs, communities, NGOs and local government and providing EDA grant assistance.

Each Board member responded to BREDD's proposed role. They agreed that to implement this role means that BREDD needs a stronger organizational structure.

The next step is to craft a mission statement that expresses a vision for the future. Then BREDD will build the structure and develop a funding strategy including sources, match and payment schedule for services. Structure would have regular programs to help brand BREDD. Ed Childers wondered if organizations who are competing for grants be willing to share information that may help competitors.

Marcy suggests BREDD take on the CRDC. Dick King has offered to talk about moving the CRDC to BREDD when it expires at the end of the year. RCEDA could help provide some of the requirements for CRDC. Marcy will further investigate the political climate surrounding the CRDC.

The Board discussed how to approach creating a vision and mission statement. Marcy will come up with some ideas to discuss with the Executive Committee and create a plan for the next Board Meeting. Kevin suggested using the Horizon's model to develop the vision and mission statements.

BOARD VACANCIES:

Marcy would like to find a tech savvy private sector representative or someone from the University.

The Board would like new member with the following characteristics:

- Someone with experience in technology
- Someone who can see a big picture
- University of Montana
- COT (innovative and willing to respond to change)
- A representative from Ravalli County who can make more meetings
- Someone who knows public policy
- Specific suggestions included:
 - Someone from the timber industry such as Angelo Farr, the DNRCor DEQ, Craig Rawlins, Chuck Keegan or Peter Stark. Bredd could also enlist some technical assistance people.
 - Someone from the MWTC
 - Janey, Ashley Preston or Paul Williamson from the COT
 - The new mayor of Stevensville

The Board does need a local government representative and they should come from Ravalli County. It was suggested that BREDD could put out an RFI for potential candidates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.