

BITTER ROOT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES OF September, 2 2008
Press Box
Missoula, Montana

Board Present: Jean Curtiss, Ed Childers, Tom Gorman, Kevin Chamberlain, Jim Debree, BJ McComb, Greg Chilcott, Bob Struckman

Others: Wolf Ametsbiechler, Kelly Yarns, Marcy Allen, Julie Foster

CALL TO ORDER: Jean Curtiss called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Julie Foster presented to the board the Ravalli Entrepreneurship Center (REC) project in Hamilton, MT. Julie explained that the REC is to assist Ravalli County in its transition from an extractive industry economy to knowledge based economy. The model being used is called economic gardening and will build on Ravalli County already strong biotech presence. The REC did initial due diligence and market analysis to assess the potential success of the project by putting together a business plan with funding from EDA. The county has received funding to complete this project from donations, EDA, CDBG, USDA IRP, and Ravalli County Bank. The project is currently in the process of hiring an engineering firm. The project has worked collaboratively with the Ravalli County Council on Aging to get a needed lift station that will make the REC and a RCCA projects possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Debree moved to accept the minutes of the May 27, 2008, meeting Ed Childers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marcy Allen Q4 Financial for FY 2008. Ed Childers made a motion to approve the changes, Tom Gorman seconded and it was unanimously carried. Marcy Allen presented end of year financial for FY2008. Ed Childers made a motion to approve the end of year Financial FY 2008 and Jim Debree seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- There currently was no report from the Nominating Committee, they continue to work on developing new board members. The committee is as follows: Greg Chilcott, Jean Curtiss, Jim Debree
- Kelly Durbin from Mismo Gymnastic was suggested and discussion around need included Ravalli County residents, women, private enterprise, local government in Ravalli County.

ED REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mineral County Challenge: Kevin Chamberlain explained that they had issued an RFP and would be hiring a contractor shortly.

- Montana Sustainable Business Center: Applying for HUD section 108 loan to match the EDA public works funding. Working with HUD and EDA to try to coordinate timing on the loan. In the meantime MSBC has applied for their 501(c)3 status.
- Restore Montana: was supposed to come back to us with a business plan for this meeting. The plan is still being worked on and an update will be given at the next meeting
- Financial Changes: Marcy Allen has found another firm to work with in setting up financial and future needs. ALPS Foundation
- Communication Study: RBOG application was turned down, Marcy will revised funding and seek money from local communication Companies and BSTF.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Economic Gardening Presentation:
 - Marcy shared her knowledge on Economic Gardening to foster discussion around the topic and the potential of incorporated into BREDD. Economic Gardening is 'Growing your economies from within or building prosperity in your community from the inside out.' Marcy showed statistics on the amount of small businesses in Montana. Economic Gardening is based on the idea that strong companies do not need subsidies. Certain characteristic that create gazelle (or high growth companies) and economic gardening is based on fostering these characteristics. Marcy believes that some of the information that companies need is already out there. For instance Montana Means Business website, and Economic Profile systems. Marcy believes that we can create a toolbox of sorts for BREDD that would contain the resource businesses needed to succeed. The toolbox would include a blog, professional development class list, Searchable database of local resources, and class. It was suggested to take this slow and see what sort of classes may be needed. Tom Gorman suggested that we use BEAR as a resource for that information. It was suggested that BREDD work on the blog and do more market research on the classes, professional development list, and searchable database.
 - Computer IS changes:
 - Marcy discussed the disadvantages of using the county computer network. And suggested for the cost they wanted to charge for the interns computer that she could buy a new computer, Microsoft office, backup harddrive, wireless router, and bridgemaxx service for a year. Tom Gorman moved that Marcy be able to remove BREDD from the counties network. Kevin Chamberlain seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. It was suggested that Marcy should test out BridgeMaxx service prior to purchasing.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Jim DeBree made a motion and Kevin Chamberlain seconded. Unanimously adopted