



**RAVALLI COUNTY LOCAL WORKING GROUP
(RCLWG)**

Wednesday, February 01, 2017
Draft Minutes
1709 North First Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840
(406) 363-5010



Ravalli County Local Working Group (RCLWG) meeting Wednesday, February 1, 2017, called to order at 2:00 p.m., by Kent Myers.

ATTENDANCE:

Heather Barber (Bitter Root Water Forum, BRWF), Lea Guthrie (BRLT), Coral Maxwell (FSA), Kent Myers (Bitterroot Conservation District, BCD), Julie Ralston (BCD), Matt Whithed (NRCS).

INTRODUCTIONS

UPDATE ON 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- *Whithed passed out a brief summary on NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and explained that NRCS no longer requires local ranking questions for the program. Ravalli Counties current identified resource concern is irrigation efficiency. NRCS through the LWG's resource identification of irrigation efficiency was able to leverage \$233,820.00 in 2016 for producers living in Ravalli County. Myers asked if there is still a need to identify a single resource concern? Whithed stated, yes but if the LWG identifies another resource issue of concern it can change its identified resource for the next fiscal year. Myers asked Whithed to provide the LWG with the projects that producers applied for, but did not get funded.*

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RAVALLI COUNTY LOCAL WORKING GROUP

- *Myers stated CDs represent natural resource issues and conservation. He sees the LWG continuing to maintain a list of funding available for the public and provide publication in education and outreach.*
- *The LWG discussed not to meet on a regular basis, but if circumstances evolve the group could meet and come up with assistance in finding ways to sponsor projects of concern.*
- *Group discussion on LWG priorities.*

ROARING LION FIRE REMEDIATION - POSSIBLE RCLWG PARTICIPATION

- *Re-vegetation of burnt riparian watershed areas.*
- *Forest Restoration.*
- *Inventory on Roaring Lion that will be put together and given to Myers to see if there are any other needs that are not being met.*

OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES FOR RCLWG

- *BRWF working with landowners to develop riparian restoration in the East Fork of the Bitterroot River.*
- *BRLT working with landowners on conservation easements.*

- *BCD working with landowners through its cost-share program addressing stream bank restoration projects, ditch liners, weed management, fire restoration and re-vegetation.*
- *FSA has a fencing program for riparian restoration and replacement of burned fences.*

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

- *The group decided it would not schedule another meeting dependent on needs.*

Kent Myers
Chairmen
Date:

Julie Ralston
BCD Administrator