



RAVALLI COUNTY LOCAL WORKING GROUP

(RCLWG)

June 22, 2015

Minutes

1709 North First Street

Hamilton, Montana 59840

(406) 363-5010 fax (406) 363-5011



Ravalli County Local Working Group (RCLWG) meeting Monday June 22, 2015, was called to order at 2:00 p.m., by Kent Myers.

Attendance

Al Pernichele (Bitter Root Water Forum), Pam Gouse (Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development, RC&D), Lea Guthrie (Bitter Root Land Trust, BLT), Coral Maxwell (Farm Service Agency, FSA), Kent Myers (Bitterroot Conservation District, BCD), Julie Ralston (BCD)

Introductions

Myers recognized the passing of former RCLWG Chairman, Steve Vogt, gratefully acknowledging Steve's many years of service to the Conservation District.

I. Minutes

Coral Maxwell moved to approve the April 16, 2015, minutes as presented. Pam Gouse seconded, motion carried.

II. RCLWG Sub-Committee Report

Myers submitted the RCLWG **Draft Mission Statement, including Goals and Deliverables**, as amended prior to this meeting. Gouse stated her concerns with the differences between the RCLWG document and the guidelines from NRCS's Local Working Group Manual. After discussion, the final draft reads:

Mission: The mission of the RCLWG is to work with agencies and the public to identify natural resource priorities in Ravalli County and facilitate collaborations to address these priorities.

Goals / Aspirations:

Act as advisory body to BCD regarding natural resource projects; [added during discussion]

Representation by all natural resource stakeholders in Ravalli County (agriculture, environment, recreation, business, private citizens...);

Be responsive and driven by public input;

Form sustainable alliances with partners in collaborating agencies;

Leverage strengths and benefits of collaborative efforts for natural resource projects.

Deliverables:

Public education and outreach;

List for available programs and funding sources for natural resource projects, maintained and updated on a regular basis;

List of natural resource priorities and opportunities in Ravalli County;

Annual task of identifying EQIP priorities for recommendation to the Natural Resources and Conservation Service;

Annual action plan, to be updated at the end of each calendar year;

Written bylaws and policies, defining ways of working, membership, officers, meetings, subcommittees, etc;

Increase efficiency and provide assistance with natural resource concerns;

Nominating projects to the BCD for implementation. [added during discussion]

III. Old Business

The discussion of the differences between the RCLWG document and the guidelines from NRCS's Local Working Group Manual resulted in the amendments and final version of the Subcommittee Report as stated above.

A written presentation on Local Working Groups by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation was discussed.

The RCLWG's role was discussed at length affirming that RCLWG should act as an advisory group to the Bitterroot Conservation District (BCD) in the identification of the top natural resource concerns within the county.

IV. New Business

- Myers will take a copy of the RCLWG Mission Statement/Goals/Deliverables to the BCD for review. Myers invited the RCLWG to attend the next BCD meeting Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 7:00 p.m., at 1709 North First Street in Hamilton.
- Public outreach will be discussed at the next meeting. Perhaps surveys could be drafted and distributed to gain input from the public.

V. Public Comment

- The Doodle Poll and the concern in the lack of attendance relative to the poll results was discussed. It was determined by those in attendance that setting a scheduled monthly meeting might be more effective. Meetings will now be scheduled for the third Thursday of every month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the BCD Office.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 2015, 2:00-3:00p.m.

Meeting adjourned 3:20 p.m.

Kent Myers
Chairman

Julie Ralston
BCD Administrator

Date: 08/27/2015