



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

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Minutes

1709 North First Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840
(406) 363-5010



Ravalli County Local Working Group (RCLWG) meeting Thursday, October 29, 2015, called to order at 2:00 p.m., by Kent Myers.

ATTENDANCE:

Allen Bjergo (Bitter Root Resource, Conservation, and Development, RC&D), Grant Carlton (Bitter Root Land Trust, BRLT), Pam Gouse (RC&D), Zack Miller (MSU Department of Research Center), Katrina Mendrey (Extension), Kent Myers (Bitterroot Conservation District, BCD), Al Pernichele (Bitter Root Water Forum, BRWF), Julie Ralston (BCD),

INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES

Miller moved to accept the August 27, 2015, minutes with the grammatical correction of adding a comma. Allen Bjergo seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mendrey moved to roll over the RCLWG 2015 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) priority recommendation of "Irrigation Efficiency", to the RCLWG's 2016 EQIP priority recommendation. Miller seconded, motion carried.
- B. The RCLWG reviewed its resource spreadsheet and added the Bitterroot Valley Cooperative Weed Management Program and the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC) grant programs. Myers will make the modifications and send it out electronically. The BCD is working on adding an RCLWG tab to its webpage that will include the resource spreadsheet, approved minutes, agendas, and any other pertinent information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussed public outreach opportunities:
 - A. RCLWG will check into the possibility of holding a booth or presentation at the Stock Growers AG-Expo January 9th, 2016, First Interstate Building in Hamilton. Mendrey will contact Coral Maxwell, Farm Service Agency (FSA), to see if she could help set this up.
 - B. Gouse will work with Myers and Miller to develop a brief public survey regarding natural resource issues and concerns in Ravalli County.

The survey will be handed out at the AG-Expo, included in FSA's newsletter, and sent in a general mailing.

2. Discussed possible future RCLWG projects:
 - A. Myers gave a brief report on the Supply Diversion Improvement project. The project is moving forward even though additional funding is needed.
 - B. Pernichele suggested inviting the Montana Bureau of Mines to the next RCLWG meeting to give a presentation on the Bureau's ground water study in the Stevensville area. Pernichele would like to see a groundwater study done from Corvallis to Stevensville that would help identify the impacts of groundwater pumping on surface water. Also, he would like to consider the placement of measurement devices on every diversion off the Bitterroot River.
 - C. Discussed the growing landowner conservation easement applications within the Burnt Fork watershed. RCLWG may want to consider meeting with the landowners to develop an over-all Burnt Fork watershed management plan.
 - D. Discussed the removal of old car bodies that are no longer attached to the stream banks of the river.

Miller suggested the RCLWG focus on the results of the county wide survey and compare those to its own top resource concerns.

Next meeting RCLWG meeting will be December 10th.

Meeting adjourned 3:20 p.m.

Kent Myers

Julie Ralston

Kent Myers

Julie Ralston

Chairman

BCD Administrator

Date: *12/10/2015*