

**Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2013
Conrad Public Library, Conrad, MT**

Attending:

Mike Henning, Janice Hoppes, Deb Brandon, Joe Briggs, Cyndi Johnson, Jim Hodgskiss, Lorette Carter, Joe Dellwo, Ron Ostberg, Bill McCauley, and Tony Sitzmann. Also in attendance was Sarah Converse, Executive Director of Sweetgrass Development.

Guest: Paul Wick, Teton County Planner and Weed Coordinator

Meeting called to order by President Sitzmann @ 12:28 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Cyndi motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Deb seconded and motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bill made a motion to approve the minutes of the annual meeting of June 25, 2013; Cyndi seconded and motion carried.

Financials

Approval of Monthly Financials for the Quarter (June and July)

It was noted that we are at approximately 50% on budget expenditures.

RLF Report – The \$180,000 obligated for a restructuring project will not be utilized and will be released within the next two weeks, bringing the RLF fund balance to approximately \$220,000. The RLF Loan Committee is comprised of the following persons: Cheryl Curry, Jason Gibson, Scott Gage, Scott Bruch, Jamie Brownell and Cyndi Johnson. All loans are current and listed on the balance sheets. Sarah will send out a brochure advertising RLF services. Bill motioned to approve the financial report as presented; Lorette seconded and motion carried.

Administrative Report

Sarah reported on the NADO conference held recently in San Francisco, the Upper Missouri River Basin Advisory Council and Vibrant Futures. Paul Wick indicated that the mapping processes will be useful in the future.

Grant updates –

BSTF - Pizazz – progressing, should close out in 4th quarter

Demeter – progressing, should close out in 4th quarter

Impact Assessment –RFP being reviewed by EDA, executive committee to review submittals.

DNRC RDPG – RFP will close on September 13. Lorette, Deb, Lillian Sunwall, Jim and will review.

EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment – Conference call held on September 4, proceeding with preliminary analysis, will schedule a site visit and should have the final report late October.

Blackfeet HW – USDA RBOG, the only application from MT sent to national office, BSTF on track

Business Items:

Canadian EDA invitation – It was moved and seconded that Sweetgrass Development pay for the attendance of any board and strategy members, lodging and per diem to attend the Alberta conference, motion passed.

USDA IRP – A discussion ensued whether to use existing RLF funds to match approximately \$300,000 for an IRP or utilized the Board of Investments. It was moved and seconded to use existing funds, motion passed.

Grant Requests –None at this time.

Dues Structure – a lengthily discussion ensued regarding the possibility of changing the dues structure. Many different options were discussed, but nothing was finalized. It was moved and seconded to have Sarah discuss contracting with Glacier County to hire a grant researcher/writer/administrator. The position would be half time for the county and half time for Sweetgrass. Motion passed.

Motion and second to adjourn.

Next meeting: December 10th, 2013. 11:30 a.m., Teton County Annex, Choteau, MT