

Jefferson Local Development Corporation
Board of Director Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2024 1:00 PM

Attendance: Bruce Binkowski, Gary Carlson, Michael Seipp, Ashley Lucas, Keith Foley, Stu Goodner, Amanda Haller-Doris **Via Zoom:** Cory Kirsch

Staff: Samantha Yearry **Via Zoom:** Erin Binder

Guests: Leonard Wortman, Tom Harrington **Via zoom:** Lindsey Graham

Proxy: Nick goes to Gary, Clint to Keith

Meeting called to order: Keith called meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Minutes approval: Gary asked presentation be added the talk about Drew Dawson and his 8 years of service and also to add the financials passed unanimously. Stu made a motion, Keith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: Leonard Wortman & Tom Harrington

Piedmont – see packet. There was a ground water study done, it is a 2.5-3 year study. It is a long-term wetlands. Barrick Mine wants to move forward with the wetlands project. Golden Sunlight/Barrick Mine has 600 acres over there they are going to develop, as well as a neighboring ranch that is also willing to donate 100 acres. Ducks Unlimited supports. This could be a great economic driver. They are going to ask the mine to put some of the Whitehall Sustainability money to do the feasibility study that will cost about \$50k. There needs to be a feasibility study done. It would cost about \$350k to do the watershed restoration committee. for the full watershed and about a couple million to do the wetlands Piedmont project. Ask of JLDC to put together a list of next steps and how we can help – have to put a feasibility study out for bid by doing an RFP, also need to find the funds for it. Step 2 would happen once feasibility study is done as it will create a comprehensive list of what to do. Might be able to extend a walking trail from Whitehall to the Piedmont Wetlands eventually. Bruce recommended that Parks and Recs be involved with this as well. Stu stated that anything from Whitehall up to the Piedmonts would be of value. Keith asked what is our admin fee would be with it and that w would need agreements before we can see if we can do it.

Old business:

*Project updates: Cottage 5 – the MHPG was awarded for \$500k.

*Gary stated that we needed to make sure executive committee knows everything from the grant on our asks and insurance for it when we get into a grant, so that we know the scope of work expected from the corporation.

*Insurance is getting renewed right now. Stu will reach out to his contact.

*Strategic plan will suggest the gaps we experience. It will be a document that will help us show where we want to go with the county, as well as being a roadmap to be use as a supplemental on what we define economic development and growth. Priority number one is sustainability.

*New membership – renewals go out this week and new applications will go out from to businesses listed within Jefferson County via the Secretary of States document they provided. Sam and Erin will send out in different bursts based off of cities. There will be a social media push and will add to newspapers.

*Audit –hope the presentation to be at the board meeting on January 15th.

*Jefferson County – Cory stated not a whole lot going on, legislature going to meet in a few weeks, watching that close. He stated they just got word that the state is projecting

evaluations will be up 20% this year. Montana Tunnels working on the bankruptcy pushed through so the new owners can come thru, which would be a beneficial to JLDC and the whole county.

*Bruce movie shoot the Madison did shooting on the Whitetail Road, put a big tent in Boulder, will be coming back. Events season is kinda sorta over. December 6th is the tree lighting and parade 6 pm, Western Legacy Center is hosting a holiday bazaar on December 7th. Fundraiser dinner on December 14th. Skijoring February 1st and 2nd at Fairgrounds. There is a Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving, 5k fun run, starting at Veterans Park it's a fundraiser for the foodbank starts at 9:30 am.

*Good opportunity for TV – Montana film commission website. Add properties.

*Elkhorn Community Foundation is sending out request for funds. Lindsey – 4h will be selling live Christmas trees behind the sweet spot on December 6th.

Meeting adjourned: Keith adjourned 2:07 pm.