

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN JR

CHILCOTT

FOSS

STOLTZ

KANENWISHER

Members Present.....Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher

Date.....November 28, 2011

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Strategic Economic Planning in Ravalli County, the decision to appoint a steering committee and establish a time line. Present at this meeting was Planning Administrator Terry Nelson, RCEDA Director Julie Foster, RC Watchdog Lee Tickell, Ravalli Reporter Whitney Berms, RC& D President Allen Bjergo, Bitterrooters for Planning President Kelsey Milner, Citizens William Menager, Rick Furhman, Pam Gouse and Skip Kowalski.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the first order of discussion is to decide if any action needs to be taken in regard to this issue, discuss whether to establish a steering committee, what the basic structure would look like and what the makeup of that committee would be.

**Commissioner Foss made a motion to move forward on the strategic economic planning (STeP). Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion adding that it should be called the Strategic Economic Planning Project (StEP).**

Commissioner Iman called on Julie Foster, Director of RCEDA to discuss economic programs specific to Ravalli County. Julie gave an update on the various programs and the research data pulled together by Dr. Swanson.

Allen Bjergo President of RC&D agreed it is time to refresh and update our inventory particularly in economics. He felt agricultural issues are important as well as the labs. He felt this type of endeavor works best when it comes from the people, and RC& D facilitates this type of involvement. Updating Dr. Swanson's work, and looking for opportunities is important to see what can be done to compliment what EDA is doing. He felt inventory is the first step, then to obtain good representation.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated another group that might want to become involved is the Bitterrooters for Planning. He stated understanding the inventory is an important step, but that is simply a component. Identify and quantify the resources, then set goals.

Commissioner Foss stated it is important to garner numerous groups in order to gather the data. Commissioner Chilcott concurred noting they need to define the composition of the steering committee which could be from agriculture to bio-tec, also addressing the opportunities that might have been lost in our community. He felt it would also be a good idea to have some legislative representation on this Board and look at T.I.F. Districts.

Commissioner Kanenwisher identified the membership as two Commissioners, one member from RCEDA, one member from planning, with other members that are business minded people looking for opportunities.

Commissioner Chilcott stated RC& D has been a group of citizens representing numerous sectors. When people come up with business ideas, RC&D helps them to be successful with their ideas possibly creating opportunities. He feels RC&D can be a good partner in this endeavor.

Commissioner Iman stated RCEDA and RC& D are “project based”; but what Commissioner Kanenwisher is addressing is the “needs based”.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated they need to define the picture before they run with any projects. Don’t define what we are looking for, see what is there. He has faith that people will come up with ideas and opportunities.

**All voted “aye”. (5-0)**

Discussion then addressed the makeup of the committee, adding three private citizens to the proposed four (two BCC, RCEDA Director and Planning Administrator). Commissioner Kanenwisher suggested the Commissioners could be liaisons to the steering committee such as Commissioner Stoltz as the infrastructure liaison, Foss as the public lands, Chilcott for economic and Iman for agriculture. The Board concurred a seven member steering committee is a good place to start; they can change it as they move forward. Discussion of the roles for Terry and Julie was also discussed. Per Commissioner Kanenwisher, the Planning Department should be used as a place to store the information. Commissioner Iman felt there should be five citizen members, making this a nine member steering committee.

**Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to have the Commission members as discussed plus five citizen members. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Chilcott felt a legislator should be part of the five citizen members. Commissioner Foss agreed.**

Public Comment:

Kelsey Milner stated the most important issue is having the right inventory, and to have a good idea of the overarching goal. He is interested in identification of the enterprises, and noted there is great value in our amenities. The amenities should stand on their own and not part of the criteria in the enterprises.

Board Comment:

Commissioner Iman addressed having a legislator on the steering committee. Commissioner Chilcott stated the legislators should bring information to the table and then would help champion the county's cause when it is identified. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated Fred Thomas would be a good fit as he is in business, has past legislative experience and knows many of the business people in the community.

**All voted "aye" (5-0)**

Commissioner Kanenwisher then addressed the process to pick the two Commissioners and the five citizens. He felt the types of people he could see serving on the steering committee would be Kelsey Milner, Fred Thomas and Deadra Howard. Commissioner Chilcott stated it is important to have citizens on this committee that have a broad approach. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the steering committee is not validating the ideas; they simply bring forth the ideas. Discussion included news and radio broadcasting this steering committee membership and seeing who might be interested, as well as who the Commissioners think might fit well into this committee.

Citizen Rick Furhman felt neither manner to solicit the steering committee membership should be mutually exclusive. It was agreed to have the names available at the next meeting.

**Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> in order to appoint the five citizen members and decide on the two Commissioners who will serve on this steering committee. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. All voted "aye". (5-0).**

Rick Furhman asked what potential applicants will be told, so the information is the same. Commissioner Kanenwisher felt that was a good idea and the information will be developed. Discussion then included the venues to get the information out to the public.

► Planning Administrator Terry Nelson met with the Commissioners at 11:20 a.m. to obtain direction from the Commissioners on the Sign Ordinance (No. #12). Present at this meeting was Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes and Citizen William Menager. Terry stated the Commissioners had discussed repealing this ordinance and then felt modifying the ordinance warranted discussion. The current ordinance was adopted in 2000, with the administration being within the Planning Department and Road Department. In 2008, the University of Montana Land Use Clinic made various recommendations to Ordinance No. 12 which included on-premise signs or broadening the exemptions, as well as clarification of signs on Highway 93. It was noted the administration needs to reflect "Planning Department" rather than "Land Services". The Land use Clinic also warns about the 7 year non-conformance policy.

Terry addressed the state and county laws in regard to their differences, compliance and enforcement for political signs, setbacks, separation, height, size, width and abandoned signs. Discussion of those differences took place in light of Terry's specific questions which included the following:

- Do the Commissioners want to address on-premise or to broaden the exemptions?
- How to exempt? All non-commercial? Specific: political, religious, non-profit, directional
- Size & location in regard to setback, height and separation
- Highway 93
- Non-conforming
- Lighted – moving – LED?
- Any other changes?

Commissioner Chilcott felt consistency is important and he saw no issues having both Eastside and Highway 93 mirror each other. Removing the state roads and connector state roads limits the discussion of changes to the county roads and to remove the county requirement of the 100' set back and distance between the signs. The Board concurred.

In regard to the placement and removal of political signs it was agreed to be consistent with state requirements, so the ordinance should simply reference the state requirements. In regard to setbacks it was agreed to be consistent with the state as well. In regard to width and height the Board agreed to look at other county regulations. In regard to lighting the Board concurred to the need for cut off (shielded) lighting and any LED lights should not harm another person's property and negatively impact the motoring public.

Terry will integrate these thoughts for a draft of changes within the Sign Ordinance for public comment.

► The Board met at 12:20 for an Extension Update with Agent Katelyn Andersen. It was agreed that Commissioner Iman will assist with the interviews and recommendation on hiring the next Extension Agent. Those interviews will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup>.