COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

FOSS SF

CHILCOTT

IMAN

STOLTZ

BURROWS JB

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....August 20, 2012

►Minutes: Glenda Wiles

►The Board met at 9:00 a.m. with Fair Manager Deborah Rogalla who was seeking direction on political candidates and or political solicitation outside of vendor booths during the Ravalli County. Deborah read the fair policy in regard to vendor booths and roving vendors as well as distributing or advertizing matters outside of the vendor booths. She stated people are asking her if political candidates can be outside the a booth soliciting fair goers. Discussion included public space; free speech; posting signs outside of a paid space.

Public comment:

Chris Hockman asked if current vendor rules applied to candidates that walk around the fair.

Nancy Ballance stated it is important that political candidates have the ability to have a 'face to face' with people. This is public space and if someone wants to bring a business card and talk about community/political/religious issues, it is permitted under the constitution. Fair policies nor the Commissioners should take away anyone's free speech rights.

Penny Howe stated the Fair is an American tradition and free speech should not be tromped on.

Jan Wisniewski stated people should not be limited to where they can talk - free speech should not be stifled. Candidates should use common sense when they approach people.

The Commissioners indicated there is a difference between commerce (business people who pay for a booth space) and people who exercise their right to free speech. Commerce will have a booth and should adhere to the rules/contract they sign with the Fair. People who want to wander the fair grounds and talk about political/community issues have the right to do so. They can even hand out business cards but they cannot post items at the fair. They felt political candidates and other citizens should use common sense when they approach other fair goers with information.

►The Board met at 1:30 p.m. for a continued discussion of the development of a Natural Resource Policy with public input.