

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

FOSS *FP*

CHILCOTT *J*

IMAN *JR*

STOLTZ *[Signature]*

BURROWS *JB*

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

Date.....May 15, 2013

► Minutes: Commissioner Burrows

► The Board met with the following departments for budget presentations:

- At 9:00 a.m. Airport made a budget presentation
- At 10:00 a.m. Treasurer made a budget presentation
- At 11:30 a.m. Human Resources made a budget presentation
- At 1:00 p.m. Office of Emergency Services made a budget presentation

► The Board met at 2:00 PM for consideration and possible decision on possible further action of Forest Service water right claims on Blodgett and Laird Creeks. The boards discussed issues with the Forest Service water rights claims in Ravalli County.

Issues discussed were:

- Forest Service filing for water rights in a closed basin, where other entities or individuals cannot,
- Wetted perimeter methodology does not accurately estimate the amount of actual water in these creeks in different months,
- Whether Federal Government owns land or is holding for states per the state Enabling Act,
- Is filing constitutional, water is supposed to be held for people. Water is being claimed for fish,
- Public's right to participate by having to pay a fee to file objection,
- If no downstream users will be affected, why file? Control of future water.

Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to have Deputy County Attorney Howard Recht draft a letter to the Forest Service and DNRC, informing and inviting them to a future meeting for discussion and decision in regard to Forest Service water rights on Blodgett and Laird Creeks and future Forest Service water right claims in Ravalli County. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Perry Backus – How high in Forest Service and DNRRC will letter be sent?

All voted “aye” (5-0)