

Glenda Wiles

From: Paula Nelson [sparkey@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 10:24 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Website Email -

Commissioners,

It's difficult to know where to start. I've been so disappointed and often shocked by your actions this past year. And confused by conflicting statements such as you don't want to accept federal money (to help our residents) but you push to get Secure Rural School funds; money that was supposed to carry the county over during forest management transitions over a decade ago and then go away. You claim your focus is on jobs for our residents but you cut the workforce, hire an unqualified Treasurer who is driving away career employees (and don't we wonder how safe the county's funds are?), and, you hire out-of-state consultants to tackle water rights for individuals (not the county rights) and to help you try to take over federal lands owned by all Americans. What is going on? Who do you represent and what will be the condition of Ravalli County when you are finished with it?

Tonight I am even more disappointed after reading the Missoulian article regarding the Medicine Tree lands and the ridiculous questions asked of the SKT representatives about sacred lands. And then you worried that they would build a casino or race track on their sacred lands. Have you been to the site?! How could either be built there? And your concern is over \$808 a year. Are you as concerned about the casinos spread throughout the county? About the money wasted paying for a deputy county attorney prohibited from going to work? I am so disappointed that you did not endorse the request to have the lands converted to BIA lands. I can only hope that after the planning board chairman made his statements about 'drunken Indians' that you censored him, asked him to step down, and apologized to the SKT representatives and all Native Americans. Anything less would be wrong.

Look around and examine the impacts of your actions for all county residents. Ask yourself Dr. Phil's favorite question, "How's that working for you?". And please, step up to find ways to improve our situation in the long run, not ways to tear apart our county.

Paula Nelson, Darby