

Chris Taggart

From: Lee Yelin <waterrightsinc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting RE Proposed Bitterroot River Bridge

Ravalli County Commissioners,

My name is Lee Yelin and I own Water Rights Inc., a natural resources consulting firm in Missoula. I have a client who lives and owns a ranch in Hamilton, including an irrigated island in the Bitterroot River. My client has proposed to build a private bridge across the East channel of the Bitterroot to better access his island for agricultural purposes. We have filed all the necessary Federal, State and County permits, including those with the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Bitterroot Conservation District and County Floodplain. We also have been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on Bull Trout issues.

Currently, all permits have been approved except for the Ravalli County Floodplain permit. This has stalled our project causing us to request extensions on our other permits. We have been working with various agencies to grant the bridge project for over two years now. The hold up is the City (of Hamilton) and County. We need the City and County to sign off on the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) process through FEMA so the floodplain permit can be advertised.

I would like to set up a meeting with the Ravalli County Commissioners to further discuss the project and explain the associated delays with the County. I am also contacting the city attorney from Hamilton to get the ball rolling with them.

My client and I would like to meet with the Commissioners ASAP to avoid further delays.

Thank you,

Lee

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