

Glenda Wiles

From: Jim Ellingson <aranch@jimellingson.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2013 6:03 PM
To: Al Pernichele; Brian Rouse; Dan Huls; Howard Lyons; Jay Meyer; Jim Canton; Jim Ellingson; Joann Hosko
Cc: wmenager4@gmail.com; gavin.ricklefs@bitterrootlandtrust.org; Glenda Wiles
Subject: RTF/R minutes from Dec. 2,2013

Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch Board

Minutes of meeting held December 2, 2013 in the Hamilton House Game Room in Victor, MT

Call To Order

The Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by chairman Jim Ellingson

Members attending:

Al Pernichele

Jim Canton

Joann Hosko

Howard Lyons

Jay Meyer

Brian Rouse

Jim Ellingson (chair)

Also present: Penney Howe, Colleen Meyer, Edie Ellingson, Richard Babcock, Jan Wisniewski, Zack Strain, Rob Johnson, and Phil Tummerillo

Approval of Minutes: November 4, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

Amendments to or Items Not on the Agenda: none

Public Comment: none

New Business:

1. Yearly election of officers
 - a. **Jay Meyer was voted in as chair.**
 - b. **Brian Rouse was voted in as vice-chair.**
 - c. Penney volunteered to take notes at our meetings
 - d. Al volunteered to formulate the agendas, secure our meeting rooms, and give the necessary public notification.
 - e. At this point Jay took over as chair of this meeting.
2. Representative to Open Lands Board
 - a. Our board has two permanent positions on the Open Lands Board
 - b. Jim Ellingson and Al Pernichele currently fill those positions
 - c. Jim Ellingson's three year term is up at the end of this year and he must be either reappointed or replaced

- d. **It was voted that Jim Ellingson be reappointed for another three year term as one of our two representatives to the Open Lands Board.**
- 3. Jim Ellingson gave a short report on the next project being brought to the Open Lands Board
 - a. The Sixty-One Bar Ranch
 - b. A mainly agricultural project in the Burnt Fork drainage east of Stevensville
 - c. Site visit is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, December 15th.
 - d. Financials for this project have not been presented yet.
- 4. Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants Program
 - a. Rob Johnson gave a report on the grant and offered some suggestions
 - b. The letter of intent/ pre-proposal application is due by December 12th
 - c. Phil suggested that we consider adding elder financial abuse to the list of suggestions
 - d. **Jim Ellingson moved that we authorize an ad hoc committee with the power to formulate a plan and submit a proposal application if they see fit.**
 - e. **Brian seconded the motion.**
 - f. **The motion carried** (with Jim Canton abstaining).
 - g. **Jim Ellingson moved that the committee be chaired by Al Pernichele and consist of Brian Rouse, Dan Huls, Phil Tummerillo, Rob Johnson, and Howard Lyons.**
 - h. **Brian Rouse seconded the motion.**
 - i. **The motion carried** (with Jim Canton abstaining).

Old Business:

- 1. Phil Tummerillo said that November 6th he applied for the open position on our board but he has apparently not been approved yet.
- 2. Al gave a report on the Agricultural Research Station
 - a. Phone interviews for the open position have been completed
 - b. Face to face interviews are upcoming
- 3. County Extension Agent
 - a. Rob reported that the search for a new agent to fill that position must start anew because one of the finalists withdrew
 - b. Pay is an issue
 - c. The counties provide about 50% of the financing
- 4. Howard gave a report on water issues
 - a. Gene Erb told Howard:
 - i. The Forest Service is backing out of one water rights claim they filed on a creek in Colorado. He sees this as a positive development.
 - ii. The Forest Service filed on Rock Creek (feeds Lake Como).
 - iii. He suggested that we all obtain a hard copy of our water rights and familiarize ourselves with it.
 - iv. The backers of the Tribal Water Compact are considering dropping off-reservation claims.
 - b. There is a report that the DNRC forced someone to remove a small, in-stream hydro-generator from Tin Cup Creek because their water right mentioned irrigation only and did not mention electrical generation.
 - c. Howard concluded by saying, "Our water is still in jeopardy."
- 5. Jim Canton said that reservation land is being transferred to individuals as well as to the federal government, and this falls right in line with the plan of Agenda 21.
- 6. Jay voiced concern over conservation easements leveraging large sums of federal money because they are after the wildlife and the water.
- 7. Brian and Jay gave an update on the wildlife damage issue.
 - a. Joe Jacquith may be meeting with individual landowners on his own.
 - b. Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been very busy since it is the general hunting season.
- 8. The Stockgrowers' annual banquet is scheduled for January 11th, 2014

- a. A hamburger lunch will start about 11:30 a.m.
- b. There will be numerous seminars in the afternoon
- c. The banquet will start about 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. January 6th, 2014 in the Extension Office meeting room.