

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)
(Draft) MINUTES
1st Quarter Meeting Wednesday
March 8th, 2023

Open meeting; Consent Agenda; Minutes and Financial report/disbursements approval

Meeting opened at 1:30 by Chairman John Prinkki. Introductions of those in attendance:

John Prinkki	Mary Erickson
Ed Joiner	Jacy Head
Kerry White	Josh Fairchilds
Barb Cestero	Jennifer Lane
Sean Steinebach	E. Gagliano
Bill Wallace	John Durnal
Joe Josephson	Kathy Eckland
Jennifer Boyer (for Scott MacFarlane)	Steve Kimball
Randy Weimer	Kathy Minor
Jeff Schmidt	Tim Love
Bill Bullock	Peter Angst
Jackie Walden	
Richard Lyon	

Membership Applications and Vacancies. Richard Lyon submitted application for membership to fill the open At Large seat. Approval moved by Barb Cestero, seconded by Joe Josephson. **AAPPROVED**

John Prinkki turned discussion to the CGWG membership vacancies and his recent efforts to recruit new appointments from multiple County Commissions as well as member seats for Agriculture, Hunting, Motorized Recreation. One key concern is the difficulty in obtaining quorum when a number of active seats are either empty or non-participating. It may be that changes to the CGWG by-laws would be in order, with further discussion expected at a future meeting.

CGWG Leadership; Chair and Vice Chair positions; Annual appointments John Prinkki called for discussion and member action regarding reappointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair position on the Working Group. John indicated he is willing to continue serving as Chairman for another year, however the Group needs to be thinking about succession. Vice-Chair is currently open due to changes in County Commission seats. Bill Wallace moved to re-appoint John Prinkki as CGWG Chair, and nominated Scott MacFarlane for the Vice-Chair position. **APPROVED**

MFCN update. Tim Love reported on recent Collaborative Leadership Workshop. It was well attended with 28 individuals representing 17 organizations, and has received very positive feedback. He also reported on two grant awards of \$5000, one of which will be going to Custer Gallatin Working Group.

Cooke City, East Gallatin, South Otter, Red Lodge Mountain, and Bridger Infrastructure projects Progress reports. Sean Steinebach provided a detailed report on Cooke City project. Kerry White discussed the status of East Gallatin, which is currently on back burner due staffing levels John reported on the Red Lodge Mountain Fuels Reduction which has also been stalled for the same reason. Bridger Infrastructure subcommittee (josh Fairchilds) have prioritized trails and parking recommendations and planning future meetings, and are working on signage improvements throughout the project zone. A grant has been applied for through TPS to assist with signage and potentially weed management.

Sibanye Stillwater East Boulder Mine Expansion project EIS Member Randy Weimer introduced Jennifer Lane, Environmental Permitting Manager for Stillwater and East Boulder Mines. Together they presented information about the proposed mine expansion and forthcoming release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement that will accompany their permit application. Sibanye is requesting the CGWG consider performing a review and potentially issue comments and letter of support for the project EIS. After the presentation and extensive discussion among members, motion was made (Ty Hamilton/Richard Lyon) to establish a working subcommittee to evaluate the project and make appropriate recommendations to the Working Group. APPROVED. Following members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Kerry White (Lead), Jackie Walden, Jeff Schmidt, Joe Josephson, John Prinkki, Ty Hamilton, Bill Wallace. As the project timeline would require an aggressive approach to the schedule for review and comment development.

Montana DNRC Local Government Liaison. Steve Kimball reported on the Cottonwood lawsuit on the BMW and North Hebgen projects which have been dismissed. DNRC currently waiting to see whether any further actions may be taken. DNRC does have two Local Govt Forestry Assistance grants open for application until March 31st. DNRC has done a reorganization to combine the Trust Lands and Forestry Divisions. Activities around several other grant channels that provide important support to Counties were also reviewed.

Next Meeting – June 14th in Bozeman