

# Billings City Council

## 2015 Memorandum of Understanding with Beartooth RC&D

April 13, 2015



# ***Faces of Beartooth RC&D!***



Luke Walawander,  
Economic Development Director



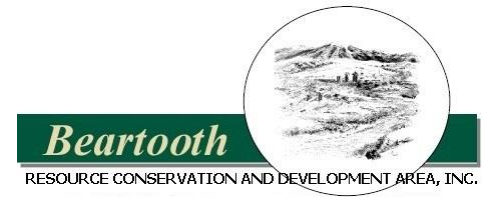
Earl Atwood,  
Office Manager



Joel Bertolino,  
Food & Ag Program Director



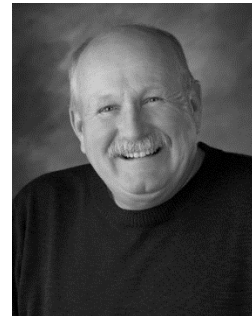
# ***Faces of Beartooth RC&D continued...***



**Jillann Knutson,**  
Revolving Loan Fund Manager  
and Bookkeeper



**Dick Rath,**  
Forester/Fuels Program



# *Who we are...*



- Established in 1969, the Beartooth RC&D serves as a regional entity for the cooperative efforts of 5 counties in South Central Montana in rural and economic development.
- The leadership of this non-profit corporation is comprised of elected officials and community leaders from the counties, incorporated towns and cities, conservation districts and tribal reservations.
- In February of 1996 the Economic Development Administration of the US Department of Commerce designated Beartooth RC&D as the Economic Development District for the region.

# ***What we do....***



- For economic development, our primary services include needs assessment, planning and development of business projects. *We deliver:*
  - **business development and financial planning assistance**
  - **direct business lending through the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**
  - **specialized agricultural business planning and development**
  - **regional and local economic development planning and facilitation**
  - **maintenance and improvement of public services, infrastructure and facilities**

# ***What we do....***



In providing these services we serve the region as:

- the federally recognized ***Economic Development District***,
- state recognized ***Certified Regional Development District***, state ***Food and Ag Development Center*** and ***Montana Cooperative Development Center***, and
- As of December 31, 2014, the region's **NeighborWorks Montana** homeownership education and counseling satellite services were transferred to the Home Center in Billings.

# *How do our services benefit the City of Billings?*



The recent CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) was submitted to the EDA in July 2014. We encourage those with a project to contact Beartooth RC&D so that it can be incorporated within the document.

Viewers of the CEDS will notice:

- More concise format
- More frequent updates to plan (annual vs previous 5-year cycle)
- More convenient access through electronic publication

# *How do our services benefit the City of Billings?*



Beartooth as a CRDC, continues to be a gateway to grant funding and grant administration:

- Big Sky Trust Fund Category II Planning Grant (exclusive)
- CRDC - Dept. of Commerce
- Dept. of Agriculture, FADC and Growth Through Ag
- DNRC and BLM (wild land urban interface fire assistance)
- EDA

# *How do our services benefit the City of Billings?*



Our projects throughout 2014 and 2015 include planning grants and other efforts directly affecting Billings and the immediate vicinity, many of these in cooperation with or supporting Big Sky EDA projects.

## 2014-2015 BSTF Planning Grant Figures:

Dollars in Grants: \$126,135

Leveraged: \$163,091

# *Our Billings area projects...*



## **Big Sky Trust Fund Grants**

- **BillingsWorks Workforce Council:** \$26,250 planning grant received for strategic plan consultant work in partnership with Big Sky Economic Development Authority. Final presentation of work made in March 2015.
- **Billings Chamber of Commerce:** \$26,250 planning grant received to conduct convention and conference center feasibility study. Final presentation of work made in March 2015.
- **Trailhead Commerce Park:** Potential development near the Johnson Lane Interchange which would include construction of a large rail loading and unloading hub. Received 3 planning grants for this effort; most recent award in 2014 for \$21,100 to produce economic impact study.

# *Our Billings area projects...*



## **Big Sky Trust Fund Grants Continued**

- **Promise Holdings, LLC:** \$26,285 planning grant to offset expenses related to building expansion. Expansion will help company hire new jobs.
- **GTUIT, LLC:** \$26,250 planning grant to offset expenses related to developing a training protocol and manuals for export of GTUIT's technology to Egypt.

## **Other Billings Projects**

- **Museum of the Yellowstone:** Planning effort to expand the Yellowstone County Museum into a proposed Museum of the Yellowstone. Possible Big Sky Trust Fund planning grant application to be submitted.
- **Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District:** Submitted Big Sky Trust Fund grant on behalf of the District. Unfortunately, was not successful. Continue to assist the District and its team in identifying future funding opportunities.

# 2015 MOU



- **Primary Purpose of the MOU is to** provide matching funds for federal EDA grant which establishes our five-county Economic Development District, assessed annually.



- **In Yellowstone County, per a negotiated agreement, the annual assessment is allocated:**

Yellowstone Co.	24%	\$6,581.03
City of Billings	36%	\$9,871.54
City of Laurel	6%	\$1,645.26
Big Sky EDA	34%	\$9,323.12

*Total County Assessment for 2015 is \$27,420.95, formulated using a base fee of \$3,500 plus a per capita assessment of .1537 cents using most current Federal Census estimate .  
(2014 was 155,634)*

***Thank You!***



***We sincerely appreciate your time, and we value this opportunity to update the Council on our activities.***

***Please contact any member of our team if you would like more information about our programs or projects in the area.***

**Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc.  
Ph. 406-962-3914  
<http://www.beartooth.org>**