

Yellowstone County



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October 15, 2020

Mayor and City Council
City of Billings

Re: Resolution of the Lockwood TEDD and our Mutual Interests in Future Development

Mayor and Council Members:

Your consideration of the amendment to the existing Wastewater Service Agreement between Lockwood Water and Sewer District and the City of Billings to allow for the extension of the service area to accommodate service to the TEDD study area is a very important step forward for both the City and the County. Thank you.

We recognize that the City and Lockwood Water and Sewer District have reached a reasonable agreement that respects the interest of all parties, including an 18% surcharge and limiting the scope of the agreement to just for the provision of wastewater treatment (consistent with the existing agreement). We further recognize that, like the first agreement with Lockwood Water and Sewer District, the lands within the service area will not be subject a waiver of right to protest future annexation. All your considerations in the context of this agreement, and your support of the TEDD, are greatly appreciated.

Yellowstone County also recognizes that we share mutual interests in the success of other proposed developments. We believe it is in the best interest of both the City and the County to cooperate and plan together (with property owners) as these developments take shape. It is in that spirit that we propose that the City and County enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the purposes of supporting the development of lands associated with the Inner Belt Loop, understanding that this Agreement will be the first of many agreements and cooperative planning efforts around Billings. We all understand these efforts must be respectful and supportive of landowner plans in these areas. It would be our recommendation that City/County Planning be charged with outlining the scope of such an agreement and that the terms be simple and straightforward, limited to those areas we have the authority to consider together.

This willingness to cooperate was proposed to be a tenet of the Wastewater Service Agreement, but that agreement is between LWS and the City. Developing a framework for City/County cooperation should be a matter between the City and County and not become an item lost within a service agreement among other parties.

Moving forward with the TEDD and working together on the Inner Belt Loop will be important initial steps forward for the County and City for our community's economic development, and this work comes at a time that is critical to our economic recovery.

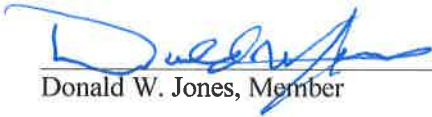
We are ready to move forward with this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA



Denis Pitman, Chairman



Donald W. Jones, Member



John Ostlund, Member

BOCC/emw