

June 8, 2010

SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT – SHELBY

In attendance: Tony Sitzmann, Cyndi Johnson, John Shevlin, Jim Hodgkiss, Corlene Martin, Jerilee Wilkerson, Deb Brandon, Larry Bonderud, Cheryl Curry and Lorette Carter, reporting. Guests included James Parker Shields and Luke Waliwander from War Shield Development, Chris Muller, editor of the Shelby Promoter and new Executive Director, Sara Converse.

MINUTES: Larry moved and John seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURY: Larry reviewed the year-to-date financials as well as the current SDC RLF monies loaned to a Conrad business. Cheryl moved that a budget committee of Larry Bonderud, Brett Doney, Tony Sitzmann, Jerilee Wilkerson and Sara Converse be formed to work on the new budget and present it at the July meeting. Jim seconded with the motion carrying.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hiring Committee: Tony thanked the hiring committee for their fine work in completing the hiring process. 21 applications were submitted with Sara being selected from this great field of candidates. Sara will begin Sweetgrass Development work on June 15th.

SDC RLF Report: Larry presented the financial information during his report.

Membership Committee: Deb reported that all board positions have been filled, but Sweetgrass Development will need letters from Teton County Commissioners appointing Corlene to a board position. The Blackfeet Tribe will also need to send a letter on behalf of Janice Coburn.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation- James Parker Shields

James spoke on the partnership created by Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology and War Shield Development to establish and construct a Native American Multi-Purpose Facility on the university campus. He asked Sweetgrass Development to take the lead in submitting a Big Sky Trust Fund grant application for initial planning of the facility. Cyndi moved and Larry seconded that Sweetgrass Development submit to the Big Sky Trust Fund an application on behalf of MSU-Great Falls College of Technology and War Shield Development for planning grant funding. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Cyndi asked the group to consider holding Sweetgrass Development meetings during the day. Tony asked that we re-visit this at the end of the summer in which to give Sara time to adjust to her new position and see where Sweetgrass Development is at that time. Cheryl Curry reminded the group of its intent to keep building on the synergy created in working together and the importance of meeting on a monthly basis.

Community Economic Development Activities:

Shelby/Toole County: Mayor Bonderud spoke on the newly opened FBI facility in Shelby from which seven agents work out of. The city has agreed to sell the Homeland Security Border Station. Work continues on the sewer outflow project. Shelby is beginning the design phase of a water project that will double the capacity at the treatment plant and improve the pumping from the well fields. The Northern Port Authority has completed a rail realignment project. They have received a railroad rehabilitation loan and BNSF contribution to assist with this project. The Port is also seeking bids for rail sighting in the energy park. The City of Shelby is working on a fourth phase of funding through the Montana Safe Routes to School Program. They have also received funding through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant and Preservation Grant to do work on Historic Shelby High. The building is intended to become a multi-faceted community learning center. The City of Shelby also continues to work on new home construction and homebuyer assistance through a CDBG Housing Grant and continues rehab work through the HOME Program. Mayor Bonderud also reported that architectural work continues on the transit and they are moving forward on the renovation of the facility. Deb Brandon reported that Sunburst's application to the Big Sky Trust fund has been declined.

Choteau/Teton County: Commissioner Jim Hodgkiss reported that MDT has given the go-ahead for the high-wide loads traveling through Montana on their way to Canada. The oil and gas counties of Montana will be holding a meeting in Choteau on June 24th. Bids were also opened today in regard to a Teton County road project. Commissioner Hodgkiss also reported that the Teton County Commissioners have also agreed to officially join Sweetgrass Development and will be submitting their dues.

North Central RC&D: Dennis Devries reported that NCRC&D is co-sponsoring with MSU Northern, a 25 Alliance meeting on June 17th in Havre. Northern's bio-fuels work and testing plant will be showcased during the event.

Conrad/Pondera County: Mayor Shevlin reported that the grand opening of the new sewer treatment facility will be at 1:00 pm on June 22nd with Mayor Bonderud performing the "first

flush”. Road work continues at the Conrad interchange. Commissioner Cyndi Johnson reported that through a partnership between city, county and the port authority; the county has received a \$450,000 CDBG-ED grant for work on the community center in Conrad. They also received energy grant monies for this project as well. Port Authority Director, Cheryl Curry reported that several small businesses have started up in Conrad employing 1-2 people in each which is great for the community.

Cut Bank/Glacier County: Commissioner Tony Sitzmann reported that the Two Medicine Bridge project bid opening will be August 18th. Numerous other MDT projects will also be going on in Glacier County in the next few years. Grant money was also awarded for an addition to the Glacier County Detention Center.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 13th in Choteau.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.