

MINUTES of the November 12th, 2009
Woods Bay/Bigfork 440 Working Group
Held at 9:30am Bigfork Chamber, Bigfork

Present are: Greg Poncin (DNRC), George Darrow, Kevin Gownley, Tracy Reiling, Bill Myers, Kitty Rich, Clarice Ryan, Verdell Jackson, Bob Chrysler

Minutes of the October 13th meeting were not prepared. Tracy gave a short overview of the last meeting and would have both sets of minutes next week.

George Darrow opened the meeting and handed out copies of the map of the proposed Cougar Canyon Natural Area that borders the 440 on half of the North border and the entire East border. Also a map of the Flathead Watershed area and the Bigfork Eagle article from April 17th, 2008 announcing the public meeting for the proposed sale of the 440.

Verdell Jackson brought up the issue of the possibility of needing Liability Insurance for public meetings. Greg Poncin will check on it from the DNRC end. He also reiterated the fact that if any proposed legislation would need to be made in assisting the 440, he would carry it to the next session.

Bill Myers introduced Bob Chrysler to the group. Bob is a CPA living in the Woods Bay area and has graciously accepted to offer his services in setting up the non-profit status with the IRS.

Bob then explained some of the rules for Federal non-profits and what he felt was the best way to proceed. At this time the filing fee is \$350.00. If we wait until after the first of the year it will be raised to \$750.00.

A proposed budget and purpose statement needs to be included. Bill and Bob have outlined a budget and a rough draft of the statement. Tracy will type out the statement and send it out to everyone to look over and comment on.

Bill Myers again spoke with Hal Harper at the Governors office and he was very supportive of the steps that are being taken to establish the non-profit and was impressed with the regional Legislators getting on board. Hal also informed of the School of Mines receiving a million dollar grant/stimulus or some type of offering. Bill thinks this may reduce the urgency of the land sale.

Kitty Rich brought a copy of the Montana Code Annotated and wondered about some of the language being able to work in our favor in creating a Natural Area. This is something everyone needs to look at and get familiar with.

The access situation with the Delaro Homeowners Association and DNRC was again revisited by Bill Myers and Kevin Gownley. Bill and Kevin spoke between meetings and Kevin reiterated the steps that led to the stand off between permanent and temporary access. He also wanted it made clear that he was attending the meetings not as representative of the association and was in no way a spokesman for. He is there as a land owner and concerned citizen, and will not accept the permanent offer from the DNRC.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 2nd, 9:30 am at Bigfork Chamber meeting room.
Meeting adjourned

**WE WILL NEED ALL OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO MAKE THE EFFORT
TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND RENEW YOUR
COMMITMENT TO THE 440! WE NEED YOUR HELP!**