

**Beaverhead County Collaborative**  
**Notes**  
**January 16 2025**

Attending: Craig, Jim Berkey, Ryan Chapin, Byron Martinell, Jeff Lukas, Jessica Fields, Cindy Perdue-Dolan, Bill Hodge, Barb Cestero, Jack Kirkley, Carol Hatfield, Aubrey Bertram, Steve Kimball, Jeff Johnson, Pam's iPhone (?).

Advisors: n/a

Members of the Public: n/a

Notes: Ryan Chapin

Proxies: Ryan Chapin for Jack Acheson Jr.,


































**Notes**

December Notes:

- Move to accept the December notes, Aubrey Bertram 1st and Jim B. 2nd.
- Jeff L. TU would be happy to help with the matching money needed for the MFCN grant. Barb Cester and TWS also could add up to \$500. Jess is going to get the info needed to the NGO groups on how to contribute. TNC can cover some of this expense, as cold TRCP more than likely. Jim B. expressed caution on having only NGOs contribute money. The BCC is a landowner / local stakeholder driven agenda and we should make sure the optics look that way too.
- Jess F. There may be a free option with Jack Bazemore from MSU Extension helping to run the meetings. He was at this meeting and introduced himself to the group.
- Bill H., Asked how competitive the process is for the MFCN grant? Steve K. said that most, but not all of the applications get awarded.
- Jim B., How much does it cost for the facilitator each year? It's about \$8K. We've been successful in the past with annual grants in amounts ranging from \$8k-10k.
- Cindy P. really appreciated having Karen F. as a facilitator.
- Jess reached out to four facilitators for the procurement process. Additional details on this could be created if needed from the emails that were sent around during the process.
- Craig with Sun Mtn. motioned that Jack might run the meetings while we are awaiting funding and then have Karen take over if and when the funding comes through.
- Jeff Lukas asked if Jack is willing to stay on board if needed, although it's likely that we can get our paid facilitator back soon.
  - Jim B. 1st and Jack K and Jess F. 2nd. Thumbs up all around here.
- Jack K. nice dovetail into the University

- Barb C. expressed her concern that there is confusion around the two proposed wilderness areas. As a result, there was a meeting on January. 6th where Jack A., Aubrey B., Bill H., and Barb C. discussed the concern and did indeed seem to all be on the same page by the end of the call.
- It was determined that a summary document needs to be created that articulates the “6 pillars” of the proposal. These pillars include: 1. Henneberry Ridge WSA, 2. Bell Lime Kiln WSA, 3. Hidden Pasture WAS., 4. Garfield Mountain RW, 5. Italian Peaks RW., and 6. Conservation Management Area (CMA) of the area that adjoins Garfield Mountain and Italian Peaks.
- The coms subcommittee could make a draft run at outlining what these three talking points are: Also want to outline the concepts or sayings to avoid like “caveats, or exceptions.”
- Jim B., likes this approach and looks forward to seeing the documents.
- Jack K., suggested the document should be in solid draft form by the February meeting and ready for discussion.
- Cindy P., asked if the intention of the next meeting is to meet in-person. There were mixed feelings on this until our “messaging” is dialed in. The February meeting might be better remote, but that is still undecided.
- Jeff L., is talking with Rep. Shannon Maness from Dillion about the proposed package and what it means. Noah Marion is in GR and is setting up a meeting with Maness and Tesak to talk about this in more detail. Aubrey could brief Noah on the work that we’ve done.
- Barb C., cautioned against making the sole focus on just the proposed wilderness and leaving out the other components of the proposal.
- Jeff J., has also had conversations with Tesak and Maness and has attempted to explain that the Wilderness came with tools for grazing and have been repeated in other places.
- Jeff L., is working with stockgrowers lobbyists to support this endeavor.
- Jim B. mentioned that Beaverhead County is forming a resource use community plan and there may be an opportunity here to better engage with the county. If the BCC can be involved in one way or another. Jeff J. knows of a few folks that will be good.
- There was discussion among the group about circling back to the County Commissioners and having landowners lead that endeavor with NGO support.

Find a participant

- |   |                                 |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
|    | RyanChapin - TRCP (Me)          |    |    |
|    | Barb Cestero (she/her)          |    |    |
|    | Byron Martinell                 |    |    |
|    | Jeff Lukas                      |    |    |
|   | 14062390034                     |   |    |
|  | 14066605775                     |   |  |
|  | Aubrey Bertram, Wild Montana... |  |  |
|  | Beaverhead Extension            |  |  |
|  | Bill Hodge                      |  |  |
|  | Carol Hatfield                  |  |  |
|  | Cindy Perdue-Dolan              |   |  |
|  | Jack Kirkley                    |  |  |