

Montana Coal Board
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2015
City of Colstrip Chambers, Colstrip, MT

Board Members Present

Chairman John Williams, Vice-Chairman CJ Stewart, Ralph Lenhart, Tim Schaff, and Veronica Small-Eastman

Board Members on Conference Call

Dan Miles

Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present

Jennifer Olson, Grants Bureau Chief, Melinda Cummings, Coal Board Administrative Officer and Amy Peck, Administrative Assistant.

Public present:

Joann Schrupp	Colstrip Public Schools
Bob Lewandowski	Colstrip Public Schools
Jim Atchison	SEMDC
Heidi Jensen	City of Laurel
Kurt Markegard	City of Laurel
Chad Hanson	Great West Engineering
Lori Benner	Nittany Grant Works
Jill Cook	Morrison-Maierle
Pat Zent	City of Forsyth
Dennis Kupitzke	City of Forsyth
Senator Duane Ankney	SD #20
Bill Hodges	Big Horn Hospital Association
Brenda Pretty Paint	Crow Tribe
Frances Pretty Paint	Crow Tribe
Rose Hanser	City of Colstrip
Dana Davis	
Curtis Yarlott	
George Real Bird III	Big Horn County

Welcome – Call to order

Chairman Williams called to order the meeting of the Montana Coal Board at 8:38 a.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Olson called the Roll for Board members. The following board members were present: Chairman John Williams, Tim Schaff, Ralph Lenhart, CJ Stewart, Veronica Small-Eastman, and Dan Miles (via conference call).

Opportunity for Public Comment

- Bob Lewandowski – Superintendent Colstrip Public Schools, welcome and thank you to the Board for all the support given to Colstrip Schools.
- Chairman Williams – Mr. Lewandowski is new to Colstrip so we welcome him.
- Rose Hanser – Mayor of Colstrip, welcome and thank you for to the Board for all the help and support given to the City of Colstrip. Provided an update on the wastewater treatment plan grant. (handouts) Gave pins to each board member.

Montana Coal Board

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2015

City of Colstrip Chambers, Colstrip, MT

- Chairman Williams – thank you Mayor for your hospitality and tours yesterday.
- Jim Atchison – SEMDC, Dr. Klippenstein sends his thanks on behalf of Miles Community College. Provided an update on the efforts of the Coal Country Coalition to secure funding since last meeting.
- Bill Hodges – Big Horn Hospital Association, provided an update on previously awarded grant money for the three cardio monitors. Also, no word yet on the applied for CDBG grant for the Master Facilities Plan. Thank you to the Board for all you have done.
- Joanne Shrupp – Colstrip Public Schools District Clerk, thank you for all the support to Colstrip schools and community. We hope to represent the coal board dollars very well.
- Curtis Yarlott – Executive Director, St. Labre Indian School, thank you for the previous support given to the school. The water treatment plant on campus is soon to be switched on. The school supports 450 students and pulls from four counties. We are non-profit and depend on groups like the Coal oard.

Approval of Minutes (September 25, 2015)

Action by the Board: Mr. Lenhart made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

Budget & Financial Report

	<u>July '15 – June '16</u>	<u>Contingent</u>	<u>Total</u>
➤ Money appropriated for the SFY 2016:	\$2,463,539	\$996,949	\$3,460,488
➤ Coal Board funds awarded so far:	\$2,463,539	\$ 0	\$ 0
➤ Balance of available funds:	\$ 0	\$996,949	\$1,266,048
	<u>July '16 – June '17</u>	<u>Contingent</u>	<u>Total</u>
➤ Money appropriated for the SFY 2017:	\$2,555,267	\$948,668	\$3,503,935
➤ Coal Board funds awarded so far:	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
➤ Balance of available funds:	<u>\$2,555,267</u>	<u>\$948,668</u>	<u>\$3,503,935</u>
Total:	\$5,018,806	\$1,945,617	\$6,964,423

Program Administration

- Ms. Olson – the new Impact Area map is available online.

Project Updates

- Chairman Williams welcomes Melinda Cummings as the new Administrative Officer to the Coal Board.
- Number of projects awarded since the beginning of the 2017 Biennia: **12**
- The majority of these projects are already under contract, with a few pending final execution.
- There are currently 35 open contracts 4 of which are pending closeout.
- Ms. Olson – contract #0671 for Big Horn County is set to expire in December 2015. Big Horn County requested an extension to September 30, 2016. This was a 2013 biennium funded grant. If it is not extended, any costs not incurred would have to go back to the fund.

Correspondence

- i. #0671 Big Horn County Request for Extension
- Ms. Olson – contract #0671 for Big Horn County is set to expire in December 2015. Big Horn County

Montana Coal Board
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2015
City of Colstrip Chambers, Colstrip, MT

requested an extension to September 30, 2016. This was a 2013 biennium funded grant. If it is not extended, any costs not incurred would have to go back to the fund.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Stewart made a motion to extend the contract. Mr. Schaaf seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Chairman Williams – the funding memo from Montana Department of Commerce Director Meg O’Leary is available to those who would like to have a copy.
- Ms. Olson – the memo is also available online. Going forward, for applications that were tabled or withdrawn, if you are not part of the Coal Board list serve, please request to be added by emailing DOCCB@mt.gov. Also, when staff re-listened to the meeting audio from September, all tabled or withdrawn applications need to submit a letter prior to the June 16th 2016 meeting. This will be the earliest time that the Board will have funds available. A letter must be submitted by May 2, 2016; 45 days prior to the meeting date. If you have already submitted an application, just submit the letter requesting reconsideration along with any new or updated information you may have.
- Chairman Williams – the time of day or date submitted does not give priority to an application. All applications will be treated equally.

New Business

Application #0775 City of Forsyth – Sewer Vacuum Truck Purchase

- The applicant is requesting \$150,000 for the purchase of a new sewer cleaner truck with vacuum system.
- Mayor Dennis Kupitzke – the City will withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting as discussed earlier.

Action by the Board: Mr. Schaaf made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Lenhart seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0784 Big Horn County – Hardin High School Pavement Restoration

- The applicant is requesting \$435,000 for the removal and reconstruction of the road and pavement on Terry Avenue between 6th and 8th Street.
- Commissioner George Real Bird – the County will withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Stewart made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Lenhart seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0785 Big Horn County – Lodge Grass School Hill Road

- The applicant is requesting \$203,280 for the pulverizing and overlay to repair the road.
- Commissioner George Real Bird – the County will withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Stewart made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Lenhart seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0786 Big Horn County – Road and Fire Department Vehicle Replacement

- The applicant is requesting \$197,510 for the purchase of two new tender trucks for wildland and structure fires.
- Commissioner George Real Bird – the County will withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting.

Montana Coal Board

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2015

City of Colstrip Chambers, Colstrip, MT

Action by the Board: Mr. Lenhart made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Schaaf seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0781 Musselshell County – Social Services Building Construction

- The applicant is requesting \$500,000 for building renovation.
- The applicant sent a letter requesting to withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting.

Action by the Board: Mr. Schaaf made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Lenhart seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0792 City of Laurel – Water Treatment Intake Project

- The applicant is requesting \$269,000 to install a new submerged water intake at a stable location within the Yellowstone River.
- Kurt Markegard – City of Laurel, the City would like to withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting. He also provided a review of the issues from the Yellowstone River flooding in 2012 and ongoing impacts from BNSF railway. (Handouts)
- **Questions and comments from the Board** - on the application BNSF recognizes the negative impact the railroad is having on Laurel. Are they helping to some level? General Funds or maintenance costs funds can be used to help with this situation. Are the FEMA funds guaranteed?
- Kurt Markegard – FEMA funds are guaranteed however, the funds are released piecemeal at definitive points of the project. The City is also looking at a SRF grant to help. A loan may also be taken out to cover additional parts of the project. Six years ago, the City had a large rate increase in anticipation of a TSEP grant which we did receive.
- Chad Hanson – Great West Engineering, to clarify, BNSF is paying a Capital surcharge based on usage. The railway uses half the water and has been paying charges which are also helping to fund the project. Both residential and commercial users are helping to pay for the project.

Action by the Board: Vice-Chair Stewart made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Lenhart seconded. Motion passed.

Application #0793 Northern Cheyenne Utility Commission – Upgrade Accounting Software

- The applicant is requesting \$45,710 to purchase Black Mountain Software that integrates with current system to provide a more reliable system.
- Rae Peppers sent an email to the Board requesting to withdraw and resubmit for the June meeting.

Action by the Board: Mr. Lenhart made a motion to accept the withdrawal and resubmittal of this application. Mr. Schaaf seconded. Motion passed.

Board Matters

- Ms. Olson – During the March meeting, CDD staff will review the Open Meeting Law and the MEPA/Environmental Review to finish the orientation of Board members regarding those areas of information. Additionally, as requested by the Board during the orientation meeting, a mill value discussion will be added to the agenda.

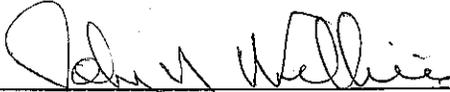
Public Comment

- Senator Ankney – SD 20, visited with the Board yesterday, December 3rd regarding Coal Board funding and HB3. Now more than ever the communities need coal board grants.

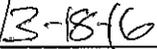
Montana Coal Board
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2015
City of Colstrip Chambers, Colstrip, MT

Adjournment:

With no other business, a motion was made by Mr. Lenhart to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Stewart seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Williams at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2016 in Billings, Montana, location to be announced.



John Williams, Board Chair



Date