



2020 Annual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2021 at GN Lodge Room

Board members present: Kourtney Simonson, Marko Manoukian, Bruce Christofferson, Bob Galt, Jackie Sorlie. Bonnie Wiederrick, Pam Smith Wolsey.

1. **Review/approve minutes July 15, 2020 and review meeting notes from November 17, 2020 (no quorum) and financial transactions as presented.**
 - a. **Minutes: July 15, 2020 - Marko Manoukian** made motion, Bruce Christofferson 2nd. Motion Passed; November 17, 2020 - Jackie Sorlie made motion, Bob Galt, 2nd. Motion passed.
 - b. **Financials: January 28, 2021 Balance sheet.** Jackie Sorlie made motion, Bob Galt 2nd. Motion passed.
2. **Montana Corporation Annual Report** – Executive Director, Pam Smith Wolsey reported the Annual report was successfully filed and PhillCo is in good standing with the state.
3. **PhillCo Annual Report** – Kourtney reported on PhillCo’s accomplishments in 2020:

PhillCo Economic Growth Council Accomplishments 2020	
Hi-Line Packing applied for and received 2 nd year of grant funding (creating 5 more jobs)	\$37, 500
MT Growth Through Agriculture grant was shifted to the St. Mary Water System for replacement of Drop 2 and Drop 5 (completed October 2020)	\$43,388
Relmaging Rural grant, two-thirds for the Malta Chamber of Commerce Geocaching Project for marketing activities (from the grant: direct marketing (branding, online and advertisements), wayfinding signage, map and brochure printing and purchase of Malta/Phillips County branded materials such as treasure boxes, medallions and trinkets.). The remaining funds will be newcomer engagement and welcoming activities (different from what the grant says – Jackie is the lead on this so she could explain in more detail if you like).	\$2,000
Covid MBIDD Rent Relief	\$2,805
Store Front Beautification grants to two businesses – Villa Theatre and MOI	\$3,054
Total	\$88, 747.00
Applied for 7 grants for 6 projects in Phillips County-- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-Line Packing 2nd year funding (awarded) • St. Mary Water System (awarded) • Buffalo Trail Water District *pending award date - May 2020 • Phillips County Carnegie Library, *pending award date - May 2020 • Phillips County (MBIDD marketing and prep activities for creating a Targeted Economic Development District (not awarded) • Relmaging Rural (awarded) 	\$868,888 (total applied 2020) \$82,888 (awarded 2020) \$30,000 (not awarded 2020) \$756,000 (pending awarding 2021)
Hi-Line Packing has created 10 new jobs 2019 -2020 <i>Maybe not a PhillCo accomplishment directly since he was relocating here anyway, but due to the grant PhillCo wrote, 6 of them to date are over \$15/hr, which is huge since Phillips County is a high poverty county</i>	
MBIDD status - has received DEQ Soil Closure Letter	

Pam also presented additional comments on some of the PhillCo accomplishments for 2020 and provided an overview of known activities for 2021 (see 2020 Annual Report – Pam Comments)

4. **Election of Directors** –Discussion to re-elect all returning directors Gary Knudsen and Jane Knudsen and for Bob Galt to replace Sharon Young (First State Bank). Marko Manoukian made motion, Jackie Sorlie 2nd. Motion passed.
5. **Certificates of Recognition** Pam reported that she delivered to recognized businesses. (1 new business and 2 under new ownership).
6. No amendments to by-laws were requested.
7. Meeting adjourned. Bruce Christofferson made motion, Bonnie Wiederrick 2nd. Motion passed.

2020 Annual Report – Pam Comments

2020 was a Busy year

Grant Writing

---Hi-Line Packing requested and received 2nd year of funding from Big Sky Trust Fund Grant. PhillCo is grant administrator and Phillips County is fiscal agent.

---7 grants for 6 projects around the County, 4 were \$100,000 or more and most grants were written in the spring, 2 were back to back with no break in between. Others had approximately 2-3 week break between deadlines.

---PhillCo partnered with Great West Engineering to write 3 grants for **Buffalo Trail Water District** for new drinking water system construction, one of those a Federal grant (very competitive, nationwide applicants, 15 grants being awarded). This total project is estimated at \$625,000, so funds are being sought from multiple sources to reduce the loan amount BTWD residents will have to repay.

One grant (TSEP) ranked 7/41 by staff for legislative funding recommendation. Grant is approved by legislature May 2021 and is expected to be awarded the full amount requested (\$200,000).

Second grant (DNRC-RRGL) was not recommended for funding by staff due to project not meeting specific criteria. Great West Engineering has worked hard to find alternatives to keep the project moving forward. PhillCo and Great West Engineering met with DNRC staff and discussed funding options for preliminary assessments to determine if specific criteria could be resolved with more information, and get RRGL (renewable resource grant and loan program) grant. Still to be determined if this will work. Grant is approved by legislature May 2021.

Additionally, PhillCo Directors committed Community Fund funds that were to be used as match funds for other grants (one a Phillips County CDBG grant that did not get funded, the second one for Chamber Tourism Grant that they did not apply for)

Several additional businesses have inquired about Store Front Beautification grants and are working to get projects done before applying. Bishop Building Supply, Hi-Line Packing, Hi-Line Market.

Covid assistance – asked and got only 1 request for assistance from PCMS. 4 months rent forgiven+ 1 month forgiven for all monthly renters (PCMS, Lang, Handley). Routinely asked Food Bank/Senior Meals and PALS and they were all good shape.

2021 Year Activities coming up

Grant writing – MEDA (Montana Economic Development Association) local projects grant - \$2000

-- Big Sky Trust Fund grant (potentially for new dentist Dr. David Holecek)

Geocaching Project assistance –marketing assistance that is funded through the ReImagining Rural Grant.

MBIDD - Through Bear Paw Brownfields Assessment Program funds

- NewFields will develop Fact Sheets giving environmental status review and marketing information targeted for Developers/Investors -IN PROGRESS
- Potential DEQ delisting through groundwater testing plan – TBD

Grant Administration - Hi-Line Packing and Buffalo Trail Water District (probably multiple grants),