



General Membership Meeting Minutes **Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at Noon at Tin Cup Bar & Grill**

Present: Mark Kunze, Marko Manoukian, Shane Anderson, Carly Bishop, Ashley Stuart, Logan Lund, Jerry Engstrom, Perry Jacobs, Jeni Anderson, Casey Gallagher, Lary Poulton, Bruce Christofferson, Donny Bagley

- **Call to Order & Welcome:** President Mark Kunze
- **Review Minutes/Financial Transactions:** Review/approve minutes from January 24th, 2017 and financial transactions as presented. Marko MM to approve as presented, Logan seconded the motion.
- **Administrative Report and Project Updates:**
 - **Meetings/Conferences**
 - **MT Missouri River Country** – meeting report –Malta approved co-op marketing grant/Jason Mitchell returning to PC for video footage in June.
 - **Bear Paw Development** – Annual Meeting – February 23rd – U.S. Senator, Steve Daines was the guest speaker; partnering with SBDC for QuickBooks class for waiting list from the Nov. session.
 - **Hi-Line Arts Trail Committee** – Committee member; application APPROVED for \$5,960 to complete the wall mural on the Art’s Furniture building- upcoming meeting April 4 to discuss project details. Other communities also awarded include Havre, Shelby and Cut Bank.
 - **Phillips County Proud Celebration** – committee member, planning begins for 2017 event. Ashley asked Perry Jacobs, RSA member and committee leader to discuss the upcoming event. Perry stated the September event is an opportunity to celebrate the great pioneers, families and businesses in Phillips County and the event includes a free meal.
- **Old Business/Ongoing Business:**
 - **Community Continued Ed Courses** – committee member of HiLine Technology Roundup- Google Class, Windows 10 class a great success. Watch for new classes including: Excel (May 4th), Gadgets (April 6th), QuickBooks (limited #, for waiting list) and a special presentation from the Blaine County Undersheriff (April 18th MHS auditorium). Ashley added that the committee has been very happy with the turnout and feedback from all of the classes; hopeful to continue in the fall with more options.
 - **MBIDD: Old Malta Airport cleanup** – Mayor Jones was unable to attend the meeting, but Ashley was able to visit with Mayor Jones for an updated report of the progress at the MBIDD. Mayor Jones explained to Ashley that Willy with NewFields will be working with Bishop Excavating to start backfilling the spots that are cleaned and cleared by the DEQ. However, two final locations will still need further digging as more contamination was detected. NewFields will do the testing on the two sites in kind, but the lab fees will need to be covered by the grant. The hope at this point is that the test results come back proving the extra digging sufficient and no further digging or testing will be required. However, if the results come back proving further digging is needed, there will not be enough money left in the current grant to complete the project. The City is waiting to hear back from DEQ for the results. The final note is to remember that even once the digging and testing has been cleared, there will not be enough money left in the grant to finalize the project with a completion report. The property will not be taken off of the Montana Superfund site until the completion report is complete.

- **Website/Facebook Page** – New likes each week/ community photos & stories – Ashley asked members to remember to share and if they have any announcements or events organizations would like PhillCo to share, please contact her office.
- **Welcome to Phillips County Sign at the Port of Morgan** – Sign is complete! Photo credits for the billboard go to Vivian Bruckner from Phillips County with Prairie Life Photography. The Malta Area Chamber is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for early spring.
- **Store Front Beautification Grant Program** – Continued interest, Community Fund approves another \$10,000 for the grant program to continue. Ashley stated to date, the program has awarded \$47,650 in matching funds since the program originated in 2012 to various businesses and organizations in Phillips County. The program has been very successful and over 33 business and organizations have benefited.
 - **Election of Officers for 2017: results**
 - President – Mark Kunze
 - Vice President – Marko Manoukian
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Shane Anderson
- **New Business:**
 - **Milk River Watershed Alliance** – President Kunze reported the Executive Committee approved a \$1,000 contribution request from the MRWA to support the production of an educational documentary, professionally produced that will convey the importance of the Milk River and the necessity for the rehabilitation of the St. Mary diversion system. Jeni Anderson, the coordinator for the MRWA explained the documentary project and the future plans of the MRWA to promote the video to the surrounding communities and schools. Jeni explained how the group has raised over \$33,000 to help produce the video estimating \$36,000. They also have plans to create short clip videos to use on social media, as well as a video premiere at area movie theaters.
 - **Non-Profit and Community Organization Summit** - Ashley reported the summit on March 14th was a great success with over 11 organizations and community groups represented. Dina with the Chamber and Ashley are working on putting together a workshop on board training for the area non-profit and community groups and they also plan to organize an annual event for the groups to meet, discuss and collaborate future plans. Ashley stated she is working with Paul Lachapelle from MSU Extension in Bozeman to come to the area mid-fall for a free training.
 - **MEDA 2017 Spring Conference – May 2-3rd in Great Falls, MT** – Ashley asked the Board of Directors about attending the MEDA Conference and the benefits of training available at the conference. She also pointed out the proximity of this conference to others in the past and how it would work well with her schedule. Lary MM to send Ashley to the MEDA conference, Marko seconded the motion; motion carried.
 - **Next Meeting: Thursday, May 25th at Noon at the Tin Cup Bar & Grill**
 - **Other** – Ashley wanted to inform the group that she has been working with a committee to start the process of seeking out a potential grain/pulse facility for Phillips County. She said the committee has met and discussed the proper steps of getting the process started and is excited about the potential future for this project and the great need for this for our communities and ag producers. The committee consists of Tom Depuydt, Russell Snedigar, Marko Manoukian, Anne Boothe, Bob Galt, Richard Dunbar and Brian Eggebrecht.
- **WHAT'S NEW IN AND AROUND PHILLIPS COUNTY:**
- **Jerry Engstrom – CHS Big Sky Manager**, Mark welcomed Jerry to Phillips County and thanked him for coming to our meeting to introduce himself to the community. Jerry spoke about his position at CHS Big Sky, his previous job experience and how he is familiar with the area being a past producer from Glasgow, MT.
- **Thomas Pandolfi Pianist Performance – April 3rd @ 7pm MHS**
- **Malta Chamber – Donkey Basketball Event – April 8th @ 6pm**
- **“The Dark Side of the Internet” – Blaine County Undersheriff Billmayer – April 18th @ 6pm MHS**
- **Adjourn**