

MEETING MINUTES
Community & Infrastructure Solution Group
April 11, 2005
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Kate Wilson (Chairperson), Erin Hayes, Jeff Daniels, Jack Eakman, Dick Fast, Carla Fritz, Steve Johnson, Al Malinowski, Julie Pfingst, and Kay Reeves.

Kate Wilson called the meeting to order. Kay Reeves volunteered to take the minutes. Kate asked if there were any comments or changes to the minutes of the previous meeting on March 28. A suggestion was made to change one bullet point on page 3 and the change was duly made.

Next Kate took up the agenda item regarding our action plan. Initial discussion primarily focused on how the issue of local government might be taken to the community. Present participants in the “Study Circles” sessions regarding secondary education made the case that this methodology should be employed for community input on local governance. They explained the process and outcomes. One important concern raised was that closure eventually be achieved. It was generally agreed that the process could be very useful but a decision could be made later after the important stage of fact-gathering was completed.

The discussion turned to the fact-gathering phase, in light of Resort Tax funding deadlines for the upcoming year. After talking through needed factual information, the group agreed that there are three specific areas where professional assistance is required with regard to the possible parameters of local self-rule. These are legal, mapping and financial data.

With regard to Montana law, three questions need answers: (1) Under current law, how can Big Sky govern itself? (2) What would it take to govern itself across two counties? and (3) Are there new forms of local self-determination that Big Sky might consider?

In the area of cost, two key questions require answers: (1) What are the current costs to run the community, and (2) What are the projected costs for local government to take these costs on?

It was agreed that the answers to all of the above questions are dependent on the geography of the area to be covered, hence the need for mapping. However, based on prior discussions with MSU’s Local Government Center, it was suggested that a financial professional could work with them to align costs and geography on an apples to apples basis.

Dick Fast agreed to contact the law firm in Helena identified by the Montana League of Cities and Towns as knowledgeable in the areas identified by our legal questions. He will pose our questions and obtain a projected cost for obtaining the answers. Jack

Eakman agreed to do the same on the financial issues, working through his local public accounting contacts.

It was agreed to approach the Resort Tax Board via the Chamber of Commerce for the funding identified. Our application needs to be to the Chamber by April 18. Dick and Jack will get back to Kate with estimated costs in the two days.

It was also agreed to focus our Action Plan on the fact-gathering phase and continue to operate under the auspices of the Chamber at least until it is complete. Kate will edit the draft and circulate it over the next two days. It is due to the Chamber on Thursday, April 14.

Next, Dr. Daniels' action plan for a local health needs assessment was discussed. He distributed a draft action plan, which includes the Clinic's offer to cover half of the estimated \$20,000 expense. After discussion, it was agreed to incorporate this infrastructure need as part of our submitted Action Plan and to request the remaining necessary funding from the Resort Tax Board. Dr. Daniels will edit the draft health needs assessment action plan in the next two days for Kate to include in her submittal to the Chamber.*

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 25 at 5:00pm. Kate adjourned tonight's meeting at 7:20pm.

*Since the April 11th meeting, Dr. Daniels has decided not to submit his action plan to the Chamber. He has made other plans, which will be discussed at the next meeting.