

MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

To: Commissioners
From: Charity Fechter, Planning Director
Date: September 7, 2012
Subject: **Planning Board Summary –August 27, 2012**

The regular Planning Board meeting began at 6:05 p.m. with 6 members present, Laurie Schmidt presiding. John Lounsbury arrived at 6:30 p.m. Kevin Germain and Lance Craighead were in the audience.

- **US 287 Wildlife Study** – Lance Craighead gave an update on the project. Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has contracted the study with the Western Transportation Institute and Craighead Institute. The purpose of the study is to determine the effect of major highways in the Madison Valley on wildlife mortality and movement patterns. The potential outcome is to design highway improvements to reduce wildlife collisions while increasing wildlife connectivity. The highways being studied are US 287 from Hebgen Lake to Norris and MT 87 from Reynolds Pass to US 287. Roadkill surveys and wildlife movement monitoring will be done for 2 years. Recommendations, including proposed mitigation, are due in September 2014.
- **Growth Policy Update**
 - The preliminary draft document was reviewed and changes made. The revised draft will be reviewed at a work session, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13.
 - The tentative public hearing date was moved to October 20, to avoid conflicting with another hearing scheduled on October 27.
- **Annual Report**

After some minor changes, the annual report was approved (see attached).
- **Position Description (Development Coordinator- per joint Commissioner/Planning Board meeting)**

When the Commissioners voted not to pass the streamside protection ordinance, they directed the Planning Board to incorporate the standards as guidelines. At the joint Planning Board/Commissioner meeting in May, there was agreement that the best way to encourage appropriate development (protecting riparian areas, setbacks from streams, avoiding disturbance that encourages weed growth, seismic issues, etc.) was to work with landowners directly before they had finalized their construction plans. The Planning Board developed the attached Development Coordinator position description for Commission review. As discussed in May, the Commission agreed that the County would provide some funding for the position.
- **Planning Board Member Reports**
 - Lane Adamson – The workshop on water/water rights and weeds went well. There is a great deal of interest in water rights. A possible followup involving realtors and others is contemplated.
 - John Lounsbury – Reported there will be a short memorial at the beginning of their Board meeting on September 11, 2012. The meeting starts at 6:30.
 - Kathy Looney – Asked about whether there had been applications received for the two vacant positions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.