

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2012

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 9th. Participants were Tom Harrington, Lee Good, Leonard Wortman, Tom Phillips, Dave Kirsch and Ted Dodge. The meeting started with approval of the May meeting minutes.

Lee G. provided an update on the current fiber situation around Whitehall. The internet provider he was using is closing operations and he has changed over to Three Rivers. He has twelve fibers going into his building on Legion Avenue that are linked into the internet hotel in Helena. This change has increased the potential internet capability for the area and can be further expanded to develop a smart building in conjunction with the Borden's redevelopment project. This expanded capacity will also allow offering DSL with increased capacity to local businesses that could assist with expanding business operations in the area. Discussed the NWE fiber link to the Rocky Mountain Super Computing Center (RMSC) is still an important part of the virtual Natural Resource Center at the Sunlight Business Park (SPB) and should continue to be pursued with Vernon Hogge, NWE IT. Tom H. will continue to work with NWE.

Alternative energy discussions focused on the LGT wind project that is being worked for the Sunlight Business Park. A meeting was held with another wind developer also interested in looking at the SBP as a potential development site. The Borden Hotel project is still looking at alternative energy as a key component and will involve solar and other sources as feasible.

Other items discussed: Discussed the Boulder water study is progressing and that applications for the next cycle are being accepted and that it would be a good time to review the lower Jefferson River application. Ted D. discussed an upcoming BLM meeting on June 20th to look at a water quality monitoring program. Discussed the Piedmont wetlands project has renewed interest from the MTFWP and Ducks Unlimited. Tom H. will work on setting up a coordination meeting that would get interested parties together to discuss the project. The property is owned by Barrick and discussion with the lands manager indicates they are also interested in the project.

The meeting was productive and the next meeting will be held in the Extension Office conference room Wednesday, July 11th at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harrington