

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2013

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 11th. Participants were Tom Harrington, Ed Handl, Marcy Lamb, Todd Breitenfeldt, Leonard Wortman, Lee Good and Sherri Rhodes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 AM by Tom H. The minutes of the August 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Lee G. gave project updates on the school internet and football field projects. They attended the Town Council meeting this week seeking permission to place equipment on the blue water tank to improve the internet backboard system in town. If they allow it, repeaters would then be placed around his service areas to strengthen the existing internet signal in town. Additionally, he finished the "Top 10 Reasons to Locate your Data Center in Whitehall" brochure. It was distributed to members for discussion. Marcy L. gave an update on the new wireless project at the school. Still working a few kinks out, but can be handled. A Fort Benton company came in and ran wire through the school to supply wireless access throughout the entire school. She said you should be able to stream while walking from one end of the school to another, but they haven't tested that yet. They are happy with it so far. This will help with computerized testing as well as distance learning, etc. She said it is strong enough to support the school needs and a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) network, although the school is reviewing the BYOD policy.

Tom and Lee brought members' attention back to the brochure. Tom is planning to take a bunch of them to the Economic Summit in Butte next week. They are planning a trip to Big Fork soon, but no date has been set.

Tom H. provided an update on the status of the Borden Hotel project. The contractors were all in the building last week and discussed the internet needs of the building. They will be looking at running a fiber line directly to the building if possible. Tom suggested that Lee G. meet up with Dan, the electrician for the project.

Tom H. briefed the committee that the SBP RFQ closes this Friday, and he will present them to the TIF Board at next week's meeting. There is one interested party at this time. More to follow.

Leonard W. gave an update on the Pipestone/Jefferson Slough projects and water monitoring projects. He stated that they have selected a consulting firm to do the design work for both projects – the same consulting firm for both, as there are benefits to using the same outfit. There was a good turnout at last night's Pipestone public meeting. There will be a public meeting for the Jefferson Slough project on September 26<sup>th</sup>. They plan to complete design work this summer, with dirt turning being conducted next summer. Would like to get enough work done before the 2015/16 Legislative Session, where additional funding will be requested to further the projects.

Todd B. completed a grant proposal through BLM for \$50,000 over five years for students to monitor water quality twice a year at eight stations; four spots on the Whitetail and four on the Pipestone. They are just waiting on the DUNS and SANS number verifications, then it should all come through. Todd B. briefed the committee on other school concerns. The wind tower is yielding about 20 kwh per day. Lee will be installing some cameras soon that will point toward the wind tower and highway and will be linked to school website along with a weather monitoring station, which is being researched now. He has added two new insects to the insectory.

Marcy L. reported that cogeneration possibilities will be discussed for the school use. Tom suggested she look at Capstone website for school testimonials regarding cogeneration use and financial savings. Enrollment is around

400. Todd announced his plan to reinitiate the Science Fair this year in the junior/senior high schools, and a Science Camp for next year.

The meeting was productive and having no other business to discuss, adjourned at 7:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Wednesday, October 16th at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Rhodes