

# COMMUNITY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

## MINUTES

Thursday December 10, 2020

Meeting was held via Zoom and Conference Room and hosted by JLDC staff. Attendees were: Tom Harrington, Alison Richardson, Eric Seidensticker, Chris Lamoreaux, Bruce Binkowski, Jack Smith, Leonard Wortman, Nick Hensleigh, John Kreis, Chuck Buus, Jerry Muethling, Diana McFarland, Paul Babb, Lee Good, Bobbi Neuman, Marta Bertoglio, Hannah Nieskens, Bill Dawson and Gerry Keough.

1. Tom H. called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made. November minutes were approved.
2. **GSM Operations** – Chuck B. presented.
  - a. **Safety Report** -No reportable injuries for November with 1337 days no lost time, 1030 days no medical report and no first aid. Strict COVID protocol being followed. No active cases.
  - b. **Current Operations and GSM Update** – All mills, concentrator and decking are gone. Only concrete is left.
  - c. **Employment Status** - 17 full time workers and 19-20 contractors on site. First quarter should have some scoping ready. Will need participation from the public. Water infrastructure is complete.
3. **GSM Environmental Update** – Jerry M. presented
  - a. **Permit Updates** – All permits are going well. Three contractors have been identified and the mine can weigh in on who is chosen by the State.
  - b. **Reclamation Update** – No reportable spills.
  - c. **Other Items** – Good weather has put them ahead. Been able to seed.
  - d. **Jefferson Local Development Corporation Update** – Deadlines being met. Working on projects with Montana Dept. of Commerce. Put in an application with Main Street for the Star Theater. Has structural issues. Montana Preservation Alliance will help. Master plan for downtown Whitehall in the works. Working with Headwaters on this. Brownfield application is in the works. Waiting on EPA for Bldgs 5,6 & 9 on So. Campus. Western Legacy Center architects are working on a financial feasibility report. Wind guys have 2 prototypes up.
4. **Whitehall Town Update** – Public Works is working on winterizing the town. Cleaning out the sewers and alleyways. A fire hydrant was hit so it will have to be replaced. New banners down Legion and signs up at Town Hall and the Cemetery were paid for with a TIF grant. Mayor Mary wishes everyone happy holidays.
5. **Whitehall Schools Update** – Thanks to IGA and GSM for their generous donations to help feed 40 needy families for Thanksgiving. Practice for winter sports has begun. No tournaments will be held. Health is better with only 1 teacher sick and 21 students in quarantine.
6. **Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Update** – Calendars are now available and can be picked up at the Chamber. Cost is \$10. They are working on the Whitehall phone book. Deadline is December 31 for ads and information to be submitted. Christmas Stroll was cancelled so there are virtual events happening. Settings was selected out of 56 businesses statewide and is being recognized for her hard work. This is quite an honor.
7. **Jefferson County Commission/Events** – Health department still slammed. They have cut back on contact tracing. Not enough manpower. Whitetail road is complete, with just a few minor finishes that will be done in the spring. Over 100+ vendors have been contacted about potentially selling in the proposed Western Legacy Center. Only Montana made items will be sold there. Southwest Montana group has put together a list of events happening county wide. Jefferson Co. Radio now playing holiday music. Fairgrounds busy wrapping up projects. Will be airing the upcoming highschool sporting events.
8. **Pipestone Creek Sedimentation/Jefferson Slough Project Update** – No report.
9. **Fish Wildlife Parks Update** – Lewis & Clark Caverns is offering a modified candlelight tour. Sat-Mon before Christmas and the Fri-Mon after Christmas. COVID restrictions in place. Reservations are required. There has been a proposal to implement testing in response to chronic wasting disease found primarily in white tail deer. Samples have detected 20-25% in the Twin Bridges area. Dec 15 – Feb 15, 2021, input can be voiced. Updating Elk management statewide. In beginning process.

10. **Other Items** – Northwestern donated to Whitehall Food Pantry. They are wrapping up their yearly donations. Marta is getting up to speed in her position.

Adjourn 9:01 am. Next meeting will be January 14, 2021. Have a great Holiday Season Everyone!!