

River Area Council of Governments
November 17, 2020

Members present: J. Der, B. Ferguson, R. Grunert, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, P. Smith, and K. Vogt

Chairman McIlroy called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:03pm.

M. Dietrich summarized his written report and questioned if the Council wanted to meet with L. Gava, Joule Assets for a CCA presentation.

Chairman McIlroy announced that there will not be a December meeting.

Cassandra Buell and Kevin Brouillard, Lewis County Planning, discussed the status of the GBT railroad bed. Offers by the County to purchase the facility have been declined by the owners. They had no information regarding the proposal from Ron Trottier to operate rail pedal cars on the line.

C. Buell reported that Lewis County is beginning preliminary discussions regarding Community Choice Aggregation and has a webinar scheduled with Joules Assets on November 17, 2020.

W. McIlroy stated that he understands that Mr. Trottier has purchased the railroad depot in Carthage. He questioned whether the proposal will draw enough participation to be a success and noted that a portion of the tracks has already been torn up.

R. Schell reported that Mr. Trottier does not have rights to use the track at this time but has also invested in other Lewis County properties.

C. Fowler, Tug Hill Commission, discussed the Black River trail and discussions to extend it to Fort Drum and further along Route 3.

Members concluded that the following should be sought:

- Contact information for railroad
- Process to acquire tracks
- R. Trottier project status
- CCA partnering with Lewis County. W. McIlroy favors a united agreement with a single company. B. Ferguson supported giving Joules Assets the opportunity to present. He stated that it would be advantageous for the town/village to use the same vendor.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by B. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Christina Vargulick
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RACOG Secretary