

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2011
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 10:05 AM and ADJOURNED at 11:40 PM on March 10, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bozeman: Sara Casey

Billings: Connie Wethern

Butte: Don Berryman

Great Falls: Melissa Clark and Jan Wenaas

Helena: Debra Ekblom, Darwin Nelson, Rudy Shiner, Barb Varnum and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

Missoula: Jason Billehus

Baker: Barb Olind

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Janet Carlson, Sylvia Danforth, Isaiah Devereaux, Keough Duffy, Kimme Evermann, Rep. Tim Furey, Roger Holt, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Jeff Sturm, Diana Tavary, Timm Vogelsberg, Sen. Carol Williams and Brenda Walters

STAFF PRESENT:

Helena: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS PRESENT:

Baker: Wendy Olind

Billings: Guest with Connie

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **March** agenda consisted of the Executive Director's Report, Agency Reports, and member news.

Chair Connie Wethern convened the meeting with welcome and introductions were made by each site. A Quorum was not present so work was by consensus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Deborah Swingley gave the Executive Directors report which included handouts that were emailed to members prior to the meeting and a PowerPoint presentation, which was visible to members. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Reports were presented by **Barb Varnum, Vocational Rehabilitation** and **Sara Casey, Office of Public Instruction**. Written reports were submitted to Council offices by non-attending members. Copies of all written reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes

MEMBER NEWS:

Jan Wenaas, Great Falls:

Jan shared that she was surprised at how good the article was in the Apostrophe Magazine about Jody. She retired from the Forest Service the end of December and in January went with family to Ethiopia so they could adopt a child. Jan will have a total of 11 grandchildren by fall.

Melissa Clark, Great Falls:

Melissa shared that Sister Johnelle is having severe heart issues and the doctors are trying to stabilize her blood pressure. In May they will have a child psychologist moving into their basement and living with them. Melissa has been hired by the Montana School of the Deaf & Blind as a part time interpreter.

Jason Billehus, Missoula:

Jason shared that he has been helping to take care of his Dad.

Don Berryman, Butte:

Don shared that it has been nice and quiet in Butte, at least until March 17th.

Sara Casey, Helena:

Sara shared she is going to Butte on the 17th for her first Montana St. Patrick's celebration. Bannack had his first haircut and trip to the dentist, he did well for both.

Barb Olind, Baker:

Barb shared she is doing well and can't wait for the snow to be gone and Spring to come. She will also be very busy in June with her grandson's graduation from college and an all community class reunion. She also shared that Melissa Clark and Sister Johnelle went to Denver for FAES and did a digital presentation.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Helena:

Nanette shared she is traveling with her kids to wrestling matches across the state. She is still busy with the Autism Aspergers Parents Support Group.

Rudy Shiner, Helena:

Rudy shared his cousin just got married. He is trying to get a volunteer job with the Helena Police Department. His nephew is growing and doing well. He will not be moving to Missoula because his brother got a job with CVS and may be moved to a new city.

Deb Ekblom, Boulder:

Deb shared her grandson Dekland is 10 months old and almost walking, she has a granddaughter due May 22nd. She bought a new used truck and has been helping to take care of her sister who is ill.

Barb Varnum, Helena:

Barb shared that her husband and her are planning their next big trip which will be to climb Mt Kilimanjaro or a cruise to Australia or New Zealand.

Darwin Nelson, Helena:

Darwin shared he has new glasses, had a bad cold 2 weeks ago and had to go to the doctor.

Connie Wethern, Glasgow:

Connie shared that Glasgow wants Spring to come slowly so they don't flood. FEMA has come into their area and recommended that everyone get sump pumps. Her husband Dennis

was in the hospital with E. Coli last week. Milk River Inc will have their annual fundraiser on April 8, 2011 and a sump pump & boat will be the major auction items.

COUNCIL WRAPUP:

The next meeting will be June 9 -10, 2011 in Helena.