

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Study Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2015
Courthouse Courtroom**

Present: Heather Edwards, Dan Tocher, Linda Sather

Absent: Terry Galle, Adam Vauthier, Kevin Hart

Others Present: Julie Hoffman – Secretary, Rose Nyman, Gary Wenger, Jan Stergar, and Sandi McNamara

I. Call to Order

- A. Heather Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Linda Sather moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2015 meeting; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Financial Report

- A. Heather Edwards presented the Financial Report to the members of the Study Commission. Expenditures for February included printing and set-up fees for e-mail accounts.

IV. Old Business

A. Department Head Meetings

- i. Abbie Phillip – MSU Extension Agent for Anaconda Deer Lodge County

Ms. Phillip was not present at the meeting. Heather Edwards will contact her to get her rescheduled.

- ii. Ben Krakowka – County Attorney

Heather Edwards reviewed the County Attorney's responsibilities as outlined in the Charter, which states that the County Attorney "*shall be the prosecuting attorney and the legal counsel to Anaconda Deer Lodge County and shall have those duties set by state law.*"

The Charter also states that the County Attorney is elected for a four (4) year term on a non-partisan ballot. In the event of a vacancy, the Commissioners shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next regular ADLC election.

County Attorney Krakowka informed the Study Commission that anyone running for this position must be a licensed attorney in Montana with at least five years of experience.

Heather Edwards asked County Attorney Krakowka whether it would make sense for the second vote getter to be considered to fill a vacancy. County Attorney Krakowka stated that in a small community such as Anaconda, the winner of an election is usually winning by a large margin. Therefore, the second vote getter would be the candidate that the voters did not vote for in the first place.

Linda Sather inquired as to whether the Charter could include language with regard to qualifications/requirements when running for the office of CEO other than being 18 years old. County Attorney Krakowka stated that although it may be appropriate to create some minimal requirements for the position of CEO, it creates a situation wherein the County is not relying on the population to make an informed decision. In doing so, this may keep someone from seeking office that might be really good. County Attorney Krakowka will look into other communities that may have added requirements for elections and report back to the Study Commission.

County Attorney Krakowka went on to report that the County Attorney's Office is fully staffed to include himself, a civil attorney, a deputy attorney, a victim witness advocate, as well as two administrative support staff. He stated that this gives his office the ability to respond and act rather than file charges and react. He also stated that Ellen Donohue has tried over 100 cases.

Rose Nyman – 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman asked County Attorney Krakowka if there was anything in the state statute providing for requirements for candidates running for CEO or Mayor. She also thanked County Attorney Krakowka for attending Commission Meetings.

County Attorney Krakowka stated that although state statute does not mandate that he attend Commission Meetings, he finds it easier to be proactive and be in attendance.

B. Civic Meetings – Updates from Various Group Meetings

Heather Edwards informed the group that she attended the Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Kiwanis Meeting, and Knights of Columbus Meeting. She stated she did not receive much feedback at the meetings and has received no follow-up phone calls. However, she stated it was a great way to start getting people involved.

Linda Sather and Dan Tocher met with the American Legion and the Retired Men's Breakfast Club. They received some feedback from the American Legion. Dan Tocher stated that one individual asked how districting was set up. Linda Sather stated that they received a lot of feedback and questions at the Retired Men's Breakfast Club Meeting. She stated that many people were concerned to learn about the minimal qualifications that are required to run for CEO.

Dan Tocher inquired as to whether the Charter will be available for viewing on the website. Heather Edwards stated that the both the Charter and the Administrative Code are both posted on the ADLC website.

Gary Wenger, 814 Rickards – Mr. Wenger suggested that members of the Study Commission go to the Senior Citizen Center to present information. Linda Sather agreed to call and set up a time. Mr. Wenger stated that the information presented has been educational.

The group discussed meeting with the men's and ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Elks Club in April, as well as the Literature and American Government Class at the high school.

C. Department Head Meeting in April – Commissioners

Heather Edwards informed the group that the next meeting will be a full agenda with Commissioners.

Rose Nyman – 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman suggested placing a special meeting notice in the Leader stating that the Commissioners will be in attendance at the next meeting.

V. New Business

A. Civic Group: Search & Rescue – Marty Mavrinac, Sr.

Mr. Mavrinac was unable to attend this evening's meeting. He will work with Heather Edwards to reschedule.

B. Citizen Input Questionnaire

Heather Edwards informed the group that it is cost-prohibitive to mail out the questionnaire. Therefore, she suggested printing the questionnaire and having it available in public places such as the library, the Courthouse and the Water Department. She stated that it is time sensitive since the Study Commission has to publish its tentative report by June and therefore would like to get input from fellow Study Commission members tonight in order to move forward.

Linda Sather stated the questions should be specific to what will put be forth to the voters with regard to the Charter and questioned whether supplemental questions should be on the questionnaire. She also stated that it may be difficult to track the results if there are too many questions on the survey.

Dan Tocher stated that the purpose of the questionnaire should not be to "take on" all the problems of the County.

Julie Hoffman – 616 Elm St.: Ms. Hoffman stated that it is important to obtain the supplementary information from the public as well as the core information that the Study Commission is hoping to obtain from the questionnaire. In addition, Ms. Hoffman addressed Linda Sather's concern with regard to tracking the survey results and suggested setting up a simple Access database to track the results. Ms. Hoffman volunteered to do this.

Rose Nyman – 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman stated that the supplementary questions can be used as a tool to provide direction to the Study Commission. She stated that the public would not have approved the Study Commission if they did not want to see changes to the Charter. Ms. Nyman suggested printing the questionnaire on colored paper.

Gary Wenger – 904 Rickards: Mr. Wenger suggested leaving the questionnaire as is. He stated that this is an educational process for the community and the questionnaire serves to make the community feel involved in the process.

Sandi McNamara asked Ms. Edwards how the questionnaires will get returned to the Study Commission. Ms. Edwards stated that they can be dropped off at the location they were picked up or mailed back in. She stated she is able to volunteer her time if need be.

Jan Stergar stated that the supplementary questions should remain on the questionnaire as it will provide direction for the Study Commission. She stated she is able to volunteer her time if need be.

Heather Edwards stated that a cover letter will be attached to the questionnaire explaining why the Study Commission is undertaking this process.

Linda Sather moved to approve the questionnaire for publication; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion approved unanimously.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Linda Sather – nothing to report.

Dan Tocher – Mr. Tocher thanked fellow Study Commission members for the opportunity to speak at the civic group meetings. He stated it was his first time speaking publicly. Linda Sather and Heather Edwards stated that Dan did a great job.

Heather Edwards – Ms. Edwards thanked all of those that participated in the meetings.

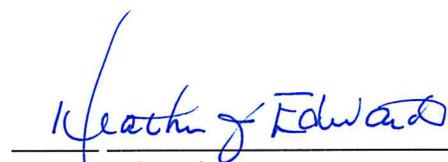
VI. Public Comment

Rose Nyman – 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman thanked the Study Commission for the quality of tonight's meeting and stated that it was the most productive meeting thus far. She suggested that the Study Commission take the Citizen Input Questionnaire to the Children's Fair, which is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln School.

VII. Adjournment

Dan Tocher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.; seconded by Linda Sather.


Julie Hoffman
Secretary


Heather Edwards
Study Commission Chair