January 6, 2015

Commissioner Gartner opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., with Adam Gartner, Doug Buxbaum and Gary Kartevold present. Also present were, Nathan Stortz, Larry Evans, Jason Stuart, Ranger Review Reporter, and Shirley Kreiman, Clerk & Recorder.

Public Hearing-Budget Increases-Commissioner Gartner stated that they were holding a public hearing for proposed budget increases. Shirley Kreiman stated that the Sheriff’s department requested a budget increase for receipt of drug forfeiture funds amounting to $26,307.41 and $1,800 for a donation of cameras, and the Sanitarian was requesting an increase for an unanticipated reimbursement of $795.00. There was no public comment on the matter.

Prior Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made to accept and approve minutes for December 16, 2014. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Administrative Items:
Travel Request-travel requests were approved on January 5th for Clarice Utgaard and Trish Olson to travel to Billings January 26-28 for training on impact of child maltreatment for ages birth-5years.

Form L-2 Bob Gilbert-The commissioners signed Form L-2 designating Bob Gilbert to act as a lobbyist on behalf of Dawson County.

Letter of Understanding Teamsters Local 190-A letter of understanding between Dawson County and Teamsters Local 190 was signed on December 4th, parties agreed to take out of the current contract the following:

A: Article 10-compensation, A-1 Wages-Employees shall be paid at 90% of the Sheriff’s base salary.

B: Overtime 3: Limits: other than provisions of the agreement, the County may by whatsoever means attempt to limit overtime impacting the general fund so there will not be an excess of ten aggregate hours of work qualifying for overtime payment during any work week.

The parties agreed to add to the current contract the following: Article 10-Compensation

A: 1. Wages: Any Deputy that was hired before December 1, 2014 will continue to be paid at 90% of the Sheriff’s base salary.

D: 2. Other: When an employee is called back and returns to work, compensation shall be for a minimum of three hours.

Cell Phone’s-Any deputy has the option to use a county issued cell phone or get a stipend from the county at the rate offered to the Sheriff per month to use their personal cell phone.

Old Business:
Airport Lease-Doug Buxbaum stated that he was at the last board meeting and they reviewed the lease and the board was ok with the way it was written.

Road Ordinance #8-Commissioner Gartner stated this was still on hold.

New Business:

Resolution #2015-1 Electing Chairman, Setting Hours, Meeting Dates, Per Diem/Travel Rates, Incarceration rates, etc.-A motion was made to adopt Resolution #2015-1 setting meeting dates of 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, Commissioner offices hours of Mon-Thu, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., designating Adam J. Gartner as chairman, Douglas A. Buxbaum as vice-chair, reimbursement and travel rates of .575 cents/mile and incarceration rates of $60.00 per day. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2015-2 Budgetary Amendment-Commissioner Gartner stated that upon there being no comments at the public hearing held at the opening of this meeting, he would entertain
a motion to adopt the resolution to increase the Drug Forfeiture Fund by $26,307.41, Public Safety fund for $1,800 for donation received for cameras, and General Fund, Sanitarian budget increase for $795.00 for unknown reimbursement of costs. A motion was made to accept the amendment to increase the budgets. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Health Grant Immunization Program Master Contract**-July 1, 2012-June 30, 2019-Timber Dempewolf, Health Director was present. She stated this is an annual contract. They will be receiving a $1,300.00 increase. A motion was made to approve the contract. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Fairgrounds-Land Swap**-Commissioner Gartner stated that they were approached by some property owners who live near the fairgrounds. They asked if the county would consider trading 3 acres of land from the fairgrounds parking lot in exchange for 5 acres of land on the river side of road. (Redneck Pipeline property) Nathan stated that as a member of the fair board they have met to discuss this and they do not feel that it would be in their best interest to swap any land. The recommendation from the board was to leave it as is. Commissioner Kartevold stated he would leave it as is. Commissioner Buxbaum stated that he felt the value of the parking lot is higher than the triangle piece as it has water and sewer connections. The value of the 5 acres doesn’t offset the value of what the county has. Commissioner Gartner stated the county would need equal or better value to consider it. A motion was made to refuse the offer to trade any property. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:**
- Letter to CTEP designating Dianna Broadie, County Planner as the Environmental Certifying Official responsible for all activities associated with the environmental review process to be completed in conjunction with the development of the approved Jefferson School Walking Path project.
- Certificate of Completion from the Commission on courts of limited jurisdiction of the Montana Supreme Court for Hon. Glen Ed Williamson certification test on Nov. 21, 2014

**Road Report**-None

**Public Comment**-None

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2015.

________________________________________
Adam J. Gartner, Chairman

________________________________________
Douglas A. Buxbaum, Member

________________________________________
Gary Kartevold, Member

ATTEST:
________________________________________
Shirley A. Kreiman, Clerk & Recorder
Commissioner Gartner opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m., with Adam Gartner, Doug Buxbaum and Gary Kartevold present. Also present were, James Slupczynski, Bud Anderson, J Quale, Bob Ackerman, Tim Temple, Jerry Geiger, Gloria Ladow, Tessa Hajek, Arlene Giser, Kyle Milne, Scott Lee, Art Gehnert, Dick Stecher, Shannon Kadrmas, Karen Ohin, Tim Mattick, Amy Deines, Lise Kelstrup, Francis Peterson, Jim Gehnert, Bekki Franks, Mark Franks, Al Davis, Hanna Weber, Rachel Torres, Aletha Buckley, Ron Unruh, Ted True, Bill Salvin, Kelly Sullivan Ted & Barbara Sell, Geri Cullinan, Mary Kubesh, Lara Crighton, Deb Dion, Lora Smith, Patty Winchell, James Swanson, Terry Osborn, Joe Sharbono, Cindy Gregory, Dena Hoff, Andrew Fletcher, Jennifer Fletcher, Angie Decker, Stephan Bradley, Jeni Garcin-Flatow, Linda Prescott, Mary Cale Mannion, Anthony Humes, Justin Cross, Kyle Berger, Jim Ekland, Frank Crisafuli, Jason Stuart, Emilie Boyles, and Shirley Kreiman, Clerk & Recorder.

Commissioner Gartner stated that they were going to open the meeting with an update on the Bridger Pipeline Spill. Paul Peronard with Environment Protection Agency and Ken Dockweiler with Bridger Pipeline, Jeff Gates with Disaster Emergency Services and several other agencies involved with the response were present.

Note: This is not verbatim only a summary of the comments.

Ken Dockweiler opened with a review of the Pipeline response. On Saturday their monitoring discovered a pipeline rupture. They notified some of the locals and officials. They are now well on their way to containment, but having ice on the river has made it difficult.

Paul Peronard with EPA stated he wanted to present 1-the timeline of events and notifications and 2-What we are doing about it.

Timeline: They received the initial notice about the event at 11 on Saturday. A notice was sent to the National Response Center. They sent notice to the State and local authorities.

The initial call was due to a pressure line drop as monitored by the Bridger Pipeline. Based on metering they had an estimate of barrels lost and barrels remaining in the pipeline. They initially had people in the air looking for visible oil. You can look at the site though and you will not see a thing. Officials were sent to the Water Treatment plant to do standard testing. There was no physical evidence or notice of odor which would be the initial typical indicators. He has since realized that it was probably due to the high Chlorine and rust contents that masked those noticeable traits. Everything looked normal from the operations standpoint. Saturday night, they had a spill and were doing monitoring and evaluations. Sunday afternoon is when they began receiving calls from the public. The break was 14 feet under and they felt it was unlikely to get into the plant and acknowledged that assessment was wrong. The Sanitarian and City Public Works said something was wrong and they needed to get on it, something was sucked into the service. Monday morning we began screening and testing in homes and the hospital and various sources with results of hydro carbon in the plant and water. Water was ordered, and a no consumption warning was issued and folks got involved to get the plant cleaned up. Officials arrived to begin clean up at the plant on Tuesday morning (today) and by this afternoon the majority of clean up has been done. Samples were flown out on Monday morning as the nearest lab is located in Billings. We now have a portable lab on site.

In the sequence of things, they should be opening and clearing the lines and hopefully the plant will be on line tomorrow afternoon, if all goes well. If there are unforeseen complications it could be 2-3 days. We will keep providing drinking water to the residents. The Benzine level is 10-15 parts per billion. It is deemed safe if there are 5 parts per billion. It has been deemed that the current level is safe in the short term, which we consider to be 30 days. It does not present a severe risk. These are broad risk calculations that did not present a severe risk for the short term. It cannot operate at this level for long term, so we hope to have the plant back online and in compliance soon. The Glendive Water Plant did a good job of monitoring and my initial response for future lessons is to have equipment on site to test the organic matter right away. In my history of spill responses, this was typical and to the good side. It didn’t go well as it did get in the water supply. Bridger has stepped up and they are footing the bill. That doesn’t always happen and I know for you folks it can’t be quick enough.
Bob with state DES brought in a person Saturday and they followed protocol. 4 to 5 technicians are here. Messaging and processing has been somewhat slow, but having the mobile lab here is invaluable. We wish we could do it better and faster. Governor Bullock was informed and has been here.

Questions were fielded from the public:

Deb Dion- I noticed a bad smell and posted a question on Facebook, if anyone else was smelling it? A neighbor said she called the police and they knew nothing about it. By 4:00 I was bombarded with messages of other complaints and it wasn’t until Monday afternoon that we received notice not to drink the water. We were drinking water until this time. How can we have a better response. Why wasn’t something on TV? Why was it until 5:00 on Monday? How can we have a better system than on Facebook? What can we do and how can we make this better? The governor said there was an emergency. How do we find out about it? We are notified if there is a tornado or a winter storm. Why did some not have the bad smell?

Commissioner Gartner- We did get it out on Sunday evening. Up to that point, we did not know until we received the complaints. Before that we didn’t have any hard facts.

Peronard- There are 2 points for us to learn from. Some of the lines are longer than others and it can get distributed unevenly. We were trying to figure all of this out. I would suggest that some communities have a reverse 9-1-1 system that can be used. Hopefully we will learn from it.

If we did not have the smell, should we be concerned?

Peronard- Always be cautious. Benzine warning properties smells at a very low level, so it is likely it wasn’t in your line, or is likely to be less concentrated. I recommend everyone drink bottled water.

Dena Hoff- I own property that borders Bridger Pipeline and we have a good relationship with them. I could smell it at my house. We know that there were inspections in 2012 and it was listed at a medium risk. How is the risk determined? We need to have funding available for agencies to monitor and give notification.

Peronard- We work with them on contingency plans and the risk is determined by age. This pipeline was built in the 50’s and the river portion was updated in the 70’s. 60-70 years old is usually high risk by age. The higher risk lines are inspected more frequently. There was flood damage in the pipeline by Billings and it was a new pipeline but had flooding as a factor, but usually age is the driver for assigning risk.

Bob Ackerman- There were so many rumors and when Mid-Rivers did air the warning, there were a lot of abbreviations used. Not everyone is computer savvy either. You would think there would be an alert, like the weather alert that says tune to a certain channel for more information. What is the impact to the fish?

Peronard- The order of the response is 1-Stop the spill, 2-Clean up the drinking water, 3-Clean up the spill and 4-Do samplings and assessments. We’re just launching evaluations. Fish, Wildlife and Parks will survey and assess the damage. Risk Evaluation process has started, but that evaluation is 4 on the priority list. The ice does hamper it some. As well, this is hazardous work and we don’t want to drop anyone under the ice.

? - If the water plant is clear tomorrow, how long will it take to flush out the lines?

Peronard- We’re thinking a day to flush and aerate which strips the Benzine out. During testing we will run some taps and as we test adjust the course and correct, which could be about 2 days out.

How long will it remain in the lines? How long will the contaminates remain in the line? How long do we run it out of the taps?
Peronard-The target level is to be below 5 and we will be doing testing at taps to see when it gets below that level and do a risk assessment and exposure.

Gartner-I understand your frustration, but we need to concentrate on how we can best go forward.

?-What can be done for the treatment plant to be able to detect this?

There is no way to filter it as it is brought in, but we are reassessing and adding more carbon which is beefing the system up to have better filtering. The cleanup monitoring will go on for months. We will not get all of the oil ut in the next month or the next 2 months and some will go downstream.

Geiger-The water should have been shut off.

Peronard-Looking back, you’re right.

Laura Smith-How bad is the contamination. What about bathing and washing clothes?

Peronard-We do 2 risk assessments. 1- Ingestion and 2- Off gases vapor (which would affect showers and doing dishes) Looking at the levels we were advised that for the short term of which we have established to be 30 days, they don’t see this causing a problem.

J. Swanson-Rumers just fly. We didn’t have a warning. Why not put out the tornado siren and then they could turn to the radio on.

Justin Cross-In 2011, there was a similar spill in Laurel. In relation to reaction time and problems how does it compare?

Peronard-This was an easier and better response.

?-What do you anticipate in the next 2-3 weeks?

We hope to have the treatment plant operational in the next couple of days. The next couple of months working on getting it out of the river. The guys are cutting slots in the ice now to get equipment down. The next big decision will depend on what happens. What do we do now and what do we have to wait until spring to do? Frankly, we are not getting it all out. I’ve been on 200 oil spills and this is larger than most, but the pattern is about the same and we have to do our best to determine when is the cleanup doing more harm than good.

Rachel Torres-I contacted the police at 4:00 on Sunday. DES was contacted at 11:00 on Saturday. At 4:00 p.m. the police had not knowledge about it. The dispatcher at the call center called back 20 minutes later and I was told I would have to give permission for someone to come and test the water. Why was I told this?

?-I live in Hillcrest and was doing dishes on Saturday and could smell something bad and we called on Saturday evening about 5:30-6:00?

Gartner-Our system is faulted, we know we need to correct some problems.

?-Back to the earlier question, can I do my dished and laundry?

Peronard-According to the levels it is safe to drink and bathe, as long as it is not long term.

?-When the sampling is done, with the 10-15 parts per billion, is that done on the high end of where levels are taken or is that on an average?

Peronard-We have various degrees of smell. We error on the side of caution. The 15 is on the high error. Certain pockets will have some strong levels and some lower. Did it only get to one part of town? We’re not sure, we decided to clean everything in town rather than try to figure out what was contaminated and what wasn’t.
Why was I told DES would need permission to test my water? We didn’t know what was fact or fiction.

Gates: The State DES does not have equipment to test water. I don’t know why you were told that. It was probably a miscommunication.

I would like to know who do I call? When we’re looking for answers, who do we call?

Gartner: We’re working to come up with a solution.

Mary Kubesh: Where will the oil be disposed of at? Where will it be and where will it go?

Peronard: Most of it will get reclaimed, back into the pipeline to be recycled. There will be some solidified waste which will go to a land fill. There are four disposal facilities as candidate locations. 30-50% is a typical recovery.

With your panel it comes to my mind, we’re not suppose to call 9-1-1 nor the police, aren’t these emergency services for Dawson County. We need to have an understanding.

Gartner: The communication is frustrating to us as well. DES was working and responding to the situation. We’ll have to address that as part of the process.

I lived in Laurel with the other spill and police had roads blocked off, etc. I haven’t seen any of that here.

LaRae Dowson: I own a bottling plant and have customers and restaurants who are customers calling and asking that if you have an R.O. system will it be safe?

Peronard: Does the system contain carbon?

Dowson: Yes, some.

Peronard: the carbon should pull it out, but we will be happy to come and test the water. We will add your facility to our list.

Dowson: What do I tell these people?

Peronard: You can have them call the hotline-

Gartner: 1-888-959-8351. This is posted on the Dawson County Webpage.

Peronard: I don’t want to tell anyone it is safe until we can test it and know.

Liz Chang: I am with Governor Bullock’s office and will be here and the Governor will also be maintaining contact with us.

Dockweiler: Bridger Pipeline is a family owned company and I want to express my sympathy and apology on behalf of the family for the situation in this community.

A break was taken before calling the session to order.

Prior Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made to accept and approve minutes for January 6, 2015. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Previously Approved Administrative Items:

Travel requests:
- Trish Olson to travel to Billings on January 13th and 14th for ASQ Training and
- Mary Jo Gehnert to travel to Miles City on January 28th for a regional meeting

Airport-Craig Stebbins, Mark Simon
Alcohol & Drug-James Holderman
Bell Street Bridge-Steve Merrill, ?, Adam Gartner
Cemetery Board-Don Nentwig
Compensation Committee-Ardie Adams
Council on Aging-Leslie Hunter, Lorraine Whiteman, Terry Skerritt, Linda Staiger
Fair Board-Wade Neilsen, Kathy Doane, Agnes Kinney
Health Board-Ross Farber, Jim Skillestad
Highland Park Irrigation Board-Rich Micheleutto, Trent Nichols
Land Advisory Board-Richard Crouch, Alan Doane, Robin Utgaard
Local Housing Authority-Dawn Guenzi, Shelly Christianson
Richey Cemetery Board-?
RSVP-Janette Legato, Terry Woodyard
Tax Appeal Board-?
Weed Board-Dale Kreiman, Art Gehnert
Zoning Board of Adjustments-Mike Carlson
Planning Board-Ira Zuroff

Current Administrative Items:

Travel Requests-A motion was made to approve a travel request for Jen Fladager to travel to Helena March 1-3 for MT Bike Walk Summit. (Building Active Communities Grant) The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

District II Drug and Alcohol board appointment: A motion was made to approve the appointment of Jim Holderman to the District II Drug and Alcohol Governing Board. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mid Rivers Encroachment Permits-A motion was made to approve a request for an encroachment permit from Mid Rivers Telecommunications to trench on Road 261. Approval by the road supervisor was noted. A motion was made to approve the permit. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Transfer of Interest-A motion was made to transfer funds from Interest Clearing fund to cover interest from investments to the appropriate designated funds in the amount of $15,385.32 for the month of October 2009. Motion carried.

December Payroll: The board of Commissioners certified the payroll warrants register total and the Invoice Journal total for the month of December 2014 and noted they were in agreement.

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### December Claims

All claims against the County were audited and approved for the month of December 2014. This list contains all claims against the County including payroll withholdings, deductions and contribution warrants.

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Cemetery Write-Off’s-A request was received from Cemetery Sexton, Bruce Raymond to write off cemetery charges not paid in 2013 and 2014 amounting to $1,375.00. A motion was made to approve the write-off the charges. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Airport Lease-This has not yet been signed.

Road Ordinance #8- No revised version available yet.

New Business:

Flood Plain- Art Gehnert was present and stated that he would like to provide the public with information regarding the flood plain issues that have plagued Glendive and Dawson County over the years. Commissioner Gartner stated that he felt that the information should be provided to the Flood Plain Committee as the commissioners cannot act on these issues, the flood plain committee is the appropriate group to present the information to. We will try to set up a meeting with the Corp of Engineers and the information would be good for them. Gehnert agreed to could make a short presentation to the public as well as provide the information to the clerk and recorder to be entered into the official minutes for record of the information. Gehnert stated that the recent problem with the oil spill has brought attention to our river and that it is dangerous and the information is important to get out to the public. The city and areas of Dawson in the flood plain are in a hazardous area. He has a draft copy of the final report that has been drafted by the US Corp of Engineers that is scheduled to go before a National committee to be adopted as a completed project for, “what is to be done”. He presented the attached history: Note Page 5 on the attached document.
Ice Jams in Montana

Ice jams are an accumulation of ice in a river that restricts water flow and may cause backwater that floods low-lying areas upstream from the jam. Downstream areas also can be flooded if the jam releases suddenly, sending excessive water and ice downstream. Damages resulting from ice jams can affect roads, bridges, buildings, and homes, and can cost the affected community thousands to millions of dollars. More common, however, are jams that result in highly localized, yet serious damages (Fig. 1). In these cases, it is often difficult to obtain the types of disaster assistance that are available for large-scale flooding typical of open-water flood events.

Engines at the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) have been working to develop and optimize low-cost structural and nonstructural techniques to prevent or alleviate damages caused by ice jams. Many of these methods, such as early warning systems, ice dusting, ice breaking, ice weakening, and ice jam removal techniques, can be carried out by local offices at a reasonable cost (Corps of Engineers 1994). Methods of predicting ice jam occurrence and severity are also being developed.

The latter efforts, partly based on statistics and probability analysis, require the compilation of accurate and reliable data on past ice jam events. The CRREL Ice Jam Database was started in 1990 with the intent of compiling data on freezeup and breakup ice jam events in the United States (White 1990). Currently there are nearly 11,000 records in the database, with the earliest account dating from 1780. For each ice jam event, the database includes the river name, city, state, year, month, jam date, jam type, damages, a short description, a listing of publications, latitude and longitude, U.S. Geologi- cal Survey (USGS) hydrologic unit code, and USGS gage number. If available, CRREL also has an Ice Jam Archive that contains hard copies of CRREL trip reports, National Weather Service (NWS) reports, newspaper articles, and other reports used as sources for ice-jam-related information (Herrin and Balch 1990). The information can be borrowed or photocopied.

Montana ice jams

This bulletin provides a brief summary of information in the CRREL Ice Jam Database for rivers in Montana. This is the second in a series that will characterize every state affected by ice jams using the CRREL Ice Jam Database. Despite Montana’s sparse population, with only 5.7 persons per square mile (Edison 1993), ice jams have a frequent and destructive history in the state. In 1992 there were 24,800 farms in Montana; ice jam floods often have left them inundated.
especially in lowland areas (Fig. 1). As of January 1998, there were 1039 Montana ice jam events documented in the CRREL Ice Jam Database (Fig. 2). The earliest entry in the Ice Jam Database for Montana is an 1894 event on the Yellowstone River at Glendive. The most recent entries are from ice jam flooding that occurred during 1997.

A substantial amount of the information on ice jams in Montana (about 80%) came from USGS Water Supply Paper 1879 (Patterson 1966). Other publications include NWS statements, Corps of Engineers' Datasets, other USGS publications, newspapers, and personal accounts. A recent trip to eastern Montana to review NWS records and collect additional historical ice jam data has contributed greatly to the CRREL Ice Jam Database and the Ice Jam Archive.

Where do ice jams in Montana occur?

The database contains information on ice jam events at 152 different locations on 118 different rivers in Montana (Fig. 2). The localities with the most recorded ice jam events (32) are Miles City on the Yellowstone River and Bozeman on the Gallatin River (Fig. 3). The towns of Natches, Sidney, Zortman, Wolf Point, and Hardin each have more than 20 recorded events in the Ice Jam Database (Fig. 3). The most ice jams reported for one river occur on the Missouri River, with more than 105 events, followed by the Yellowstone River with 88, and the Milk River with 81 events (Fig. 4).

It is important to note that the high number of recorded ice jam events on the Missouri, Yellowstone, and Milk Rivers compared to other rivers in the state reflects information gathered during field visits to that area in August 1917. There could be a river that experiences more jams than the Missouri River, but because there are few people living near the river, few if any, floods or ice jams are ever reported.

When do ice jams in Montana occur?

The number of ice jams reported varies greatly from year to year, with the highest number of recorded in 1996 (Fig. 5). More than 50 events were also noted for 1931, 1939, and 1960. The number of ice jams recorded in Montana between 1840s and 1960s primarily because USGS Water Supply Paper 1679, which was published in 1960. Because this publication accounts for such a large portion of the Montana ice jam events in the database, it is not surprising that dates prior to its publication would have fewer recorded ice jam events.

Ice jam occurrence also depends on the time of year: 59% of Montana ice jams have occurred in March and April, when the rivers begin to break up, an indication that these ice jams are largely breakup ice events (Fig. 6). The 32% of jams that occur in January and February could be either freeze-up or breakup.
Who is affected by ice jams in Montana?

For Montana residents living near rivers, ice jams can be damaging to property, especially if not protected by a dike or levee. Agricultural damage due to ice jams has been particularly high in Montana. In 1972, an ice jam flood on the Yellowstone River in Richland County put an estimated 2500 acres of farmland under water (Anderson 1972). All this acreage suffered loss of fertilizer and there was some damage to fill ditches.

High waters caused by ice jams pose a threat to many of Montana's ranchers who may not receive sufficient warning to move their cattle to high ground. For Bob Heine in eastern Rosebud County, the ice jam flood in 1994 was so rapid that he lost 60 cattle (Gasb 1994).

"It was just so quick, so devastating," Heine said. "It came in the night before in a matter of 5 to 10 minutes... We put the cattle where we thought it was high ground. It wasn't high ground, as it turned out."

According to Gasb (1994), the estimated loss in the dead livestock was 60,000.

Recently, concern has been expressed about the effects of ice jams on fish in Montana. Ice jams may affect fish populations because of physical displacement of fish, habitat destruction, and disruption of spawning activity (Gadbow 1996). In February 1996, the Blackfoot River ice run (Fig. 7) resulted in a significant fish kill with dead fish noted overbank. Rivers and eagles were observed eating fish in the overbank areas as well (Tuthill 1996a).

Another environmental concern is the Upper Clark Fork in the Bearmouth and Drummond area, where ice jam scouring releases soils contaminated with heavy concentrations of mining wastes that are toxic to fish (Gadbow 1996). In March of 1996, a substantial number of fish died in the Clark Fork River when ice jams and flooding forced the drawdown of the Milltown Reservoir. The fish fatalities were attributed to silt, debris, and toxic mining metals released from the reservoir area. Copper levels downstream from the reservoir were as high as 770 parts per billion, far exceeding the 18 parts per billion standard to sustain aquatic life (Billings Gazette 1996a). To provide additional information regarding the effects of ice jams on fish, biologists from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Missoula are monitoring some radionuclide fish in the Blackfoot River (Gadbow 1996).

Ice jam damages in Montana

As is the case for the database as a whole, many of the sources relied upon for information on ice jams in Montana lack quantitative data on damages. Of the 1039 Montana ice jam events in the database, 110 (10.6%) have known damages, a much higher percentage than the
whole database (about 2%). The most common damages include bridge and residential damage, road flooding, evacuations, dikes and levee damage, and agricultural damage.

Compared to other states, Montana has had significantly more deaths resulting from ice jam flooding. In February 1996 a volunteer in Fort Benton collapsed and died from a heart attack as he was helping to load sandbags (Billings Gazette 1996b). Two others died because of ice jam flooding in Montana in 1996 (Billings Gazette 1996c). In 1894 three men died while trying to escape ice jam flooding in the Glendive area (Tuthill 1986b). An 1899 ice jam in Glendive took the lives of the Sullivan family in their farmhouse on the west side of the Yellowstone River near Dry Creek (see box, page 5).

Mitigation costs incurred because of ice jams include evacuation, blasting, and other flood-fighting costs. According to local newspaper reports (Miles City Star 1997), "When nature didn't work fast enough, local pilots sometimes were called in to drop explosives onto the piled-up ice to prevent intense flooding." In March 1944, an ice jam on the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers in Miles City caused 300 to 500 people to be evacuated from their homes. Local pilots were called in to drop fused dynamite explosive charges onto the ice jams.

According to the Miles City Star (1997), "Ice gauges [were] broken to a large extent and the charges are credited with having partially opened the channel of the larger streams." The crest of the flood was estimated to have receded two to three feet after the charges were dropped.

The first recorded flood in old Miles (Miles City) took place in March 1881. The local newspaper (Miles City Star 1997) reports, "As Main Street began to fill with water, the novelty of the situation became clear and the flood became an unofficial water carnival. Dozens of boats, including an ancient flat-bottom boat, were soon cruising Main, supposedly to 'rescue' ladies from getting their long skirts wet. ... No lives were lost, and there was little property damage during that flood. Most people looked back upon that first flood not as a time of tragedy, but as unexpected excitement and a chance to pull together to help each other."

The less adventurous residents of Miles-town moved to higher ground, where they spent an uncomfortable week in tents, waiting for the flood waters to recede.
Yellowstone River at Glendive—1899

Often a search of local historical records reveals ice jam information that is not contained elsewhere. One such example is the Yellowstone River flood at Glendive in April 1899, of which no mention was made in the usual sources. Discussions with local residents led to a search of old newspaper records which indicated that, in fact, twelve people lost their lives, numerous livestock drowned, many homes were washed away, and several spans of the Yellowstone River Bridge were destroyed during this event.

These types of historical records can be quite dramatic according to the newspaper records, when the ice broke and began running on Friday evening, April 7, 1899, nearly the entire population of Glendive gathered to view the huge (nearly one hundred square foot) blocks of ice crash against the bridge (rock filled timber crib structures) built in front of each pier on the Yellowstone River Bridge. Moments before the ice began to move, the water gage on the ice breaks registered 10 feet, but after the ice began moving the gage rapidly rose to 30 feet. After the ice run, three of the bridge spans had been washed downstream. Witnesses said that the bridge been five feet higher, and had all of the ice breaks been built as large and as strong as ice break No. 2, the bridge would still be standing.

At the time, the Yellowstone River Bridge was the largest wagon bridge in the entire northwest. It was 1759 feet long and included a draw span that was 326 feet long. The bridge, including approaches and ice breaks, cost Dawson County $20,000 to construct, and was estimated to cost at least $20,000 to rebuild (1899 dollars).

According to the newspaper account, when the waters started to inundate the land surrounding the Snyder Ranch, Mrs. R.W. Snyder, Miss Nellie Regan, Miss Rose Wybrecht, Mr. Eugene O’Connor, and Mr. Joseph Myers had to decide whether to move to higher ground (the railroad embankment) or to stay at the ranch. When they finally did make their decision to move to higher ground, which was approximately one block from the ranch, it was too late. The icy water was up to their waists before they made it halfway to the railroad embankment. Mr. O’Connor and Mr. Myers tried to assist the women into a tree, but the water and ice made it impossible, so they decided to the Miss Regan and Miss Wybrecht to the tree with their suspenders so that the women wouldn’t be washed downstream. Mr. Myers was able to climb the tree, but Mr. O’Connor and Mrs. Snyder were unable to climb to safety and were washed downstream, never to be found. Miss Regan and Miss Wybrecht were later found dead, still tied to the tree by the suspenders. Mr. Myers, the only ranch survivor, spent seven hours in the tree before he was rescued. The Snyder Ranch lost all of its livestock except two horses, one cow, two chickens, and two dogs.

The bodies of the James Sullivan family were found on Sunday, April 8, 1899. All were found in bed except the eldest daughter and one of the younger children, who were found on the floor. The eldest daughter’s skull was crushed. It was presumed that she received the wound from a piece of ice while trying to battle the angry waters.

(There is evidence from the Glendive Independent. The date for Saturday, April 8, 1899, appeared on the paper; although it was actually printed on Sunday, April 9, 1899, because of the ice jam.)

Corps of Engineers response

The role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Montana ice jam flooding has been to provide resources and technical assistance to alleviate flood damage to affected communities. The Omaha and Seattle Corps Districts have been involved in flood fighting efforts by providing technical advice, sandbags, and diversion dikes. In 1996, the Seattle District released a 1300-foot-long jam on the Lolo Creek using a hydraulic excavator (Tuthill 1996b). The Corps of Engineers also plays a role in monitoring the Glendive levee and the Miles City levee by providing technical reports and recommendations (Gratton 1997). The Seattle District sponsored two emergency response workshops presented by CRREL in Missoula and Billings in 1997. The workshops, attended by more than 100 local, state, and federal officials, included discussion of local problem areas. A similar workshop was sponsored by the Omaha District in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1994. The workshop, which was attended by emergency management directors from across Nebraska, was designed to study ice jams and develop uniform guidelines for emergency directors to use when responding to those emergencies.

How is ice jam information helpful?

The Ice Jam Database provides quick access to general information about specific ice jam events, an important feature for those interested in the ice jam flooding history of a certain area. These historical data are crucial during an emergency situation when information about jam locations or stages is needed quickly. Historical information is also important for ice jam mitigation studies at specific sites. This overview of ice jams in Montana is the second publication in a series that will attempt to characterize all states.
Gehnert stated that this is history and this history is important to know. He wanted to emphasize that history repeats itself and we need to construct a levy. When this gets finalized we will have the ability to apply for a permit.

Gartner-We will take all of this to the flood plain committee, but we alone as commissioners don’t have the authority to do what you want. Once the committee meets, there will be a public meeting with the Corp and it will be noticed and we want the whole flood plain committee there. On the surface, it appears that if we are willing to pay for it and we get the Corps blessing then we will be able to proceed with possibly building up the levy. We’re not against doing it, we just want to make sure that it gets done right, which needs the blessing of the corp.

? Who is on the flood plain committee, how often do they meet, now that we have some progress towards this.

Gartner-We three commissioners, 2 city council members, (Mike Dryden is one of them) and the Mayor, Jerry Jimison.
The committee needs to be prepared prior to the meeting. We have given the draft to the County Planner, Dianna Broadie for her to review and meet with us to give us a summary on.

Gehnert-In 1969 I asked the commissioners for help. We were able to have SIDs. We should never have to fight between the city and county. A 408 study was done for the West Glendive levy. On the city side, they sold bonds and the county can do a bond.

?Why do the city and the county have to have different bonds? The city is part of the county.

Gartner-We’ll meet together as a committee and try to get a list of questions prior to the meeting with the corp.

Correspondence/Information:
- Treasurer’s Cash report for the Quarter ended December 2014.
- Notice from Public Service commission, application from Bull Mountain Sanitation, LLC for Class D Certificate-Garbage between all points and places in Musselshell County Montana and Application from Michael Spreadbury dba the Helena Town Car Company for Class B passengers in non-regulated service between all points and places within a 50 mile radius of Helena, Montana, limited to 5 passengers or less, application to transfer Class D Garbage and refuse, including car bodies, in Saltese Montana and points within Mineral County and Class D Sub A, within the town of Superior and 10 mile radius, operating authority from Felstet Disposal Service to Allied Waste Services of North America LLC dba Republic Services of Montana. Protests must be postmarked by January 26, 2015.
- Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, proposed 2015 Hunting Seasons. Comment Period ended January 14th to be adopted on February 12th.
- Notice from Great West Engineering sent to MT Department of Environment Quality with Annual Progress Report explaining progress made in evaluating technologies and options to achieve ammonia, TRC and E.Coli limits for 2014. This report shows the anticipated dates for design and construction of the proposed project.
- Letter sent to Joint Legislative Committee Members regarding Dawson County Sewer 2015 Biennium TSEP Funding.
- Letter sent to Mike Gruber regarding Newport Square.
- Letter from Warden Green to Dawson County Commissioners regarding emergency situation of overcrowding in county jail and transferring of inmate population.
- First late filing notice for 2014 Annual Report.
- FAA final financial report for the AIP Grant was submitted on 1-18-2015.
- EPA Notice of Permit for discharge of finished water from the newly constructed Crow Municipal Rural & Industrial Pilot Water Treatment Plant to the Bighorn River. Public comments may be submitted by February 6, 2015.

Public Comment-Frank Crisafulli asked if there was any truth to the matter that sewer rates were going up $25.00. The clerk and recorder stated that assessments are done annually and although there may an increase at some point to her knowledge there have been no discussions as to when and how much.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

DATED this 20th day of January, 2015.

________________________________________
Adam J. Gartner, Chairman

________________________________________
Douglas A. Buxbaum, Member

________________________________________
Gary Kartevold, Member

ATTEST: ___________________________________
Shirley A. Kreiman, Clerk & Recorder