

# SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Seeley Lake Communications Project

## Council Members

*Jack Greenwood, Chair*

*Walt Hill, Vice Chair*

*Steve Johnson, Secretary*

*MaryAnn Morin, Treasurer*

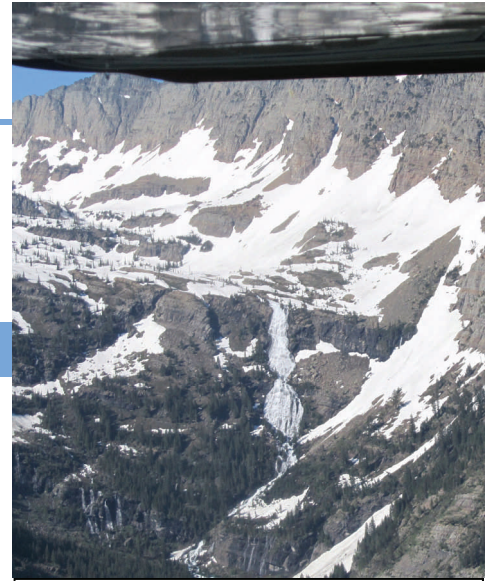
*John Richards*

*Carol Evans*

*Addrien Marx*

*Kris Gullikson, Administrative Assistant*

JULY 18, 2011  
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1



Waterfall in the Missions; July 6th.

Photo by Kris Gullikson

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP:

At the July meeting, trails and county roads were topics that brought a quick response from Rural Initiatives (see page 2). The Airport Road trail is on hold at present due to past work done and the need for a new survey requested by MC. A resident requested contact be made with MC to re-stripe Hwy 83 for safety reasons and another asked about the lack of reflectors for the section from Clearwater Jct. north to MM 7. Another resident asked the SLCC to draft a letter to the State Block Mgmt. and request the opening of Gold Creek Road. He stated this could provide a trail connection from Nine Mile Prairie (Blackfoot River area) to Seeley Lake and be available for groups such as the Great Divide bicycle ride to plan their route. This will be added to the August Council agenda for further discussion.

Tim Love, USFS gave report on ATV usage on National Forest grounds, acknowledging Access Management is their most controversial area and most important to the communities, however, he stated budgets overall are down. The *Forest Leadership Team* will be meeting this next week and will be discussing this and he mentioned he will get a “sense of future” from that and report back to the Community Council for follow up. [Cont'd. on Page 2](#)

## Rural Initiatives'

### Community Spotlight

Each season, the Rural Initiatives website features citizen groups, watershed groups, and community members around Missoula County doing great work for water in their community. Do you have a story to share? We'd like to hear how community cooperation can result in successful water resource protection stories. We'd like to learn how it worked for your community.

Contact us with your Community Spotlight story at [ri@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:ri@co.missoula.mt.us). Also, read about past Community Spotlight profiles and find more information on the website. [Our current spotlight features the Clearwater Resource Council Adopt a Lake Program.](#)



## Missoula County Healthy Relationships Project

Want to make a difference in your community? The Healthy Relationships Project is looking for participants for focus groups! Focus group participants will help create posters and other advertising materials aimed at reducing violence in our communities. Focus groups will be held in **Seeley Lake**, Alberton, Superior and St. Regis.

The Healthy Relationships Project's mission is to engage rural communities in Missoula and Mineral Counties in prevent-

ing and responding to domestic violence and sexual assault through community education and collaboration. It provides free workshops and trainings for community members, faith groups, schools, law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, and mental health and medical providers. For more information, please contact Kelly McGuire at [kmcguire@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:kmcguire@co.missoula.mt.us) or (406) 396-3860.

*Submitted by Kelly McGuire, Missoula County Office of Planning and Grants*



Swan Range at sunset.  
Photo by Karen Kovatch

A Citizen of the Year Award was proposed and discussed. A motion was passed to adopt this community spirit. Hill and Marx will spearhead this year.

Pat O’Herren gave a concise presentation on the process of zoning the downtown Seeley Lake area. He stated that in the fall Rural Initiatives is planning an Open House type event in Seeley Lake where residents and business owners can visit “stations” on how zoning is meant to protect the health, safety and welfare of an area. Reportedly, by building an understanding on the process and how it works, RI will begin to move forward in accordance with the Land Use Plan and the request from the SLCC to zone the downtown area. Input will be taken from all parties involved as each step of the process proceeds. “This will be done in a thorough and efficient manner” and “cannot be done quickly” according to O’Herren. He also reported the Co. is working with the Seeley Lake Sewer Dist. and that process is moving in a “positive direction”.

Walt Hill lead a discussion on the purpose and direction of the Economic Development Committee. He reported, “Two areas have been distilled; tourism and attracting new businesses. The committee felt this is the time to separate into “Doing” and “Researching” and pass the baton on to the Chamber of Commerce for the “tourism” portion so the Committee may concentrate on the development of new industry.” This will be further explored and discussed with the Chamber Board of Directors for a decision in the future. The SLCC supported this avenue. The August 11 meeting will finalize plans for this direction. The meeting is at SL Elementary School at 7 pm. The public is invited to attend.∞

**FOLLOW UP FROM RURAL INITIATIVES:** The items listed below outline what Greg Robertson, the Director of Public Works, has discovered relative to the questions the SLCC asked Pat O’Herren to pass on to BCC at the July 11 Council meeting. **1).** The portion of the trail (along Highway 83) that needs repaired has also been acknowledged by MDT. However, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation, given existing priorities on the highway itself and in other areas, the earliest MDT can get to trail repairs would be next year. **2).** Re-stripping of Hwy. 83 should begin soon. The contractor has been selected and is beginning work county-wide. **3).** The reflectors along Highway 83 (MM 1 to 7, termed "illuminators") that the Council requested appear to be unwarranted according to MDT standards. Greg will bring the issue up again in the future as a reminder to MDT of your request. **4).** Greg Robertson is evaluating the request for repairs and signage along Boy Scout Road. Submitted by Pat O’Herren

### Lake Alva Campground Work to Begin July 17

Portions of the Lake Alva Campground on the Seeley Lake Ranger District will be closed beginning at 5 p.m. on July 17th for paving and trail construction work. The main road into the campground will remain open. The work is expected to be completed by August 26 this summer.

The main road into the campground provides access to the day use area and the boat launch, which will also remain open during the improvement work. The work consists primarily of paving the campground area.

- The improvements include: re-shaping and leveling of some camping pads and a portion of the road
- repaving the campground road and the 41 camping pads
- construction and paving of accessible trails to the water hydrants and vault toilets

Alternate camping sites on the Seeley Lake Ranger District include the Big Larch Campground, River Point Campground, Lake Inez Campground, Lakeside Campground, Seeley Lake Campground, Rainy Lake Campground, Monture Creek Campground and many dispersed sites. There are also several State and private campgrounds near Seeley Lake.∞



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Seeley Lake Community Council 1st Monday; August 1, 6 pm at The Museum & Visitors Center
- Seeley Lake Cemetery District 1st Thurs., August 4, at 12:00 pm, DARLOA office
- Seeley Swan Hospital District 2nd Monday; August 8, 5 pm at the Clinic Conf. Room
- Seeley Lake Rural Fire District Third Tues., July 19, 6 pm, SL Fire Station
- Seeley Swan Search & Rescue Third Tues., July 19, Fire Station #2, 6:30 pm
- Seeley Lake Sewer District– 3rd Thurs., July 21, 5:15 pm at The Museum & Visitors Center
- Seeley Lake Refuse District– 4th Monday, July 25, 7 pm at MC Building, N of SL.
- Seeley Lake Water District– 4th Th., July 28, 5:30 pm, Water District Office
- Economic Development- 2nd Th., August 11, 7 pm at SL Elementary
- Branding Sub-Committee- TBD
- Recreation & Trails Committee TBA
- Air Quality Committee– TBA
- Rural Initiatives Newsletter- [LINK: ftp:\www.co.missoula.mt.us/ruralftp/Newsletter](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/ruralftp/Newsletter)