

Description	Gallatin County Courthouse, Third Floor Community Room, 311 W. Main, Bozeman, MT		
Date	07/26/2012	Location	Board of Health
Time	Speaker	Note	
6:58:22 AM		<p><i>Board Members:</i> Present: Robin Cory, Steve Custer, Becky Franks, Berk Knighton, Laura Larsson, Gretchen Rupp, Buck Taylor <i>Excused:</i> Bill Murdock, Carson Taylor <i>Staff:</i> Matt Kelley, Toni Lucker, Jill Steeley, Liz Wildman <i>Public:</i> Jim Lewis, Richard Damon, Beth Kaeding, Leslie MacDonald, Gary Gullickson, Jerome Kalur, Gonnie Siebel, Nick Bentley, Kary Matthews, Cheryl Matthews, Kathy Schmidt, Ron Bray, Brit Fontenot, Kristen Walser, Debbie Arkell, Daniel Distefano, Brian Gootkin, Joan Montagne</p> <p>These log notes provide only a part of the official record. The remainder of the official record is in the audio recording of the meeting. Section 2-3-212, MCA. The audio recording is available upon request.</p>	
7:02:14 AM		Meeting called to order	
7:02:26 AM		Disclaimer for Audio Broadcasting	
7:02:40 AM		Public Comment on a Non-Agenda Item - none	
7:03:00 AM		Consent Agenda	
7:05:46 AM	Motion	Laura made a motion to approve the consent agenda	
7:05:51 AM	Second	Buck seconded the motion.	
7:05:55 AM	Vote	<p>Roll call: Robin - yes Steve - yes Berk - yes Laura - yes Gretchen - abstained Buck - yes Becky - yes</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	
7:07:44 AM		Regular Agenda	
7:07:49 AM		Public Hearing, Discussion and Decision on Letter regarding Coal Train Traffic in Gallatin County	
7:08:40 AM	Montana Rail Link	Jim Lewis provided a presentation	
7:30:25 AM		Questions by the Board	
7:30:35 AM		What is the relationship between the MRL train line versus the BNSF train line. No BNSF-operated trains are running through town. BNSF leases the line (and BNSF railroad cars) to MRL and MRL personnel operate the line.	
7:31:46 AM		Is the crossing data available to the public? Mr. Lewis confirmed that it is available and that a similar study is being conducted in Bozeman.	
7:32:30 AM		Hearing anecdotal reports of crossing delays taking longer than 10 minutes in the Jackson Creek and Trail Creek areas, the Board asked about the helper engine process used to get over the Bozeman Pass and if this process was the cause of	

		the possible crossing delays. Mr. Lewis assured the Board that these crossing data will be included in the Bozeman study.
7:33:41 AM		Is Mr. Lewis aware of any signs encouraging drivers to turn off their idling cars while waiting for the train at crossings? Mr. Lewis felt this was a good, common-sense solution to help prevent increased PM2.5 and PM 10 air quality fractions.
7:35:48 AM		The Board asked Mr. Lewis to give an example of mitigating a problem brought to their attention by a community member.
7:37:58 AM		The Board requested an explanation about the product - who owns it, who is responsible for it and who bears the cost of remediation.
7:41:32 AM		Regarding the Bozeman Terminal, the Board asked about the average length of time the engines are operating when switching and do engines run continuously while two trains wait to re-couple to continue to transport?
7:42:45 AM		Regarding the question of noise, Mr. Lewis responded that the MRL is heavily regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Surface Transportation Board that address this issue.
7:44:23 AM		Does MRL anticipate the size of the transfer area changing in response to an increase in product volume? Because the MRL line is a single track at the top of the Bozeman hill and has one tunnel, only one train at a time can be accommodated. Until an increase in new businesses and their products can support it, there are no plans for increasing the size of the Bozeman yard.
7:48:08 AM		Many coal dust studies are focused on single locations, i.e., the Missoula study of the railyard. Have studies been conducted along the line from the perspective of where the coal dust is actually lost? BSNF and the Union Pacific conducted a coal dust study with monitoring devices on individual cars resulting in the requirement of the coal mines to spray surfactant on the coal. The test results of the study are available on-line at BNSF UP Coal Dust Study: Use of surfactants eliminated blow off at great distances from the mines. Blow off occurs close to the mine.
7:49:44 AM		The Board asked Mr. Lewis to describe what he meant by "MRL is heavily regulated" and what other bodies are involved particularly with concern to health and particulate matter? He described the Federal Railroad Administration inspectors and the Surface Transportation Board looking at all of the various activities of the railroad. .
7:52:29 AM		Has there been any maintenance on the MRL section of the track regarding coal dust? No and no evidence of coal dust fouling the ballasts or employee health issues.
7:53:31 AM		Regarding the first responder issue and the potential for increased length of trains, how long would it take to clear a crossing blockage? Mr. Lewis noted the 800-number goes directly to chief dispatcher, staffed 24/7, and MRL can react pretty quickly.
7:55:25 AM		As a follow-up to an earlier exchange regarding noise, the Board asked Mr. Lewis that if train traffic were to double through Bozeman, that means the amount of noise would double - and there is nothing MRL could do to mitigate the noise? The Federal Railroad Administration regulates noise and would be involved in any discussions regarding quiet zones.
7:57:10 AM		Regarding emergency vehicles getting to where they need to go - would the railroad be willing to work with the communities and fund new under- or over-passes if determined appropriate? Mr. Lewis referred to the Montana Department of Transportation as the agency that would be involved with MRL to review and determine any improvements. He expressed his willingness to study the issue with

		the community first for other possible solutions.
7:59:13 AM		The Health Officer asked a few questions. If the port capacity is expanded, what is Jim's forecast for the number of additional trains coming through Bozeman? Mr. Lewis noted the difficulty to do this but discussed the coal forecast is lower than it was last year and gave reasons for this.
8:01:46 AM		Based on the proposed facilities and the projected amount of coal to be shipped from those facilities and the limited routes into those facilities, what is the forecast for the number of additional trains through Gallatin County. 5 years before could accept product. expect growth but hard to forecast due to so many other factors on coal and grain, mother nature, economy, etc. makes it difficult to forecast.
8:02:47 AM		Trying to get at the issue of what is the size of the potential problem, Matt continued to ask questions. What are the natural constraints on the number of trains that can travel through Gallatin County - single track or the crews or locomotives? Mr. Lewis reported that to run 35 trains during a 7-week period last year, MRL had to lease additional locomotives from BNSF and enlist charter plane service to get crews across the state to specific locations. Proved to be taxing to MRL infrastructure and could not sustain this on a long-term basis without substantial investment. Max capacity for MRL through Gallatin County is 31 trains.
8:05:55 AM	Northern Plains Resource Council	Beth Kaeding, Bozeman resident, gave a presentation.
8:26:09 AM		Questions from the Board
8:26:19 AM		The Board was interested in the results of the studies that showed airborne particulate matter affects the health of health compromised individuals. Beth referred the Board to the websites of the American Lung Association (2011 State of the Air Report) and the American Heart Association (2011 Particulate Matter, Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease).
8:27:12 AM		Thinking of the four-way stop in Belgrade at Main and Broadway, the Board asked if Beth was aware of any research comparing truck traffic to train traffic in terms of diesel emissions. Beth was not aware of any.
8:28:36 AM		The Health Officer asked what her best projections of coal imports and the resulting train traffic that Bozeman, Belgrade and Manhattan residents would see daily. At this point, the train traffic will be doubling to 31 trains. If the ports are approved and coal transport begins to go in that direction, there will be money to upgrade the lines.
8:30:24 AM		One Board member commented on her concern for generating electricity that uses coal, a dirty fuel with ramifications for climate around the world. Would an EIS tackle this issue? Beth answered that there have been nationwide discussions of including climate change issues to Environmental Impact Statements but this is still undecided.
8:32:29 AM		Public Comment
8:32:40 AM		The Chair did not impose a time limit on comments, but asked to focus comments on health & safety of Gallatin County residents.
8:33:00 AM	Jerome Kalur	Mr. Kalur represented the Bozeman Community Coal Action Group. His comments included his support of an EIS to look at environmental impacts of coal dust in Bozeman with so many trains.
8:38:48 AM	Nick Bentley	Mr. Bentley is a Bozeman homeowner & concerned resident. His comments

		included his support of an EIS to see the affect of coal on the rail lines.
8:41:34 AM	Gary Gullickson	Mr. Gullickson lives at 404 S. Church and represented himself and Mystery Ranch, that operates right next to the MRL on Griffin Drive. His comments included a request to the Board to take the time to hear all sides of what affects us in Bozeman.
8:51:10 AM	Gonnie Siebel	Ms. Siebel lives on the NE side of town and is concerned about train noise. Her comments included establishing a quiet zone option.
8:55:16 AM	Kristen Walser	Ms. Walser lives at 1711 Wildfire Way and represented herself. Her comments included her support of the EIS, which she feels would give a broad view of the accumulated affects of particulate, noise, including acidification & derailments.
8:58:44 AM	Jim Lewis of MRL	Mr. Lewis commented about capacity and how it would cost a lot to get to upgrade the rail line to accommodate as many as 35 daily trains. He is open to sitting down with the community to discuss solutions.
9:01:30 AM		Written comments
9:01:42 AM		Matt received two emails from 1) Dr. Alan Wanderer - Medical Director of the Clinical Research Group of Montana in Bozeman, noting that the Board's mission statement provides for removal of filth that would adversely affect public health.
9:02:23 AM		2) Dr. Richard Damon - identified his concerns of a number of health issues including many breathing impacts, heart conditions and advocates that the Board send a letter for an EIS.
9:03:44 AM	Beth Kaeding	Beth added that an EIS is being requested so we know impartially and objectively what the ccumulative and connected issues would be.
9:04:38 AM		Beth has a history of working with EIS reports so the Board asked if the EIS would do physical studies, i.e., put air monitors in Bozeman or study the literature to assess in terms of the net outcomes? It depends on the responsible agency but we can request for health assessment.
9:06:32 AM		Based on her experience with EIS reports, the Board asked Beth how long an EIS study can take. Beth noted the studies can take any amount of time, some taking years if they are controversial.
9:08:24 AM		The Board asked who pays for the studies? Depends on the project but in this case Beth does not know who will pay. The coal companies (proponents) typically pay and there will be costs to the federal government (public money) that oversees the Army Corps of Engineers and the ports.
9:09:16 AM		Gretchen closed the public hearing.
9:09:21 AM		Board discussion and deliberation after a 20-minute break.
9:19:50 AM		Meeting Re-convened
9:20:02 AM		Board Discussion and Deliberation Discussion on proposed coal export project and decision on a letter requesting Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to include Gallatin County and other communities along the transport corridor. Our best understanding the ACOE decision makers will decide this summer whether to do a PEIS or analyze each coal port individually.
9:21:14 AM	Laura Larsson	Laura commented that she is disinclined to craft a letter today. The Board of Health has a specific scope related to health concerns. No evidence of current or potential problems based on the DEQ air monitoring stations that are in place around the valley. We know PM 2.5 & 10 values and mobile & point source pollution. She remains unconvinced any verifiable health concerns.

9:22:38 AM	Steve Custer	Steve commented that he too is disinclined to craft a letter. He thinks an EIS will not change anything for Gallatin County because it probably will be just literature reviews. As concerned citizens, we need to be proactive and take local actions. He feels strongly about doing more air quality monitoring before there is an issue - a baseline - so can hold the coal company responsible.
9:24:39 AM	Buck Taylor	Buck is also disinclined. He sees the issues as noise, coal dust, and first responder/delays at crossings. As a representative for the first responders, he has polled affected agencies and has not been able to find evidence of delay issues. Regarding coal dust - there is not enough to move forward on. And regarding noise, he feels it is the buyer-beware principle. If we want a quiet zone, let's work with MRL and go through those steps together.
9:26:40 AM	Berk Knighton	Berk has done professional studies with train emissions in rail yards and is trying to stay objective. He urged everyone to remain objective by asking what if it was not coal dust but grain instead. In the absence of coal dust, the rest remains constant. He questions - Is there enough doubt in people's mind about the impact of coal dust that we need to be asking for additional information? He thinks the loss of coal dust from the trains is a big problem even with the use of surfactants.
9:36:04 AM		Board discussion regarding the current monitoring stations and baseline data
9:41:14 AM		The Board has issues with the potential for accumulation of coal dust along railway - what will happen to that material and what mechanism would be used to clean it up?
9:43:03 AM	Robin Cory	Robin expressed confusion about who pays for the EIS study, what does it mean, where does it go?
9:44:27 AM	Gretchen Rupp	Gretchen thinks an EIS should be done
9:44:41 AM	Becky Franks	Becky feels conflicted. She is not clear about receiving any real data about our communities. She feels data deficient. Paper study may not say much about Bozeman. Not confident the EIS will bring new data. Welcomes the opportunity for collaboration with partners to address rail issues.
9:48:24 AM	Gretchen Rupp	Gretchen is not confident that there is enough information on potential health affects to say no big deal. She feels it is prudent for the Board to ask for a study by an independent evaluator and work with them and work with MRL and MDOT to help our citizens.
9:50:59 AM		Gretchen is in favor of crafting a letter asking the Corp of Engineers to prepare a programmatic EIS that includes the communities along the transport corridor. She suggested designating a committee of three to write the letter.
9:51:58 AM	Robin Cory	Robin feels conflicted. She feels there is not enough information and she is married to a mining engineer who has data to show the coal dust is not lost along the track but could be loss due to moisture. As a Board member, Robin wants to protect the health of Gallatin County citizens. She is in favor of writing the letter.
9:53:07 AM	Health Officer	Matt's thoughts go to Belgrade. At the three Belgrade community meetings he attended, he heard the citizens express a major concern about the division of their community by the interstate and the rail road tracks creating an impediment to how the community functions. If train traffic increases, Belgrade will experience a major impact to their quality of life. How do we bridge the physical divide?
9:56:20 AM		More Board discussion.

9:59:57 AM	Motion	Berk made a motion to request a Programmatic EIS from COE to address potential impacts of coal trains on the communities of Gallatin County, which have rail lines running within their boundaries.
10:00:19 AM	Second	Robin seconded the motion.
10:00:40 AM	Discussion	Amend the motion to emphasize real data collection in Gallatin County? The letter would request a PEIS and that real data is collected from our community. Board discussion continued around this suggestion.
10:05:15 AM	Vote	Roll call: Steve - no Robin - yes Berk - yes Laura - no Gretchen - yes Buck - no Becky - yes Motion passed: 4 yes and 3 no
10:06:46 AM		Discussion on what goes into the letter?
10:07:14 AM		(Robin had to leave)
10:07:48 AM		EHS subcommittee will draft and the full Board will vote on the final.
10:08:33 AM		Matt suggested appointing three Board members to draft language, notice a public meeting where the Board irons out details of the language & then distribute to Board for review.
10:09:48 AM		The letter writing committee composed of Berk, Gretchen & Becky.
10:10:14 AM		Subcommittee Reports
10:10:18 AM		Environmental Health Subcommittee - Steve reported on the progress of the last EHS meeting.
10:10:30 AM		(Buck had to leave)
10:13:11 AM		Prevention Alliance - this subcommittee is in recess until the findings from Community Themes and Strengths Assessments become action-oriented.
10:13:31 AM		Health Officer Report
10:13:35 AM		Matt reported on the completion of the third and final Bozeman community meeting; one to do in Big Sky; Emily Linker, cancer prevention program coordinator is going back to school so the department will have a vacancy and will advertise soon to fill; quality improvement team, related to the Immunization program, is meeting to discuss ideas for more financial sustainability. Matt will designate authority while he is out of town - going fishing.
10:16:18 AM		Meeting adjourned.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date