

## **COMMENTS FROM DWAYNE FORDER; CHAIR OF THE CONDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Important News for 2011**

The Swan Valley Community Council welcomes all of you to this joint meeting of the Swan Lands Coordinating committee and the Community Council. The council welcomes this opportunity to update the committee members, groups, agencies and community members of the council's activities. It is important that we keep each other informed about present and future activities and plans. People and Communities are important components and rescuers of the landscape. Especially when small communities are surrounded by a extreme amount of public land under different agencies and departments sometimes with different management objectives as we are in the Swan Valley. Decisions and activities on public land can and often do have direct, indirect and sometimes unintended consequences on private land , owners and communities.

The Council Members are Dwayne Forder, Mike Holmes, Mike Lake, Larry Dunham, and Tony Quadros. The Chairs of our respective committees are.. Mike Lake dust abatement and solid waste committees. John Mercer and Ken Donovan Swan Valley Growth Policy Committee, John Mercer Swan Valley Economic Development Committee. The Council has supported the creation of a Community Foundation which was established in Nov. and is chaired by John Mercer.

The Swan Valley communities registered voters, voted to create the Swan Valley Community Council to be the official voice of the community and liaison between the community and local, county, state, and federal government and agencies.

The dust abatement committee has helped members of the community get signed up for dust abatement on county approved roads with the county road dept. Some people have concerns with the use of magnesium. Chloride. Suggestions of more eco-friendly products and partnerships to approach the county to use them would be welcome.

The solid waste committee has worked on the possibility of having a local transfer site or a container site. Costs, regulations, funding limitations as well as small parcel community use of a portion of Section 31 not being available as originally thought have made it a uphill battle. At this point the committee is looking into seeing if the community could possibly partner with the forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks to use or lease a site to use as a container site. Which wii help Members of the community reduce and control wildlife attractances.

Swan Valley Community Council, Growth Policy Committee –

In the last year, the Growth Policy Committee completed and submitted the draft profile for public comments; a team attended a Sonoran Institute/FWP planning workshop; and the Committee completed a two-phase grant from FWP, administered by Rural Initiatives. Geo Data Services, Inc., completed maps for the profile and established a working GIS format, database, and digital map resources. Land Solutions, LLC developed a public outreach plan meeting criteria of the committee and

Rural Initiatives. This will identify important planning issues, draft goals, objectives and implementation language, for private lands in the Upper Swan in the next year.

Swan Valley Community Council, Economic Development Committee –

The Economic Development Committee is working with the USDA Rural Economic Development to initiate a Upper Swan Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The committee will engage in a trial run at a CEDS in January. Bill Barr, USDA Rural Economic Development Specialist from the Bozeman state office will lead the committee in a CEDS exercise and training. After the committee has familiarity with this process, it will explore conducting several CEDS workshops for the Upper Swan Valley over the course of 2012 in order to draft a CEDS for the Swan Valley.

Swan Valley Community Foundation Established November 28, 2011 –

As a direct result of Community Council activities, most notably the attendance of a Swan Valley Team from the Growth Policy Committee at an FWP planning workshop in the spring, a number of residents became interested in forming a community foundation to help secure the future for the Swan Valley Community. Several attended the Montana Community Foundation Workshop at Big Sky Ranch this fall. In November, a founding board was formed, officers elected and the paperwork signed and submitted to the State and IRS for formal 501c(3) status. In addition to acting as a “community chest” for the valley, the foundation will also be able to engage in “community leadership” activities, seeking and securing funding to support a variety of community projects.