



# **MAD RIVER VALLEY**

## **PLANNING DISTRICT**

**Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren**

### **Mad River Valley For Local Opportunities (FLO) Committee**

#### Minutes

October 4, 2018, 2:30 pm EDT  
Waitsfield Town Office

#### Attendees:

Jared Cadwell; Bob Ackland; Peter MacLaren; Don Simonini; Jasmine Bigelow [absent]; and Daryl Forrest

Guests: Michael Levine; Ed Read; Terry Kellogg

Jared opened the meeting at 2:33PM at the Waitsfield Town Office Conference room. The previous meetings minutes were approved.

Ed asked for some background on who the members were on this FLO workgroup. Jared explained and introduced the members present [Jasmine was absent attending a Chamber event].

Jared introduced Terry Kellogg a Valley resident and local business person.

Bob provided an overview for our guests as to the background, objectives, and content of the FLO work to date.

#### Key points Bob mentioned were:

- Aging MRV population
- How to provide effective funding to move the economic vitality of The Valley forward
- Shortage of workers and housing
- Transportation needs
- Seasonal swings
- Limits to raising funding thru property taxes
- How the funding would be spent and how it would be controlled and measured against objectives
- The organizational structure of the future FLO organization
- Discussed the 6 “buckets” where the funding would be directed
- Bob explained the logic and objectives underlying each bucket
- Bob explained the proposed Commission and by-laws

Ed Read asked for more definition on the 1% LOT and how it is determined. We explained that 1% is added to any item that is currently “eligible” for the sales, meals, liquor, and rooms taxes and it is not applied to anything that is already not currently taxable. We further explained that it will amount to less than 50 cents per Valley resident per week. Further study will be done to determine if this estimate is possibly even lower than 50 cents.

Ed asked for more focus, and funding, directed to marketing.

Peter provided answers and dialogue to Ed's questions.

We agreed to talk more about identifying the real "needs" here in the MRV and how this FLO concept can meet these needs.

Terry suggested we consider:

1. Eliminating specific % to each bucket and allowing The Commission to decide what grants and to whom based on yet to be determined criteria
2. He suggested we include a short list of potential investments in each bucket, so the voters can have a more concrete idea as to what can happen with the LOT funding and for what potential purposes it may be applied

We discussed the Telluride "incubator" business program.

After our guests departed we reflected on their two contributing conversations and decided we each needed to give these comments some independent thought and will bring these thoughts to the next meeting on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43PM.