POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes are from the September 5, 2014 meeting held at 12 noon at the Broken Arrow Steakhouse.

Those present: Bob Toole, Marge Bloomquist, Therese Hunt, Linda Spaulding, Darryl Barton and Dave Williams.
Also present: Shirley Cortright, Sarah Bannon and Alan Stewart from Grant-Kohrs Ranch

Since we did not have a quorum a full Board Meeting could not be held.
The meeting started at 12:08 pm

- **Secretary's Report –** Dave said that Chamber membership is at 78, we had 120 total inquiries last month (+3), 51 phone calls, 9 emails and 60 office visits. Mailed out 3 visitor packs, 2 relocation packs and 1 pack of brochures. Web statistics increased to over 1 million hits, 965,101 page views and 17,865 unique visits (+3,508). 656 pdfs downloaded (+60).

Visited by Chuck & Betty Bonnett from the Gold Wing Riders Association out of Billings. Planning to hold their annual meeting in Deer Lodge from 23rd – 25th July 2015 (Gun Show w/e?). Pre-booked accommodation at the Travelodge and Indian Creek, and plan to have a meal at the Pen. They would like to run a local business deal, numbers in the stores encouraging their members to visit them. They expect approx. 100 – 150 members to attend.

Forest Service will be closing their ranger station at the Ranch from September 19th. Permits will be available from I-90 Truck Plaza. Alan said the Ranch may be selling the forest service maps.

-Main Street Flowers – Lynette has been paid, and T asked if we could send a thank you letter for the watering team, sent to Ron. T will write the letter.

- Demolition Derby – The income and expense report was handed around, a check has been presented to the Fair Board for their 25% of profits. Car numbers were down due to conflict with other area derbies, but profit overall increased. Some driver injuries and two stoppages due to ambulance and fire truck leaving on calls. County employees helped overcome the problems with arena mud. Wet weather affected the rodeos. Thanks to all the flaggers, judges and gate staff. Out of area sponsors helped cover some costs, as well as NorthWestern Energy and Steele's. Demo Derby ticket sales were higher than the rodeo sales. Dave, Jim and John had all received feedback from some of the drivers. Crystal Clear detailing (Angel, Rufus, etc.) are going to get 5 cars for next year. They were unhappy with the car inspection, they saw railroad ties behind front bumper and concrete in trunk of a car.

Inspection needs to be tightened up, and more consistent. Drivers can be disqualified if found in breach of the rules after the event, due to complaints by other drivers.

John had suggested on having headsets for the flaggers to help communicate with the judges, the extra costs need to be addressed. Next year check in of cars may be held in the fairgrounds north of the arena, not by the church.

- Grant-Kohrs Ranch – Alan reported numbers were down 2.37% due to the wet weather, but a little ahead over the year. New bathrooms are under construction, parking lot has been resurfaced. Pumpkin Sunday is on October 19th. Hotdogs and music at the Barn Dance next Friday at 6 pm till 8 pm.

- **Job Service –** Shirley spoke about there being lots of jobs available, especially at the Dept. of Corrections. Sun Mountain Lumber had problems getting employees recently. Grants are available for hiring the unemployed, if they qualify for training prior to hiring. No info yet on a change in the minimum wage for next year. Temporary project to get unemployed to go through an intense work search.

- **Other Business –** Sarah mentioned the new Lewis & Clark brochures that are available and tear-off maps for the SWMT region. New Travel Guide to be worked on soon. Tourism should be up, no numbers available. Sarah not sold on Banner ads, trying to find research numbers. Philipsburg does no online advertising but they do buy large numbers of print ads. The rest area in Anaconda was originally set

up to help promote Deer Lodge, but not getting the coverage. Carol Crockett at the DOT is the contact person.

Marge said her summer at Territorial Antiques had been slow.

Dave said the Museum numbers had looked good, but no exact numbers available. Opening days and hours at the Ice Cream shop have changed. Talk of extending the season until October, before cutting the hours. Frontier Montana may also be open for longer than normal. Still intend for the Prison and Cars to remain open for 7 days a week through the Fall.

Meeting ended at 1:07 pm