

BROADWATER COUNTY MONTANA

Happy New Year!

We are excited for the opportunity to get 2019 off to a good start. More than 5,600 people call Broadwater County home, and this Board of County Commissioners represents all of them. We have completed the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget planning and allocation process, and you can see in that budget all of the ways in which Broadwater County government touches the lives of each and every resident.

Commission minutes, agendas, links to meeting videos and information about county departments and services are available at the newly updated community website:

www.townsendmt.com, see the County Government page.

Commission meeting videos uncut & unedited at :

www.youtube.com 'Commissioners Broadwater'



Broadwater County Commissioners: (l to r) Mike Delger, Laura Obert, Darrel Folkvord

Your New Leadership Team!

MEET YOUR BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Laura Obert, District 1

Laura Obert has been serving as your Broadwater County District 1 Commissioner for 10 years.

She is a born and raised Montanan. Her previous experience includes 10 years working as a professional artist, owning a business and supervisor of 25 employees for Alaska Airlines. Her degree is in Management.

As a Commissioner, she has been most actively involved in Community Development, Seniors' issues and Criminal Justice work.

Participation on State and National Boards that benefit Broadwater County citizens:

- Chair - Montana Board of Crime Control (appointed by Governor, approved by Senate)
- Council Member - National Criminal Justice Association
- Chair - Justice & Public Safety Committee for Montana Association of Counties
- Member – Youth Justice Council (appointed by Governor, approved by Senate)
- Member – County Board of Printing (appointed by Governor, approved by Senate)

Local and Regional volunteer work:

- Townsend Rotary Club
- BCDC (local economic development non-profit)
- Area IV Agency on Aging Governing Board
- Elkhorn Restoration Committee

Contact Laura at (406) 980-2050 or lobert@co.broadwater.mt.us



Commissioner Michael Delger, District 2

Mike Delger has been your county commissioner for two years serving District 2. He was born and raised in Broadwater County and grew up in a large family with a mother and father that instilled family and ethical values. After graduating from Broadwater High School, where he had perfect attendance, he served four years in the U.S. Navy SeaBees. He graduated from Helena Vo-Tech from the carpentry and construction program. He has worked construction over forty years and has run his own business as a general contractor/carpenter for twenty years. He also served on the City Council for 10 years and the Rural Fire Board for 5 years.



Commissioner Darrel Folkvord, District 3

Darrel was born and raised in Montana and is a third-generation farmer and rancher. Darrel is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and Montana National Guard. He recently served his country as a contract helicopter pilot in Afghanistan supporting our troops in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Darrel brings a wide range of experience and common sense to his position as a Broadwater County Commissioner. Some of his experience includes:

- Twenty-six years in public works
- Small business owner of Wheat Montana Bakery and Deli in Helena
- Assistant Fire Chief, Firefighter, EMT
- Fire Service Trustee
- Commercial Chemical Applicator

Some of his favorite sayings are:

- "If you don't have time to do it right the first time, when are you going to find time to do it right the second time?"
- "The first step in digging yourself out of a hole is to put down the shovel."



Wheatland Targeted Economic Development District in the Works

Broadwater County is embarking on an economic development effort in the Wheatland area of the county, on the north side of the intersection of I-90 and US Highway 287. The effort is focused on retaining and expanding existing “value-adding” businesses, as well as attracting new ones to the area, which in turn will create new employment opportunities and diversify and grow our property tax base over time. “Value-adding” businesses take a Montana resource, product or process and transform it into a new product or process intended for interstate commerce.

The successful culmination of this effort will be the formation of a Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD), on approximately 1,000 acres of industrial and commercial land in the Wheatland area.

TEDDs are authorized in Montana’s Urban Renewal laws and enable local governments (cities and counties) to direct resources towards addressing infrastructure deficiencies that have hindered economic growth. The law requires that TEDDs must “target” businesses that add value to a product or process resulting in the creation of new wealth.

State law permits using a variety of tools within a TEDD, including Tax Increment Financing (TIF), to fund public infrastructure improvements, including, but not limited to sewer and water systems, transportation facilities, and utilities. TIF enables cities and counties to direct property tax dollars that result from “incremental” increases in taxable value, to support public infrastructure improvements within or connecting to the TEDD. The key infrastructure deficiency identified in the Wheatland area is the lack of commercial/ business grade wastewater treatment.

The process to form the TEDD was initiated in October of last year (2018) and will take about a year to complete. The Broadwater County Board of Commissioners must first adopt a Resolution of Necessity, declaring that the area is infrastructure deficient and that this deficiency constitutes an obstacle to the retention, expansion and recruitment of value-adding businesses. The final step is the adoption of a Comprehensive Development Plan for the area, by ordinance, after a public hearing. All property owners in the proposed TEDD will be notified by mail of the public hearing.

Montana statutes require that a TEDD be zoned in accordance with the County Growth Policy. Therefore, the County will, simultaneously, be taking steps to form a zoning district with the same boundary as the TEDD. When it has been drafted information about the proposed zoning district will be available to area property owners.

Technical support to the County is being provided by Community Development Services (CDS) of Montana, through a contract with the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC).

Please visit the newly updated community website www.townsendmt.com,
County Government page, for:

- Meeting agendas
- Links to Commission meeting videos
- Weekly articles and updates
- Meeting minutes

Commissioner Phone Numbers

Laura Obert: 980-2050
Mike Delger: 521-0834
Darrel Folkvord: 980-1213

Commissioner Email Addresses

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For general questions or
comments please email us at:
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