

## **Panelist's Biographies**

February 6-7, 2012

Select Committee on Efficiency in Government  
MSU Student Union Building Bozeman, MT

### **Natural Resources Subcommittee--Monday**

#### **Richard Opper**

Richard Opper was appointed as Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality in 2005. As Director of the Montana DEQ, Opper oversees his department's pursuit of its mission to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment. DEQ works on superfund site cleanups, environmental enforcement, water quality planning, energy conservation, and environmental permitting. Opper received a Master's Degree in Environmental Science in 1979 from Montana State University, where his research focused on mined land reclamation. Before working for state government, Opper worked on natural resource issues for a variety of non-profits. Most recently, he served as Director for the Missouri River Basin Association, a coalition of the basin's states and tribes that addressed policy issues regarding the management and recovery of the Missouri River system.

#### **Jack Schunke**

Jack Schunke, PE is presently the office manager of the Bozeman office of Morrison –Maierle Inc. As Office Manager and Vice-President of Morrison-Maierle, Inc. he is responsible for the management of over 50 Professional Engineers, Technicians and Support Staff, and for quality assurance for the Bozeman office. He has experience in administration of contract documents, quality control, capital improvements programming and construction management. Jack has over 35 years of experience on civil projects. He is involved in management of Rural Improvement Districts, land development planning, subdivision applications, agency permitting, design and construction management of road, water, sewer, storm water, and parking lots.

#### **Eric Blanksma**

Eric Blanksma, PE is a Senior Engineer for Morrison-Maierle, Inc in Bozeman. He has 10 years of experience in water and wastewater system design, road and drainage design, site planning, permitting, construction plans, specifications, design reports, facility plans, agency permitting, and construction management. Eric is a senior engineer on the design team for the River Rock wastewater treatment facility, the City of Bozeman Water Treatment Facility, and the Utility Solutions/Four Corners Sewer and Water District facilities.

## **Local Government Panel--Monday**

### **Sean Becker**

Sean Becker currently serves as the mayor of Bozeman, first elected in 2005 as a city commissioner. In addition to the responsibilities at City Hall, Sean is a business development consultant focusing on small business reorganization. For a decade before this, Sean worked with hundreds of city, state, and federal agencies as the research director of a market research firm that focused on economic development and the experience economy.

### **Earl Mathers**

Earl Mathers is County Administrator and CAO for Gallatin County, Montana, a position he has held since August 2006. Prior to that time he was a senior executive with the Washington, DC-based Graduate School, USA. Mr. Mathers has more than thirty years experience in the public and non-profit sectors in which he has served in a variety of senior level management positions. His experience also includes the management of long-term local government projects in Lithuania and Romania as well a broad range of short-term international activities. Mr. Mathers has extensive experience managing local economic development programs and is certified as an Economic development Finance Professional (EDFP). He holds a BA from the University of Montana and an MPA from the University of Wyoming. The author of more than twenty articles, Mr. Mathers' most recent publications have appeared in ASPA and ICMA periodicals the Public Manager, Public Management and the Public Administration Times. Mr. Mathers has served as an invited speaker at a number of regional, national and international conferences. He and his wife Kallie have four grown children and two grandchildren.

### **Kirk J. Miller**

Kirk J. Miller has served as the Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools since July 2007. Serving 31 years as a Montana educator, Dr. Miller has been a teacher, principal or superintendent in Livingston, Shepherd, Cascade, Havre and Bozeman. He has provided learning opportunities and leadership for all size schools across the state.

Dr. Miller received his Doctorate Degree in School Administration and Educational Leadership from Montana State University in 1999, and has served as an adjunct professor in the College of Education, Health & Human Services. He was appointed to the Montana Board of Public Education in 1995, served as Chairman of the Board from 1999 to 2006, and completed two terms in office ending in 2008. Dr. Miller has served on a number of state level committees and Task Forces over the years, focused on improving and supporting education for Montana students. He continues to serve Montana students in his capacity as Federal Relations Coordinator for the Montana Association of School Superintendents and on committees related to Montana education. Dr. Miller believes establishing leadership for the local education community is important in advocating for high quality educational opportunities that all children need and deserve.

## **Jeffrey Rupp**

Jeff Rupp has been the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) for the past 30 years. The HRDC is a non-profit community action agency serving Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties.

Jeff is a former City Commissioner and serves on many state and local boards including, Montana Board of Housing and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. Jeff is an alumnus of Montana State University and did graduate studies at Roosevelt College in Chicago, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and MSU. Jeff is a native of Montana and lives in Bozeman with his wife and four children.

Jeff's leadership is responsible for the development of many successful community initiatives including Streamline a fare free transit program. Streamline provides an average of 1000 rides per day connecting people to educational, employment, social, medical and volunteer opportunities throughout Gallatin County and Livingston. Jeff's vision for affordable housing in our community has resulted in over 200 units of affordable housing, a property management division, a first time homeowner education and financial assistance program and most recently 60 condominiums available for purchase to households previously priced out of the housing market.

## **Innovative Natural Resource Technology Panel--Tuesday**

### **Mark Reinsel**

Mark Reinsel is president of Apex Engineering, PLLC, in Missoula and formerly an adjunct professor at both MSU-Bozeman and Montana Tech for the Master's in Project Engineering and Management program. Dr. Reinsel has 28 years of experience in consulting, industry and academia. His consulting work focuses on treating mining and other industrial wastewater through biological, chemical and physical methods. He has worked on over 75 consulting projects over the past 17 years, with nearly 50 related to mine water treatment. Prior to graduate school and the consulting field, he worked in Minnesota as a product and process engineer at 3M Company's largest manufacturing site in the world. He holds one patent, and has earned several industrial and academic awards. Dr. Reinsel earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from Montana State University with a minor in environmental engineering. He is a registered professional engineer in Montana and Nevada, and lifetime member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Outside of work, Dr. Reinsel enjoys volunteering in the community and exploring Montana's vast landscape through telemark skiing, mountain biking, road biking and hiking.