

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-110

**A Resolution of the Gallatin County Commission Revising
Budgeting Protocol Established by Resolution 2020-095 for Funds
Levied Under the 2018 Voter-Approved Open Space Levy.**

This Resolution was introduced by Sean O'Callaghan, Chief Planning Officer, moved by Commissioner MACFARLANE, and seconded by Commissioner BROWN. The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 2-0.

WHEREAS, the Gallatin County Commission created the Gallatin County Open Lands Program for the purpose of conserving important agricultural and natural resource lands in Gallatin County; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, voters of Gallatin County passed the Open Space Levy and authorized levying up to 4.5 Mills on real property to support open space capital needs including the purchase of land and conservation easements from willing landowners to conserve farm and ranch lands, provide recreation, protect water quality of streams and rivers, manage growth, protect wildlife areas, and for other capital improvements and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, with passage of Resolution 2020-095, the County Commission affirmed their allocation of 0.5 Mills of the approved 4.5 Mills to support the capital improvements and maintenance needs of County-owned parks, and levies those monies under the parks fund. The remaining 4.0 Mills, levied under the open space fund, is available to fund "Conservation Projects" and "Other Eligible Projects"; and

WHEREAS, among other budgeting protocol, Resolution 2020-095 directed 81.25% (proportionate equivalent to 3.25 Mills) of available levy funds available to Conservation Projects and the remaining 18.75% (proportionate equivalent to 0.75 Mills) of available levy funds to Other Eligible Projects; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2022 the County Commission passed Resolution 2022-111 clarifying that projects related to County-owned parks are eligible for funding under the "Conservation Projects" and "Other Eligible Projects" competitive application processes through the Gallatin County Open Lands Program;

WHEREAS, the County has seen growing interest in the Other Eligible Projects application category and the County Commission believes it is appropriate to adjust the distribution of funds between Conservation Projects and Other Eligible Projects to make the best use of Levy monies.

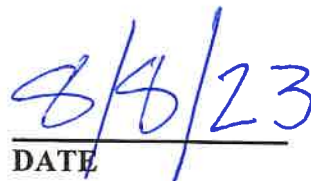
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Gallatin County Commission:

- The allocation of Levy funds established in Resolution 2020-095 is hereby adjusted such that 75% of the Levy money available to fund projects shall be directed to Conservation Projects and the remaining 25% of funds shall be directed to Other Eligible Projects.
- The County Commission affirms the remaining provisions of Resolutions 2020-095 and 2022-111.



Dated this 8th day of August, 2023.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION


ZACH BROWN, CHAIRMAN


DATE

ATTEST:


ERIC SEMERAD, CLERK & RECORDER


AUGUST 8, 2023
DATE



Gallatin County

MEMO

TO: Gallatin County Commission
FROM: Sean O'Callaghan, Planning Director
RE: Resolution Changing Allocation of Open Space Levy Funds Between
"Conservation Projects" and "Other Eligible Projects" Application Categories
MEETING DATE: August 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

In 2018, Gallatin County voters authorized levying up to 4.5 Mills on real property to support open space capital needs including the purchase of land and conservation easements from willing landowners to conserve farm and ranch lands, provide recreation, protect water quality of streams and rivers, manage growth, protect wildlife areas, and for other capital improvements and maintenance.

With the passage of Commission Resolution 2020-095, the Gallatin County Commission allocated 0.5 Mills of the approved 4.5 Mills to support the capital improvements and maintenance needs of County-owned parks, and levies those monies under the parks fund. The remaining 4.0 Mills, levied under the open space fund, is available to fund other conservation, capital, and maintenance projects.

Resolution 2020-095 created two application categories under the Open Lands Program. "Conservation Projects" are defined as projects related to the purchase of land and conservation easements to conserve farm and ranch lands, provide recreation, protect water quality of streams and rivers, manage growth, protect wildlife areas. "Other Eligible Projects" are defined as those capital improvements and maintenance projects that support the purpose of the open space levy and are eligible for funding under the levy.

Resolution 2020-095 allocated 81.75% of the Levy money available to fund projects to Conservation Projects and 18.25% to Other Eligible Projects. Interest in both application categories continues to be very high, but in FY23 interest in the Other Eligible Projects application category was surprisingly high. There was \$864,295 in funding sought from this application category and only \$458,223 available to fund projects. It is appropriate at this time for the County Commission to consider increasing the funding for the Other Eligible Projects application category from 18.25% to 25%.