

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 112

**A Resolution of the Gallatin County Commission Establishing
Funding Amounts for Conservation and Other Eligible Projects
Under the Open Space Levy for Fiscal Year 2023**

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 3:0.

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, With the passage of Resolution No. 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; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to County Commission resolution No. 2020-095, 81.25% of funding available from the Levy (proportionate equivalent of 3.25 Mills) is directed to Conservation Projects and the remaining 18.75% (proportionate equivalent to 0.75 Mills) is directed to Other Eligible Projects; and

WHEREAS, For the purpose of administering Levy money collected under the open space fund, Gallatin County considers "Conservation Projects" 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, and recognizes "Other Eligible Projects" as those capital improvements and maintenance projects that support the purpose of the open space levy and are eligible for funding under the levy; and

WHEREAS, For budgeting purposes it is prudent for the County to maintain a modest reserve to account for tax delinquencies and not allocate all of the available money to projects, and in Fiscal Year 2022, \$141,237 was reserved for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2022, the levy is estimated to bring in \$1,748,204 in revenue from property taxes; and

WHEREAS, In addition to new property tax revenue, there is \$610,651 in Open Space Levy funds from Fiscal Year 2022 that weren't dedicated to projects, and \$85,000 from a Conservation Project that was granted Level I approval, but subsequently has been withdrawn by the sponsoring land trust; and

WHEREAS, In total, there is estimated to be \$2,443,855 in Open Space Levy Funds available to award to Conservation and Other Eligible Projects in Fiscal Year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Gallatin County Commission that funding amounts for Conservation and Other Eligible Projects under the Open Space Levy for Fiscal Year 2023 shall be as follows:

- \$141,237 remains an appropriate amount to be held in reserve and there is no need to reserve additional funds at this time;
- \$1,985,632 (81.25% of the Levy money available to fund projects) shall be directed to Conservation Projects; and
- \$458,223 (18.75% of the Levy money available to fund projects) shall be directed to Other Eligible Projects.
- By separate action, the County Commission shall cause a "Request for Project Applications" to be issued during Fiscal Year 2023 to make the public aware of opportunities to apply for Levy money for Conservation Projects and Other Eligible Projects.

Dated this 9th day of August, 2022.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION



JOE P. SKINNER, CHAIRMAN

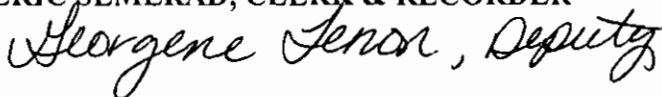
8-9-2022
DATE

ATTEST:



ERIC SEMERAD, CLERK & RECORDER

8-9-2022
DATE


Georgene Tenor, Deputy

