

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** Study Commission

**FROM:** Caeleb Heinen, Recording Secretary  
Mike Maas, Ex Officio  
Chuck Winn, City Manager  
Terry Cunningham, Mayor

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Discussion on the City of Bozeman's Inter-jurisdictional Collaborations

**MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive the presentation about inter-jurisdictional collaborations.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

**BACKGROUND:** **Mayor Cunningham and City Manager Winn have provided a listing of inter-jurisdictional partnerships:**

The City of Bozeman actively participates in several standing committees, meetings or consortia that meet regularly to discuss issues of regional significance that involve representation from a City of Bozeman elected official. Below is a partial list of such organizations or regularly scheduled meetings:

**Bozeman, Belgrade, Gallatin County Leadership Meeting:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, the Bozeman Mayor, Deputy Mayor and City Manager meet with the Chairperson of Gallatin County Commission, the County Administrator, the Mayor of Belgrade and the Belgrade City Manager. It is an opportunity to share possible areas of collaboration and to discuss regional challenges and opportunities.

**Big 7 Mayors Meeting:** The Mayors of Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Kalispell and Butte meet with Zoom on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of regional concern as well as to discuss upcoming legislative session topics. Bozeman's Mayor and Deputy Mayor attend these meetings.

**Regional Housing Coalition:** Address regional housing issues. Convened by One Valley Community Foundation. RHC meets quarterly. Subcommittees include Unhoused to Housed, Land Banking, Communications and Permanent Affordability which meet separately. Consists of local governments (elected officials and planning staff from Bozeman, Belgrade, Gallatin County, Manhattan), non-profits, developers, Bozeman Health, Chambers of Commerce, GAR, etc. Mayor and Deputy Mayor are commission liaisons.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization:** Statutorily required since Bozeman became an entitlement community. Addresses regional transportation needs including multimodal and transit. Convened by the MPO staff. Meets monthly. Consists of local governments (Bozeman, Belgrade, Gallatin County elected officials) Montana Department of Transportation, and local transportation experts. Mayor is MPO chair and liaison.

**Board of Health:** Addresses regional public health issues. Convened by County Board of Health Officer. Includes representation from Bozeman, Belgrade and Gallatin County government and qualified citizens. Meets monthly. Governing body meets as needed. Mayor is Board liaison.

**Urban Transportation District:** Addresses transit issues and future planning. Convened by UTD chair. Consists of local governments (elected officials from Bozeman, Belgrade and Gallatin County), MSU, student liaison, citizen rider. Meets monthly. Commissioner Bode is district liaison.

**Planning Coordinating Committee:** Addresses planning opportunities for the “Triangle” area between Bozeman, Belgrade and Four Corners. Meets quarterly. Includes representation (1 elected official and 1 member of planning staff) from the city of Bozeman, Belgrade and Gallatin County. Commissioner Madgic is elected official liaison.

**Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition:** Addresses mental and behavioral health needs of the county. Convened by an assigned moderator. Meets monthly. Local governments (elected members, law enforcement, staff from Bozeman and Gallatin County) mental health providers, MSU, School district. Mayor is coalition liaison.

**Gallatin Water Quality District:** Addresses water quality issues. Meets monthly. City of Bozeman and Gallatin County are represented. Mayor is district liaison.

**Gallatin Criminal Justice Coordinating Council:** Rotating Local Government Participation. Meets monthly.

**Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, the following organizations provide the Chamber Board with an update: City of Bozeman, Gallatin County, Bozeman Yellowstone Airport, Bozeman School District.

In addition to many of the collaborations above, the City Manager is also actively involved in the following:

- Regular meetings with the Belgrade and Livingston City Managers to discuss items of mutual interest and explore opportunities for efficient and collaborative operations.
- Regular meetings with the city managers/administrators of other cities to discuss items that impact us all and share good ideas and lessons learned.
- Monthly meeting with the CEO of HRDC
- Regular meetings with the County Administrator
- The City and MSU have a healthy Town-Gown relationship and work closely together to promote positive relationships between students and the community.
- Work closely with our congressional delegation on federally funded projects

Bozeman's Director Team are all experts in their respective fields and work closely with our community and their state and national organizations to promote innovative advances in technology and best practices in their disciplines to ensure city services are provided at the highest level consistent with available resources. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Director Shawn Kohtz leading discussions in nutrient standards for wastewater treatment, water rights and supply, leak detection and repair, etc.
- Director Mitch Overton participating in state and national associations working on innovations on parks and trails and active and passive recreation planning and administration, etc.
- Fire Chief Josh as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Association and leading, with his team, the national accreditation of our fire department.
- Chief Jim Veltkamp active in his state-wide association and winning awards for the work of his department including special recognition for our School Resource Officers
- Director Nick Ross leading Bozeman community solutions to our local transportation challenges (i.e. Fowler) and leading the successful grant Federal process for our major Kagi construction project to make critical safety upgrades for our students, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Director Melissa Hodnett leading compliance and accountability improvements for our financial systems and operations and improving the city's credit rating.
- HR Director Cassie Tozer leading best-practice updates to our recruitment and retention efforts ensuring our employment policies take care of our most important resources, our people, while providing accountability for public dollars.
- Economic Development Director Brit Fontenot leading the city's efforts in attracting and retaining innovative clean high-tech industry and employers that pay living wages. Also, working with our partners to use our few existing tools to support the creation of affordable and attainable housing for our community.
- Library Director Susan Gregory implementing new and innovative ideas to improve services to our changing community and ensure all feel welcome in our best-in-class library.
- City Attorney Greg Sullivan working with other municipal attorneys across Montana to ensure the city is compliant with ever-changing state and national laws and that Bozeman manages its liability in a financially and ethically responsible way.
- IT Director Scott McMahan works with state and national groups to ensure all of Bozeman's data is secure and that its financial system are safe from national and international threats.
- Community Development Director Erin George engaged with regional planning groups to keep current with national development trends while engaging with community members to ensure changes to our code meet Bozeman needs and desires.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None

**ALTERNATIVES:** N/A

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** none

Attachments:

[Bozeman-ASMSU Special Meeting Agenda.pdf](#)

[Bozeman-Gallatin County Joint Meeting Agenda.pdf](#)

[Bozeman-Belgrade Joint Meeting Agenda.pdf](#)

[Bozeman City Commission - BSD7 Joint Meeting Agenda](#)

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Report compiled on: July 30, 2025