

PETROLEUM COUNTY FLATWILLOW BRIDGE PROJECT



The Problem

Flatwillow Bridge was closed by MDT in November of 2021 due to timber piling failure and pile cap deterioration. The bridge is located on an important farm/ranch-to-market route and, due to its closure, has caused users to utilize a 14-mile detour or cut through unauthorized private property. The bridge has severe decay of timber piles, distorted timber abutments, timber caps rotating off the piles, and no crash-worthy bridge railing.



The Solution

Construct a new single-span concrete tri-deck beam bridge with a stub abutment that can carry legal load limits to provide connectivity for residents and agricultural businesses.

The Cost

Current Project Estimate: \$620,420

Funding Applied For (to date):

- MCEP (ranked #8) \$465,300*

*Petroleum County requested a reduction in the required match due to financial hardship being experienced by the County.

The Need

Petroleum County is financially responsible for 17 bridges over 20-ft in length. With a minimal tax base and a project estimated to cost over \$500,000, the County is depending on grant funding to assist in funding this bridge replacement project.

The Importance

Flatwillow Bridge serves as the main access for 12 permanent residents in the vicinity of the bridge. The bridge is heavily used by agricultural operations and recreationists, which are the backbone of the County's economy. A new bridge will allow the residents to safely perform agricultural operations more efficiently and will maintain the route for recreational and residential access.

Your Support for the MCEP Program and other infrastructure funding is critical for the success of the Petroleum County Flatwillow Bridge project.





AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY
ENHANCEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Winnett ACES Inc.
P.O. Box 118
Winnett, MT 59087

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Winnett ACES Inc. is a 501(c)3 grassroots organization of area producers and community members who have come together to help enhance and sustain our traditions and ways of life since 2016. The Winnett ACES Inc. has been and continues to be a conduit for organizations and producers alike to bring groups together to better serve our area producers, community, and to care for the land.

Winnett ACES Inc. provides educational workshops and classes to our area producers and community. The Flatwillow Hall is one of our main facilities we prefer to use due to its location. Due to the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow creek being closed, the Winnett ACES Inc. and other entities have and will need to continue to host and/or provide these educational services elsewhere.

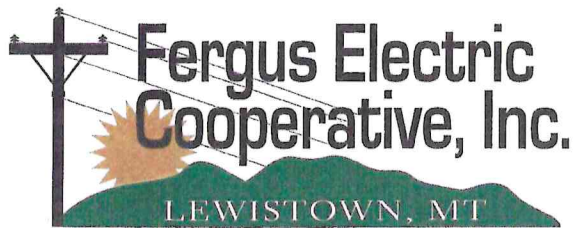
The Winnett ACES Inc. would like to take this opportunity to encourage the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

Winnett ACES Inc. is aware and concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and appreciate and are in favor of the efforts of Petroleum County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge capable of supporting large farm and ranch equipment. The construction of a new bridge will allow Winnett ACES Inc. to continue with our Mission to serve our local community and would make the transporting of "farm-to-market" loads and emergency vehicle access much more efficient and cost effective than pursuing alternate routes.


Grant funding will serve to make the project more affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Coordinator, Winnett ACES Inc.



March 10, 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

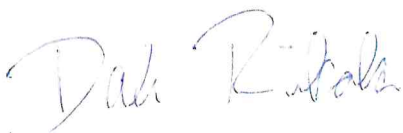
To Whom It May Concern:

We are a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. We would like to take this opportunity to voice our support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

We are concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes. Fergus Electric has members in that area and a quicker access during a power outage is particularly important.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,



Dale Rikala
Line Superintendent

Petroleum County Ambulance
16 South Broadway
P.O. Box 226
Winnett, MT 59087

March 20, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

We recognize the loss of the Flatwillow bridge as a huge inconvenience to our ability to access the people in that area. In addition to the producers who live in the area, the Flatwillow Hall often hosts big events and should we be needed to get to a patient at that event by way of the other access road would cost us valuable time. The bridge needs to be replaced to allow for quicker access by the ambulance or the fire department.

Our ambulance service serves all of Petroleum County and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Many of our volunteers live in the country and rush to town to respond which naturally causes a delay in our response time. Our getting on the road and to the site of the patient is critical and we hate to see anything that might slow our ability to serve our neighbors, friends, families or visitors and recreationists.

We hope you will approve the grant application which will help the county get a new bridge in place as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Shaw
Petroleum County Ambulance Director

Craig Iverson
PO Box 37
Winnett, MT 59087

3/21/2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Craig Iverson

Sig Pugrud
PO Box 170
Winnett, MT 59087

March 11, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the Flatwillow community and typically used the Flatwillow bridge that was condemned last fall so I have firsthand knowledge of the frustrations caused by the loss of the bridge. This has disrupted the bus service by the school to a family in this area. The Flatwillow Hall which is a huge old hall available for use for weddings, funerals, dances, educational seminars, etc. is only a half mile from the bridge and has lost some bookings for this year because people don't want to go the extra 8 miles around on the detour route. Come Memorial Day the Flatwillow cemetery visitors will also need to use the detour. Emergency services such as the ambulance or fire department are also going to have to contend with the loss of faster access.

There are several of us who live and ranch here but there are also many ag producers who lease local land and are now having to reroute their equipment or trucks to the longer route. It's been an awakening to realize how much of an impact the loss of the bridge has affected a large group of us on a daily basis. It's not just we residents, it's also our service people making deliveries, repairs, maintenance, etc.

Our county needs this grant in combination with local funding to replace this bridge. There may not be many of us in this county and we are good at getting by on a minimum. We need this bridge and we need this grant so I hope you will approve the grant application.

Sincerely,

Sig Pugrud



March 23, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeg.com

Subject: Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To whom it may concern:

There are some very exciting things going on in Petroleum County right now. One of which is the construction of the Petroleum County Community Center. PCCC is a 501(c)3 organization that, once the building is finished, will strive to provide and maintain a gathering place for present and future generations.

The PCCC committee is supporting the Flatwillow Bridge replacement project being planned by Petroleum County. We are concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and appreciate the efforts of Petroleum County to get the bridge back in use. With the construction of a new bridge, it will be capable once again of serving large farm and ranch vehicles and equipment.

Grant funding will make the project more affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for considering this important project for our community.

Sincerely,
PCCC Board of Directors
Sue McKenna, Luann Knutson, Brenda Brady, Brandi Lang, and Gari King.

Petroleum County Conservation District
P. O. Box 118
Winnett, MT 59087

March 31, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

As an organization charged with protecting and promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Montana, the Petroleum County Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to say we are in favor of the Flatwillow Road bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County.

We are concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and we appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The loss of use of the current bridge causes longer drive times for firefighter/ambulance crews, issues for some families dropping their kids off at the bus, significant disruptions for local farmers and ranchers, as well as making the Flatwillow Hall much less accessible. Many Petroleum county residents regularly attend functions at the Flatwillow Hall including dances, weddings, funerals, school fund-raising events, and educational seminars (some of which are put on by PCCD). Not being able to use this bridge inconveniences those attending these functions at the Flatwillow Hall and will lead to many of these events to be forced to choose a different location, of which there are few in Petroleum County.

The construction of a new bridge will alleviate the issues of local residents listed above. Hunters and other non-local recreators will also appreciate the return of the bridge.

While our county does have a small population the bridge has helped support the livelihood of many who call the county home. We feel grant funding will help to make the replacement of this bridge more readily possible. We hope you will approve the grant application.

Sincerely,



J. C. King, Chairman Petroleum County Conservation District

Petroleum County Planning Board
P. O. Box 226
Winnett, MT 59087

April 4, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

As an organization concerned for the residents of its county, the Petroleum County Planning Board would like to take this opportunity to say we are in favor of the Flatwillow Road bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County.

We are concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and we appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The loss of use of the current bridge causes longer drive times for firefighter/ambulance crews, issues for some families dropping their kids off at the bus, significant disruptions for local farmers and ranchers, as well as making the Flatwillow Hall much less accessible. Many Petroleum county residents regularly attend functions at the historic Flatwillow Hall including dances, weddings, funerals, school fund-raising events, and educational seminars. Not being able to use this bridge inconveniences those attending these functions at the Flatwillow Hall and will lead to many of these events to be forced to choose a different location, of which there are few in Petroleum County.

The construction of a new bridge will alleviate the issues of local residents listed above. Hunters and other non-local recreators will also appreciate the return of the bridge.

While our county does have a small population the bridge has helped support the livelihood of many who call the county home. We feel grant funding will help to make the replacement of this bridge more readily possible. We hope you will approve the grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. C. King", is written over a faint, larger signature that also appears to read "J. C. King".

J. C. King, Chairman Petroleum County Planning Board

Laura and Orren Kiehl
1671 Kiehl Ranch Road
Winnett MT 59087

March 10, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

We are users of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. We would like to take this opportunity to voice our support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

We are concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and we appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. Our ranch is located just east of the bridge needing repaired. We are also currently members of the Winnett Volunteer Fire Department, and Laura is a former member of the Winnett Ambulance. So, the need for this bridge replacement is a daily concern. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting ranch-to-market loads, loads of feed and supplies in to the ranch, day to day travels of our family that lives on that part of the ranch, and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

The Flatwillow Hall is best accessed by using the Flatwillow Road and bridge. Our Winnett area community hosts a variety of functions at the hall throughout the year, and this is another reason to have the new bridge constructed.

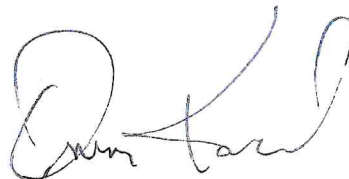
Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,



Laura Kiehl

Orren Kiehl



Brendan Beatty
Flowerree Land and Cattle Company, LLC
3072 Winnett Road
Roundup, MT 59072

3/11/2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

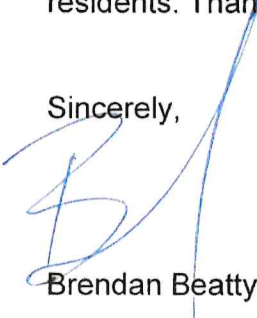
To Whom It May Concern:

My family ranch owns the land on both sides of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek in Petroleum County. Please consider my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes. Additionally, due to the bridge closure, we are personally experiencing a great deal of trespass traffic carrying speeds of close to 40 mph right through our yard in order to cross Flatwillow Creek on our private crossing. This has resulted in some conflict with the public that I do not enjoy, but have no choice but to address.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,



Brendan Beatty

Dan Belk
PO Box 152
9251 Pike Creek Road
Winnett, MT 59087

March 24, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned for this bridge by Petroleum County.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Dan Belk

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Anderson
AAH Implement

Johnke RANCH
Block Management #33
Box 222, 358 Johnke Dr
Winnett, MT 59087

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnke
Jim Johnke
OWNER

Starting in September we have at least 150 hunters that sign in to hunt our property, and they all cross the Flatwillow Bridge to get to my headquarters. I am sure all hunters will be hoping for a new bridge before 2024.

Sincerely
Jim Johnke

Johnke Ranch
358 Johnke Dr
Box 222
Winnett, MT 59087

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnke
Jim Johnke,
OWNER

My Ranch is 107 years old, est 1914, and is now 9 miles from Highway 244 using the detour since bridge is unsafe. Before closing of Flatwillow bridge ^{we} were 3 miles from Highway. This is more than just an inconvenience it has added more expense for my operation; for example: wear & tear on vehicle, higher fuel costs, and more difficult getting cattle to summer pastures. We are trying to make the best decisions since closure, but hope it could be replaced before 2024. J. J. H.

USPS Route #59066

Jim Johnke

CONTRACTOR

Box 222

WINNETT, MT

Stahly Engineering & Associates

Attn: Adam Hagel, PE

2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201

Billings, MT 59101

Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnke

Jim Johnke

Route #59066 - South of Winnett

There extra miles on this Route since bridge was closed. I get compensated for those miles but there is more expense using a gravel road, now. Always hope a new bridge could be built sooner than 2024.

Thank you time.

Jim Johnke

Flatwillow Cemetery
Box 222, Winnett, MT

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnke
Jim Johnke

Secretary/Treasurer Cemetery Association

This bridge is very important, since we have at least one burial each year. The number of people that attend these services, can vary between 20 and 100. The cemetery is now 10 miles from the highway, where it was $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. This is not good, so a new bridge before 2024 would be much better.

Thank you for your time.

Jim Johnke

Flatwillow Hall
Flatwillow Rd
Winnett, MT 59087

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County - Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnke
Jim Johnke

Chairman Flatwillow Hall Board

This Hall was built in 1921, in the Town of Flatwillow, est. in 1883. It has a stucco exterior and a large hardwood dance floor on second level. It has a full basement with tables for serving meals. It has been only ~~a~~ ^{1 (one)} mile from the Highway 244. Now it is 10 miles from Highway 244 using Detour. Over the years it has been a popular place for Community Parties; Weddings & Wedding Dances; and many funerals. Using the Hall is a major inconvenience, NOW! *Jim Johnke*

John Pugrud
3024 MacTavish Cr
Billings, Mt 59101

10 Mar 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

For years I have watched the deterioration of the Flatwillow bridge on Flatwillow Road and known the county would need to deal with it someday. That day has arrived, and I hope this project is quickly approved. I strongly support this bridge replacement being planned by the county. I know that the population of Petroleum County does not support a large tax base to make funding of this project an easy matter, so additional funds are definitely needed.

I can't say I'm a frequent user of the bridge, but I do travel to the family ranch about 20 times a year to help out my sister, or to just get out in the country. I am also a member of the Flatwillow Hall board, and the closure of the bridge is having an impact on the use of the hall for functions such as weddings, funerals, dances, education lectures dealing with ranching and farming, and fund-raising events.

I happened to be in the area when a county road crew was looking at the bridge, and so got a quick education on what they saw as problems. These men are not mechanical engineers, but they have seen enough to pick out the obvious problems. It was enough to convince me to stay off the bridge, even if it added 10 miles to my trip to the ranch. In my opinion, there is no doubt the bridge needs to be replaced.

A new bridge on the Flatwillow road would support the transportation of heavier loads such as cattle trucks, hay trucks, and other farm related traffic getting to market on a shorter route. I'm also concerned about the ability of emergency vehicles to quickly access areas on the other side of the bridge without using longer alternate routes. Use of the hall, visitation to the Flatwillow Cemetery, and hunting access would be greatly improved with this project.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pugrud', written over a horizontal line.

Russ and Luann Knutson
PO Box 21
Winnett Mt 59087

March 21st, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

We have a farm on Flatwillow and have always used this bridge as our access. We have cattle on the property that need constant attention. We depend on that road as part of our livelihood. The drought last summer caused stressful problems. We were hauling water from town to our pastures daily and not having that bridge operable was a true burden. The detour added many additional miles of travel on rough gravel road to get to our destinations.

The Flatwillow Community Hall and Cemetery are on road that uses that bridge for access. The hall has been used for numerous celebrations. After bridge became unusable, functions were cancelled.

Burials were performed at our cemetery but normal attendance was down because of no bridge access and having to detour so many opted out of attending because of the additional miles over rough gravel roads causing much disappointment to the family.

Along with us, our neighbors have crop land that depend on the bridge crossing to truck their grain, hay, and cattle to markets. The school bus used that bridge to pickup a school student. It is also used as a mail route.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new

bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and a very important emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Russ and Luann Knutson

Melody Whitcher
358 Johnke Drive
Flatwillow Area
Winnett, MT 59087

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date: *April 4, 2022*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a frequent "senior" user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Melody Whitcher

Titus Stahl
1985 Hw. 87n
Roundup mt. 59072

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

Titus Stahl

Wes Stahl
3054 Flatwillow
Rd
Roundup, MT 59072
466-670-7873

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com
Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project
Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Stahl', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Town of Winnett
16 South Broadway Ave
PO Box 225
Winnett, MT 59087

March 16th, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59101
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

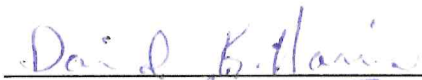
I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to voice my opinion of the much needed bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

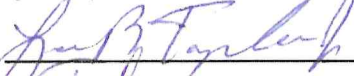
Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,
Town of Winnett

Dave Harris, Mayor:



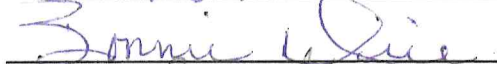
Leo Tarplee, Council President:



Levi Johnson, Council:



Bonnie Dill, Council:



Brad Olson, Council:





507 West Main Street, Lewistown, MT 59457, (406) 535-2591
www.snowymountaindevelopment.com

May 17, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates
Attn: Adam Hagel, PE
2223 Montana Avenue, Suite 201
Billings, MT 59102
Email: ahagel@seaeng.com

Subject: Support for Petroleum County – Flatwillow Road Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a user of the bridge located on Flatwillow Road over Flatwillow Creek. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the bridge replacement project currently being planned by Petroleum County for the previously mentioned bridge location.

I am concerned about the problems that have been identified with the existing structure and I appreciate the efforts of the County to get the closed bridge back in operation with the construction of a new bridge. The construction of a new bridge, with the capacity to handle heavier loads, would make transporting farm-to-market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes.

Furthermore, this project specifically aligns with goals identified in our 2017 Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which states identified Goal 2: Objective B)

“Assist local governments and communities with improvements to water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Work with communities on accessing and planning activities for infrastructure.

Strategy 2: Work with communities on project development and management for infra-structure.

Strategy 3: Collaborate with local governments and assist in identifying resources.”

The CEDS is a five-year planning document serving the purpose of guiding our focus and direction for economic and community development throughout the region into the future. It analyzes the current conditions of the region and is then used as a roadmap to establish regional goals that work towards strengthening and diversifying individual communities and the region.



507 West Main Street, Lewistown, MT 59457, (406) 535-2591
www.snowymountaindevelopment.com

Grant funding will serve to make the project affordable for the County and its residents. Thank you for undertaking this important project for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Hudson", is written over a faint, circular blue stamp.

Sara Hudson, Executive Director
Snowy Mountain Development Corporation