

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-048

### A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MISSOULA COUNTY AS A BEE CITY USA AFFILIATE

**WHEREAS**, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free or nearly free of pesticides; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, including over 230 species of native bees in Missoula County, along with introduced honeybees, Missoula County residents have access to diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

**WHEREAS**, a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides and herbicides), parasites, diseases and climate change has caused a population decline in bees and other pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised mostly of native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; and

**WHEREAS**, this habitat also is free or nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, this habitat is also made up of undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and

**WHEREAS**, it also provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, BEE CITY USA affiliated counties implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

**WHEREAS**, BEE CITY USA pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, becoming a certified BEE CITY USA affiliated county would help Missoula County increase public participation in pollinator conservation through implementation of a flowering lawn program, assess the potential for increasing and conserving pollinator habitat on the properties it owns and manages, use demonstrations and displays at the GW Marks Exploration Center and Rocky Mountain Gardens to increase public awareness of the important role pollinators and other invertebrates play in our lives, and develop a Pollinator Conservation Plan

that could be implemented in Missoula County and Lolo National Forest to enhance pollinator habitat and increase public participation and knowledge of local native pollinators.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Missoula County chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The habitat coordinator within the Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison.
3. Facilitation of Missoula County's BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Missoula Bee County Committee.
4. The Missoula Bee County Committee is authorized to and shall:
  - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Missoula County's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
  - b. **Publicity and Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension website that includes, at minimum, a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the BEE CITY USA liaison and committee, reports detailing the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and the County's recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan (explained below).
  - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying Missoula County's real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
  - d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
  - e. **Policy and Plans:** Establish policy in the Missoula County Pollinator Habitat Conservation Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings and consider other appropriate measures.
  - f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Missoula County's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Missoula County's population.

DATED THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2023

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MISSOULA COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tyler Gernant, Clerk and Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Slotnick, Chair

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Dave Strohmaier, Commissioner

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Juanita Vero, Commissioner

