



Ronan Cooperative Brewery Board of Directors Application

Name: Colin Smith

Contact Information: colinsmith1688@gmail.com

1) Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Ronan Cooperative Brewery?

After being on the Board for the last year and a half after filling a vacated position, I am running for reelection to a new three-year term. I have very much enjoyed being on the Board for the last 18 months and I would like to continue working with the other Board members to move the RCB forward.

2) What qualities and past experience do you have for serving on the Ronan Cooperative Brewery Board of Directors? What do you believe you can best contribute to the Board's strength?

I am a retired National Park Service Ranger, and I ended my career in upper management within the Service. I have been a home brewer for 26 years and a certified beer judge for the last 7 years.

For the last year I have been the Secretary on the Board of Directors. I have also been the chair of the HR Committee. I have drafted a new HR Committee Charter, written position description for our employees and I am working on writing our Employee Handbook.

I have worked with the Board to obtain our new beer and wine license, which should lead to increased revenue for the Cooperative. Finally, I've worked closely with Jim (our GM) to deal with employee issues when they arise.

Feel free to talk with the other Board members about my time and contributions on the Board.

3) What goals would you like to see Ronan Cooperative Brewery achieve in the next year? Five years?

I believe our most important goal at this point is to start making a profit and establish a solid financial footing. Like most brew pub operations, we have struggled to become profitable within five years, but I believe we are on the right track. Once we adjust to operating under our new license conditions, I think we will improve our financial situation.

4) What is one way in which you'd like Ronan Cooperative Brewery to stand out from other local brewpubs?

One way we stand out from other brew pubs is because we make very high-quality beer. Our beer is recognized through the Montana brewing community as among the best in the state, and we have won several competitions to prove it. I fully support this approach. We also stand out as Montana's first cooperative brewery.

5) What is your favorite Co-operative Principle and why?

My favorite cooperative principle is Concern for Community. While all the principles are important, I believe we need to keep in mind that the over-arching goal of the RCB is to help Ronan and revitalize its downtown.