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Here's how

Dr. Ken Weaver of MSU shows members of the Dillon City Government Study Commission and nearly 20 volunteers how the new survey of city residents will be taken. The survey begins this week and will be taken by telephone. John Barrows Photo

Survey "test the waters" of city

By John Barrows

What do you think about the City of Dillon and how it is managed and operated?

What do you think should be done differently?

Those are just a few of the questions that will be asked of many city residents next week as the City of Dillon Study Commission.

The study commission met last week with two representatives from MSU-Bozeman, who have been helping similar study commissions across the state.

Dr. Ken Weaver, and Judy Mathers, who has been contracted to conduct the study in Dillon, went over the final questions that have been drafted for the telephone survey with

commission members Cindy Eccleston, Chairman Ken Reeder and Marty Malesich.

After finishing the explanation of the study, Weaver then spent nearly an hour working with about 20 women of the LDS Church in Dillon, who have volunteered to help do the telephoning for the survey.

The survey, Weaver said, is specially designed "to measure the attitude of a population that is particularly accurate.

"We want to know the temperature of the water," Weaver said.

The survey, which will take about six minutes to complete, includes a number of simplified questions "to make doggone sure everyone knows what we're

talking about," Weaver stressed.

About 400 completed responses to the survey are needed, Weaver said, to attain a minimum 95 percent accuracy.

The callers will begin the survey Thursday, November 9, and will be completed by November 18. Complete anonymity is assured with the survey, as even the callers do not know whom they are speaking to. Only the total answers for a question will be recorded and used in the survey, Weaver said.

Callers will be conducting the survey from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

When the survey is finished the results will be computer tabulated and reported back to the commission. They will be

released at an informational meeting sometime in November.

The cooperation of city residents is asked to help make the surveying go as smoothly as possible, Reeder said. Information from the survey will be used by the commission to help make recommendations about city government.

The study commission was elected last year to study the Dillon city government and to bring out a report, which will be voted on by city residents next year.

The cost of the commission's operations, including the \$2,000 survey, is being paid by a mill levy which voters agreed upon earlier.