

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on March 20, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Billiette Brooks, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Marti Laknar, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Jack Bazemore, Kelly Rowe, Garrett Vasa

Absent: Harris Wheat, Jerry Meine, JS Turner, and Meg Smith,
Motion to excuse absences by Billiette 2nd Rich, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the February minutes by Billiette 2nd by Rich, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for March by Billiette 2nd by Rich, motion carried.*
- *Rich motions to donate \$500 to the Beaverhead County Collaborative, Carl seconds the motion, motion carries.*

NRCS – Garrett Vasa- Ole has retired, Sean is coming back to the office as remote work is no longer allowed.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma was not able to attend but gave an update- I have finalized a couple of inventory projects that the Youth Employment Program will be helping with this summer. In total we plan on mapping over 6,000 acres in priority sagebrush steppe habitat in the medicine lodge and sage creek watersheds. I am also working on drafting some Requests for Bids and Statements of Work documents for potential cheatgrass treatment projects this year in the hopes the federal funding becomes unfrozen here soon. The board asked for a demonstration with handouts.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore master gardener has dwindled in attendance greatly, county wide meeting to discuss efforts in BVHD county on April 9th.

Range Committee – Meg did not attend the meeting and is thinking about Summer Range Tour, CD Newsletter, Meg and reminisce donating beef for YCD, Working on CD History
Motion to sponsor Youth Conservation Day Lunch by Tom 2nd Carl motion carried.

Education and Outreach – Marti has submitted the pollinator/planning grant for the community gardens across town. She is having a hard time doing all of her work in only 10 hours a week and her 6-month probationary period is over; Marti also got her first grant award.

- *Motion to extend Marti's funding for 6 more months and move it to 20 hours a week for watershed and education since each task needs more time in different times of the year by Billiette, 2nd Carl, motion carried.*
- *Motion to sponsor a 4-person team for Envirothon up to \$2000 by Billiette, 2nd Tom, motion carried.*
- *Motion to spend up to \$50 on books for soil health in schools by Tom, 2nd Billiette, motion carried.*

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2503 Dan Greenslade, Red Rock River, Sump box for Pivot
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Billiette 2nd Carl. Motion Carried.
- BCD 2504 Dan Greenslade, Red Rock River, Sump box for Pivot
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Billiette 2nd Carl. Motion Carried.
We appreciate that the applicant always turns in application but would appreciate more information with the applications, such as maps, supervisors will work on education during the site visits. The board wants to make sure the sump boxes will be off the river far enough.
- BCD 2509 Karen Ward, Complaint, Sump Rehabilitation, Blacktail Deere Creek
Motion to send a letter to the applicant, DEQ, FWP, Land Owner, County, and City asking them to move the sewer lift station out of the flood way by Rich, 2nd Tom, motion carried.
Motion to dismiss complaint as not a Violation by Carl, 2nd by Rich, motion carried.
- BCD 2510 Cal and Brooke Erb, Albers Slough, Replace an Undersized Culvert
Motion to approve pending site visit on Tuesday by Tom 2nd Carl. Motion Carried.
The board was very happy to see a bridge being put in to replace a small culvert.
- BCD 2527 Huntsman, Sage Creek, Headgate Replacement
Motion to approve pending site visit on Tuesday by Billiette 2nd Rich. Motion Carried.
Good drawings and maps and the application included photos of the new headgate that will be going in.
- BCD 2528 David Schuett, Blacktail Creek, Headgate Replacement, Blacktail Rd 1
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Carl 2nd Tom. Motion Carried.
Application was well done with photos and maps.
- BCD 2529 David Schuett, Blacktail Creek, Headgate Replacement, Blacktail Rd 2
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Carl 2nd Tom. Motion Carried.
- BCD 2530 David Schuett, Blacktail Creek, Headgate Replacement, Blacktail Rd 3
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Carl 2nd Tom. Motion Carried.
- BCD 2531 David Schuett, Blacktail Creek, Headgate Replacement, Buster Brown Rd
Motion to modify pending site visit on Tuesday by Carl 2nd Tom. Motion Carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2431 Jay Hahncamp, Irrigation dam and Culvert removal, Big Hole River, waiting for an application, Radio Silence.
 - BCD 2505 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Ruby Creek
 - BCD 2506 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek
 - BCD 2507 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Placer Creek
 - BCD 2511 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek
 - BCD 2512 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Runaway Creek
 - BCD 2513 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Sage Creek
 - BCD 2514 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Cascade Creek
Motion to approve lost trail quad 310s by Billiette 2nd Tom motion carried.
 - BCD 2515 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Boulder Creek
 - BCD 2516 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Canyon Creek
 - BCD 2517 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek 2
 - BCD 2518 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek 3
 - BCD 2519 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Sheep Creek
 - BCD 2520 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek 4
 - BCD 2521 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek 5
 - BCD 2522 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Elk Creek
 - BCD 2523 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Rat Creek
Motion to approve elk creek quad 310s by Billiette 2nd Tom motion carried.
 - BCD 2524 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Hogan Creek
 - BCD 2525 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Prairie Creek
 - BCD 2526 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Trail Creek 6
Motion to approve Big Hole battlefield quad 310s by Billiette 2nd Tom motion carried.
- Originally the applications did not have enough information on stream width, boring width, and distance from the bank. The engineer submitted a spreadsheet with all of this info.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

Elkhorn grants are waiting on Sky Jones's (County Attorney) review of the request for proposals, Stone Creek is waiting on the contractors to be available at the same time, Grasshopper is waiting on SHPO review. Wildlife speaker series is going to be on citizen science Bats and ground squirrels.

Motion to sponsor Wildlife Speaker Series Dinner by Carl, 2nd Tom, motion carried.

Administrator Report

- *Motion to apply for the FY26 Admin Grant by Carl, 2nd Tom, motion carried*
- Watercraft Inspection Station – 1 Mussel Boat, 52 inspections, 22 high-risk

Old Business

New Business

- Legislative Update (Attached Handout)
- Madison County Planning Board Subdivision Regulations (Handout Attached)

- Big Hole Watershed Nonpoint Source Reduction & Floodplain Connectivity Project (Attached Handout)
- *Motion to send letter of support by Billiette, 2nd Rich, motion carried.*
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

Public Comment - No public in attendance by the end of the meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Sustainable Ranching Workshop – March 25th-26th
- County Wide Meeting – April 3rd, 4-H building, Noon
- Next meeting date – April 17th 6 pm
- Youth Conservation Day – April 24th
- Wildlife Speaker Series – June 12th

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:

Byron Martinell

Byron Martinell, Chairman