

Beaverhead Conservation District

Public Hearing: Continuing Permissive Mill Health Insurance Benefits

Thursday June 19th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the public meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on June 19, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger

No public was in attendance

Discussion: Jess explained that this is not an increase, it is simply a continuance of benefits
Motion to continue our Permissive Mill by Billiette, 2nd Harris, motion carried.

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 19th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:10 pm on June 19, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Kelly Rowe, Jack Bazemore and his summer intern.

Absent: Tom Miller, 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 May minutes by Harris 2nd by Billiette, motion carried.*

Summary of Finances.

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for June by Billiette 2nd by Rich, motion carried.*

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma inventoried 2,000 acres with the youth employment program, only about 5 acres were infected with cheatgrass. She is working on 7 aerial spray contracts and one roadside spray contract

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore came in later in the meeting. His intern is with him for 1 more month, she is from Florida so he is trying to show her as much of Montana as possible in the short time she is here. They just finished up 4H camp it went super well, they got to use the Birch creek facilities. 4H council is next week.

Range Committee – Meg was unable to attend but wants an August Range Tour she called into the meeting and sent an email of speakers and topics for the tour, she is looking into buses and speakers to talk on the buses. Jess volunteered to put together an advertising flyer in Meg gets together the details. Jess and Marti both expressed their lack of time to commit to the range tour but will help where they can.

Education and Outreach – Marti has been working on pollinator gardens, bee haven garden deer fencing, Lima community betterment projects, Red Rock water measurements, Wildlife Speaker series, and library children's programs.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2540 Rebish Konen Livestock, Beaverhead River/Haystack Ditch, Headgate Repair
The current cement headgate is eroding on the edges as the Beaverhead River moves, there is also a fence getting near the bank of the river, or more so the river getting near the fence. Matt suggested some bank restoration with willow clumps; the area has plenty of willow clumps. Matt suggested rip rap along the sides of the headgate to prevent any more erosion, the board and the ranch agreed. The headgate was also hooked by on excavator while being cleaned out several years ago and no longer closes causing the ditch to fill with sediment quickly. The board issued a 5-year maintenance agreement to help get by until the headgate can be fixed, it will need dewatered to fix and is a bigger project than the ranch wants to take on at this point.

Motion to approve with modification by Jerry 2nd Harris, motion carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2431 Hahnkamp, Ditch will no longer be used and she has been educated about the 310 process.
- BCD 2539 Jason Schrepfer, Canyon Creek, Walking Bridge
Jim is unsure if this needs a 310 permit but the applicant is willing so might as well issue the permit. The board is happy with the project.
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Billiette, motion carried.
- BCD 2541 Violation, Boat Ramp, Big Hole River
There is a rock boat ramp about one mile above browns bridge and a new house. The board has previously decided that there will be no new boat ramps as there is plenty of public ramps and new ramps allow for noxious weeds to take hold and removing willows disturbs the bank. Jess will try to find the owner and call them.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Elkhorn – Once the checks signed at the meeting are sent in the reimbursements will be sent. Stone Creek- Invoicing, Grasshopper – On hold, Red Rocks WRP – Needs rewritten with more information.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station – 7 mussel boats, 1320 inspections, 448 High Risk Everything is running smoothly and the inspectors are doing a great job.
- Jess gone June 24th- July 5th – Will be working and doing payroll as needed

Old Business

New Business

- Employee Reviews – July 17th 5:30 pm, Billiette will bring pizza and cookies, Jess sent out emails and hard copies of the employee review forms, Jess will have them there at 5:30 along with the numbers from previous years.
- Madison County Planning Board Report, Beaverhead county is considering river setbacks like Madison County has done.
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Upcoming Events

- Next meeting date – July 17th 6 pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:


Byron Martinell, Chairman