

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

Call to order

Carl Malesich called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:20 pm on May 15, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Tom Miller, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Garrett Vasa, and Scott Davis

Absent: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Kelly Rowe, JS Turner, and Meg Smith,

Motion to excuse absences by Harris 2nd Rich, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

- *Motion to approve the April minutes by Harris 2nd by Rich, motion carried.*

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Garrett Vasa was in attendance but had no updates.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma is working on getting bids for 2 NRCS spray contracts, along with bids for 1 BLM contract, she is also working on some conifer encroachment, and getting ready to start mapping cheatgrass with YEP.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore was not in attendance.

Range Committee – Meg was unable to attend but wants a July Range Tour and Dori has no major updates.

Education and Outreach – Marti has handed out a ton of pollinator seed at different community events, toured a community garden in Missoula, working with Lima schools to help bring gardens to Lima, waiting to hear back from AARP and Farmers Union Community grants.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2536 Double C Ranch Holdings, Winslow Creek, Pond Clean Out
Scott Davis came and explained the project, FWP is in favor because they are trying to create a pure strain of west slope cutthroat that does not have rainbow trout DNA. Tom suggested to move the second screen back 4-6 inches so that the waterflow will clean it out. Scott appreciated the suggestion.

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

- BCD 2537 Double C Ranch Holdings, Winslow Creek, divert water around pond to avoid sedimentation

We are a little confused as to why these two projects coexist, they are working on the pond but also diverting water around the pond, the applicant and contractor were not at the meeting and could not explain, the board suggested that not all the water is being diverted just some of the water and maybe only at high water. Why a fish block? If the goal is fish.

Motion to approve pending Matt's review by Harris, 2nd Rich, motion carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2538 Hairpin Ranch LLC, Fox Creek, Bridge

Jim is in favor of replacing the ford in the creek with a bridge, bridge is correctly sized but the depth of abutments below scour should be 24"

Motion to approve with modifications by Harris 2nd Rich, motion carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Elkhorn – BHWC was chosen, documentation was send to DNRC, and DNRC is reviewing, Stone Creek- Project complete and being invoiced, Grasshopper – On hold until October, Red Rocks WRP – Needs rewritten with more information.

Motion to contract with Big Hole Watershed Committee for the Elkhorn Mine and Mill project by Tom, 2nd Harris, motion carried.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station – 6 mussel boats, 644 inspections, 277 High Risk
- Jess gone June 24th- July 5th – Will be working and doing payroll as needed

Old Business

New Business

- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Upcoming Events

- 5th Grade Outdoor school- May 22nd
- Poindexter Weed Pull- May 27th 2:30
- Wildlife Speaker Series – June 12th
- Next meeting date – June 19th 6 pm

Approved:


Byron Martinell, Chairman

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm