

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on July 17, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, Tom Miller, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Lakanar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Dori McNeil, Kelly Rowe, and Jack Bazemore joined after 7 pm.

Absent: JS Turner, and Meg Smith,

Approval of minutes from last meeting

- *Motion to approve the June minutes by Billiette 2nd by Carl, motion carried.*

Summary of Finances.

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

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma is working on contracting for several helicopter spraying contracts, some are contracted some are still out for bid. Emma would like to apply for a BLM grant to pay for more spraying contracts.

Tom moves to apply for the NOFO Invasives grant, Rich 2nd, motion carried.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack's intern leaves tomorrow, they are working on nitrate testing, some of it is in the fields and some in the office.

Range Committee – Meg has moved the range tour back to June, she is working on getting buses for the tour. Jess is working on a display for the fair, a big display that does not need watched, she will work with Jack to make a QR code quiz.

Education and Outreach – Marti is working on Red Rock water monitoring and investigating the water issues that users are encountering, installing deer fence and creating an MOU with the Bee Haven Garden. She received the Farmers Union Community grant for \$1500 for the Lima Garden. The DNRC project grant for the community pollinator gardens is ready and waiting on contracting. Marti is also working on fishing line clean up tubes at Poindexter, Kelly has some PVC pipe for the project.

NRCS – Garrett couldn't make the meeting but provided updates on the new acting state conservationist (Gail Barry), NRCS also opened critical area vacancies so that NRCS employees can move into new positions.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2301, 2418, and 2501 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Kidd Creek

Tom, Harris, and Byron went on a site visit with Matt and Jess. The main parts of the application were viewed; Matt would like to see the As Built survey but one was not done despite asking for one in the team member report, this is the only way to gauge the success of the project. There were red counts done but the creek seems to be successful. The brush matrix along the borrow ditch were not put in correctly but they may still work, only time will tell. Matt will be adding temperature loggers to determine the success of the wetland.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2541 Violation, Boat Ramp, Big Hole River

There is a rock boat ramp about one mile above brown's 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 get a violation form from the complainant.

- BCD 2542 Violation, Irrigation Pipe under the road into Alder Creek
Someone is working on a complaint form.

- BCD 2543 Vigilante Electric Coop, Lime Gulch, Utilities Boring
Discussion was had on processes and depth under the creeks.

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

- BCD 2544 Vigilante Electric Coop, Farlin Gulch 1, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

- BCD 2545 Vigilante Electric Coop, Farlin Gulch 2, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

- BCD 2546 Vigilante Electric Coop, Birch Creek 1, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

- BCD 2547 Vigilante Electric Coop, Birch Creek 2, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

- BCD 2548 Vigilante Electric Coop, Meyers Gulch, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

- BCD 2549 Vigilante Electric Coop, Birch Creek 3, Utilities Boring
Motion to approve by Harris 2nd Jerry, motion carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Elkhorn is moving again, one of the reimbursements is still held but should be released soon. We have done everything they have asked so far.
- Grasshopper – On hold but permitting is complete.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station – 9 mussel boats, 2170 inspections, 772 High Risk Everything is running smoothly and the inspectors are doing a great job. Jess is planning for inspector appreciation and is getting water bottles engraved, Kelly suggested to splurge on water bottles.
- Inspector Appreciation is August 5th and August 7th 1pm to 2 pm.
- Admin Grant is less than expected but the WIS and IAG positions should be able to fill in the slack.

Old Business

New Business

- Employee Reviews –
Motion to give Jess a \$2/hr. raise and \$4,500 bonus in October by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carries.
Motion to give Marti a \$1.75/hr. raise and \$2,000 bonus in October by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carries.
Motion to give Emma a \$1/hr. raise and \$500 bonus in October by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carries.
- Legal services update
- Decline in Montana Forestry Products Story Donation
Motion to Donate \$100 by Carl 2nd Rich, Motion Carried.
- Madison County Planning Board Report
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Upcoming Events

- Next meeting date – August 21st 6 pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:

Byron Martinell
Byron Martinell, Chairman