

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on September 18, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Tom Miller, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Dori McNeil, Kelly Rowe, Tyler Barrus, and Scott Davis

Absent: Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, JS Turner, Matt Jaeger, Jack Bazemore, and Meg Smith

Approval of minutes from last meeting

- *Motion to approve the August minutes by Tom 2nd by Carl, motion carried.*

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Erin gave updates on 3 Equip tips, Changes are coming for CSP and simplifying paperwork.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma has 2 of the 4 helicopter contracts completed, Emma was awarded a BLM grant to cover the spraying costs for next year.

Range Committee – Dori had no updates, Meg did not attend, Jess had 4 participants for the range quiz and has some changes for the quiz next year.

Education and Outreach – Marti gave her update early and headed to the museum for a wildflower presentation, 75th Birthday went great, had about 85 people attend, Marti has started work on the gardens across town.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2557 Double C Ranch Holdings, Winslow Creek, Headgate.
Scott presented the project; they need to add a headgate to move low water away from the pond because the pond is onstream.
Motion to approve and waive the waiting period by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.

- BCD 2558 Tyler Barrus, Beaverhead River/Browns Ditch, Replace Headwall and Culvert

Discussion was had about what parts of the headgate and culvert are being kept, the old culvert is 17ft and needs replaced.

Motion to approve with modifications by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.

- BCD 2559 Tyler Barrus, Rattlesnake Creek, Willow Removal

The next three willow removals are a continuance of the previous projects as a goal to send more water down the channel, the same modifications from the pervious projects apply, 20 ft from the active channel and only ford the creek in one spot and make sure it's a well anchored spot.

Motion to approve with modifications by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.

- BCD 2560 Tyler Barrus, Rattlesnake Creek, Willow Removal

Motion to approve with modifications by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.

- BCD 2561 Tyler Barrus, Rattlesnake Creek, Willow Removal

Motion to approve with modifications by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- 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 has not heard back from the complainant but FWP is trying to fill out the form and view the site.

- BCD 2542 Violation, Irrigation Pipe under the road into Alder Creek

Complaint form has been received; we are waiting for Jim to be back to review the complaint.

- BCD 2554 Big Hole Watershed Committee, Smart Creek, Stream Restoration

Tom went on the site visit and made some suggestions.

Motions to approve with modifications, by Carl, 2nd Tom, Motion carried.

- BCD 2555 Tim Montana, Smart Creek, Road construction and camping sites

Jim and Tom were unsure if this needed a 310 because it's out of the floodplain but Tim wants to make sure everything is by the books as not to anger the neighbors.

Motions to approve with modifications, by Carl, 2nd Tom, Motion carried.

- BCD 2556 Greg and Donna Scharf, Big Hole River, Dead Tree Removal, not our project

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 – 12 mussel boats, 3249 inspections, 1154 High Risk
- Post season meeting is October 8-9 in Great Falls
- Motion to approve Jess's letter to the area 6 meeting by Carl, 2nd Tom, Motion Carried.

Old Business

New Business

- Resolution 25-01 Adhere to MACD Resolution Process
- Resolution 25-02 Adhere to MACD Resolution Process
We decided to only vote on the one in our area and save the rest for the October Meeting.
Motion to Vote Yes by Carl, 2nd Tom, Motion Carried
- Resolution 25-03 Stabilize and Build Capacity for Montana's Forest Products Industry
- Resolution 25-04 Resolution to Encourage Non-Governmental Organizations to "Qualify" for Ag Status Taxation
- Resolution 25-05 Resolution to Adjust MT Wildlife and Parks Fee and Cannabis Tax Structure
- Resolution 25-06 Resolution to Reduce and Eliminate Geoengineering
- Resolution 25-07 Process to Develop Legislation to Reform the Civil Penalty Provisions of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975
- 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 – October 16th 6 pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:


Byron Martinell, Chairman