

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on December 11, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, Tom Miller, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Kelly Rowe, Arica Crootof, and Marilynne Mehmke

Absent: Jerry Meine, Rich Nordquist, Dori McNeil, JS Turner, and Meg Smith.

Motion to excuse absences by Tom 2nd Billiette, Motion Carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

- *Motion to approve the October minutes by Billiette 2nd by Tom, motion carried.*

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Erin was unable to attend but sent along updates on current programs and deadlines including conifer encroachment funding.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma presented her portion of the yearly report, she has been working on more cheatgrass mapping since the weather has been so nice, she is also working on some conifer encroachment work.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack was unable to attend. Jess made a plug for the Board member training next Tuesday.

Range Committee – Meg and Dori were unable to attend. Pat Fosse is working on another range seminar for late March or early April and was looking for other conflicts for picking a date.

Education and Outreach – Marti has finished planting for the year and provided maps of all the plants, The Bee Haven Gardens have stepped away from education so Marti is looking for better locations for educational gardens.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2565 Tanner Lagge, Blacktail Creek, Bank Stabilization

Discussion: R.E. Miller is doing the work and will follow the brush matrix diagrams and submit a plan before work begins.

Motion to approve with modifications by Harris, 2nd Tom, Motion carried

- BCD 2566 Donnie Benson, Blacktail Creek, Bank Stabilization and Bridge
Discussion: R.E. Miller is doing the work and will follow the brush matrix diagrams and submit a plan before work begins.

Motion to approve with modifications by Harris, 2nd Tom, Motion carried

- BCD 2568 Lima Dam Users, Allen Martinell- President, Lima Dam Weir, Emergency
Discussion: From the looks of it the rock that was moved by the water and has been moved back to the gap created. The board thinks bigger rocks would have lasted longer but is overall happy with the project. Dan Greenslade did the work.

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

- BCD 2570 Huntsman Ranch Company, Headgate/Diversion Replacement, Sage Creek
Rowe brought the 310 to the meeting, the board gave suggestions based on 2527 Huntsman's first headgate, there will be one more headgate in their replacement schedule next year. The public notice deadline was not met so the permit was not voted on and will be fully voted on in January.

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. Jim will work on getting a complaint form

- BCD 2542 Complaint, Lee Michalsky, Irrigation Pipe under the road into Alder Creek
Tom, Jess, and Jim went out to talk Lee, he was very inviting and explained the history of the area. Upon further investigation the irrigation pipe is in a ditch not alder creek. Because it is a ditch there is no jurisdiction, he does not have a water right but we do not have jurisdiction over that either. Lee asked we right a dismissal letter, we did and Byron signed. It is not a violation.

Motion to send the letter to Lee by Tom, 2nd Billiette, motion carried.

- BCD 2567 Scott Olsen, Jaunke Creek, Ditch Cleanout and bank repair
Because it's a ditch we do not have jurisdiction but Jess recommended moving the spoils far enough away so they don't fall back in and the contractor said he would be using them to fix the bank with some added rock for stabilization.

- BCD 2569 Wade Hulet, Birch Creek, Beaver Dam Removal
The board discussed the increase of beaver activity this year, Jim suggested waiting to remove the dam until April as to not disturb the fall fish spawning, due to the location it cannot wait until April, but Miller will pull the logs very slowly so give the fish the best chance of survival. Jim was not at the meeting and was consulted later.

Motion to approve pending Jim's modifications by Carl, 2nd Harris, motion carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Elkhorn is in contraction phase.
- Grasshopper – Construction is finished, waiting for the final reporting and reimbursements.
- We have a BOR grant for water monitoring on BLM land and Conifer encroachment with hand crews. Kelly asked if the money could go towards Russian Olive removal along waterways. Jess also suggested working with SMSP to do conifer encroachment.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station is closed for the year but was successful and right on budget, most of the inspectors are looking for new jobs but if they don't find them, they will be back.
- We will have a 5% contract increase this year and should be able to give the inspectors a \$1.50 raise.
- Bonuses?
Motion to give Jess a \$5,000 bonus, Marti \$2,500, and Emma \$1000 by Tom, 2nd Billiette, motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

New Business

- Madison County Planning Board Report
- MT Forest Products Story (Attached)

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

Upcoming Events

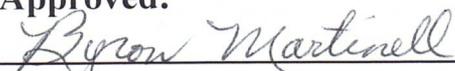
- Next meeting date – January 15th 6 pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:



Byron Martinell, Chairman