

# ***Beaverhead Conservation District***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **Call to order**

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on March 19, 2026 in the NRCS office.

### **Roll call**

**The following persons were present:** Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Dori McNeil, Kelly Rowe, JS Turner, Jason Rose, Tyler Barrus, Rich McEldowney, Miguel Ley, and Jack Bazemore  
**Absent:** Harris Wheat, Tom Miller, and Meg Smith,  
*Motion to excuse absences by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich, Motion carried*

### **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

- *Motion to approve the February minutes by Carl 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, motion carried.*  
Check into the Barrus permit to see if we put the modification of stopping before irrigation season to prevent sediment buildup in the headgates.

### **Summary of Finances.**

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for March by Carl 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, motion carried.*

### **Public Comment on non-agenda items-** Limited to 3 minutes Must sign in.

- No public comment.

**NRCS** – Erin is working on contracting and looking for project ideas, CCAA funding is now called CBA (conservation benefit agreement) funding and it may be able to cover projects such as virtual fence collars.

**Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership** – Emma is was not able to attend but sent her update, she is working on requests for bids, cheatgrass management webinars, and will begin getting out in the field next week. The truck needs a new battery, the board suggested testing the alternator and an oil change at the same time to get ready for field season.

**Beaverhead County Extension** – Jack was unable to attend.

**Range Committee** – Meg sent an update on the Lower Big Hole Range Tour – she’s looking at the first two weeks of June, and gearing it towards beginners covering many topics such as grazing management, irrigation, haying, property taxes, wildlife, access issues, dealing with DNRC, BLM, USFS, water rights. Please let me Meg know if any of the suggested dates don’t work.

**Education and Outreach** – Marti was unable to attend but sent an update, gardening season is ramping up with classes at the museum and library, judged the science fair and set dates for Youth Conservation Day and 5<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor school.

## 310 Business

### Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2611 Lee Martinell Company, Red Rock River, Bridge Abutments  
Tom, Matt, and Byron did a site visit on Wednesday and made suggestions on size and location because the river is moving.  
*Motion to Approve with Modification by Carl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, Motion carried.*
- BCD 2612 Horse Prairie Livestock, Bloody Dick Creek, Replace Screw gate that doesn't close  
R.E. Miller's Nate Helle is doing this project and the 3 below it for Stocker Ranch, they are all right close to each other and struggle with the same frost heaving problem, Tom suggested changes to the wing walls that should help with the frost heaving but there is no easy answer to protecting the headgates from frost.  
*Motion to Approve with Modification by Carl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, Motion carried.*
- BCD 2613 Stocker Ranch LLC, Grimes Creek, Replace Headgate  
*Motion to Approve with Modification by Carl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, Motion carried.*
- BCD 2614 Stocker Ranch LLC, Spring Creek, Replace Headgate  
*Motion to Approve with Modification by Carl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, Motion carried.*
- BCD 2615 Stocker Ranch LLC, Coyote Creek, Replace Headgate  
*Motion to Approve with Modification by Carl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, Motion carried.*
- BCD 2616 RE Miller and Sons – Matador Ranch (Hank), Sage Creek, Emergency Bridge Replacement  
Waiting on the full 310 application to go along with the emergency waiver, also need photos and maps. Dan is working on getting everything together and will have it turned in by the end of the week.

### Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2541 Violation, Boat Ramp, Big Hole River  
Jim turned in a complaint form and made suggestions on remedying the violation, there is another public ramp at the fishing access that can be used and most watercraft can be thrown down over the bank without a ramp and not cause sediment problems. The ramp needs the gravel removed by pulling it all back and smoothing it out into the existing pad that is there, replace the vegetation by laying wetland sod and planting native grasses. Reclaim to a natural state, new boat ramps are not allowed as they increase sediment and invasive species. Jess will call the violator the first week of April and explain the situation and the laws surrounding it.
- BCD 2604 Jarrett Dakota Brown, Complaint, Trail Creek/ North Fork Big Hole River, Multiple complaints, Berm next to house along creek, Bridges added and removed, Willow Removal. There is a lengthy paper trail surrounding this violation. It is a violation but

because the person that did the work no longer owns the property, we cannot force his to fix it because he's not in the US anymore. Jess is informing all of the realtors that look into the property of what it will take to remedy the failing berm and that they will need a 310 permit.

### **Beaverhead Watershed Grants**

- Elkhorn is paused until Forest Service finishes the Environmental Assessment/ Cost Comparison, then we will start working on the startup documents again.

### **Administrator Report**

- Watercraft Inspection Station – Slow start but boats are rolling in and the new inspectors are well trained now.

### **Old Business**

- Board Elections Rich, Jerry, Billiette – Billiette has decided to step down for health reasons, Jerry did not file but is interested in remaining on the board, Rich filled. Rich is the only person that filled, the other two spots are open, Jerry can be voted onto the board and we are looking for one more person. They have to live in the county, outside of city limits. JS is pretty sure he pays taxes to the district and will look into his tax bill deeper.

### **New Business**

- Fiscal Year 27 Administrative Grant \$7300 310 permitting, \$3500 MACD Dues, \$20,764 admin (pg.10)  
*Motion to apply for the FY27 Admin Grant by Carl 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich, motion carried.*
- 310 Fines Structure Update – Jess read the one-page summary provided by the committee.
- DNRC Report- Catey Bauer
- *Carl Motions to feed the 7<sup>th</sup> graders for the youth conservation day on April 29<sup>th</sup>, Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.*

### **Upcoming Events**

- Next meeting date – April 16<sup>th</sup> 6 pm
- Flexible Grazing Workshop April 7-8 (pg.15)
- Youth Conservation Day – April 29<sup>th</sup>
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School – May 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Adjournment**

*Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm*

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

**Approved:**

*Byron Martinell*  
Byron Martinell, Chairman