



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
(BCD)  
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET  
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840  
MINUTES  
December 10, 2024**

Board of Supervisors regular scheduled meeting, Tuesday the 10th of December 2024, called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Jeff Mark, Chairman.

**MEMBERS' PRESENT:**

Tommy Dobberstein; Howard Eldredge; Mike Hansen; Dan Kerslake; Jeff Mark; Kent Myers; Bob Nelson; Todd Reagan; Paul Rosenberg.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Chad Sutherlin.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jason Lindstrom, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks (MFWP); Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Floodplain & Planning Department; Gary R. Long-Zito, BCD IT Assistant; Julie Ralston, BCD Administrator.

**MINUTES:**

Rosenberg moved to approve the 26th of November 2024 meeting minutes as sent. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

**BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

1. Reviewed the Bitter Root Land Trust sponsorship request. Myers moved to fund \$100.00 in sponsorship. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.

**BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Rosenberg reported he is currently waiting to hear back from the Teller Wildlife Refuge concerning its response to the information provided by the Missoula Conservation District on its no-till drill program. The BCD Board discussed delays with the proposed no-till drill program proposal and its concerns as such:
  - a) Further delays will lead to an outdated original purchase quote and a possible rise in the cost of a drill.
  - b) If a drill is purchased, it will take about two months before the drill can be delivered. This will limit the ability to offer the no-till drill program by the 2025 Spring planting season.

**PARTNER REPORTS**

1. Reviewed Catey Bauer, Western Montana Conservation District Bureau Specialist, December written report.
2. Jason Lindstrom, MFWP Fisheries Biologist, reported:
  - a) Christy Clark has been appointed as the new director of Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks. She is a Montana native and is from the Choteau area.
3. Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Floodplain & Planning: No report.

**BCD COST-SHARE/GRANT PROGRAM**

1. Reviewed the follow-up field inspection report and project invoice submitted for BCD cost-share 003-2025 Sawtooth Ranch-forest stand improvement project. Kerslake moved to reimburse in full according to the contract agreement of \$7000.00. Myers seconded; motion carried.

2. Reviewed the follow-up field inspection report and invoice submitted for BCD cost-share 004-2024 Teller Wildlife Refuge-restoration of native plants and soil health improvement project.  
The BCD Board discussed revisiting the project site in the spring of 2025 to see if the Fall no-till drill planting was successful. Rosenberg moved to approve reimbursement in full according to the contract agreement of \$3500.00. Myers seconded; motion carried. Dobberstein stated, “to maintain and develop a weed free desirable healthy plant base the Teller Wildlife Refuge should continue to re-seed the same areas over the next three years.”

### **NOTICES**

Reviewed:

1. The Bitterroot Chamber Agriculture & Local Foods Committee’s notice of a Holiday Party invite Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm, Victor Station Restaurant & Casino 2412 Hwy 93.
2. Hailey Graf, 310 Permit Coordinator Conservation District Bureau, notice of the new updated joint application form 270 (310 application form).
3. Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) notice of new MACD Program Manager, Sara Smith.
4. Montana Watershed Coordination Council seeking nominations for the 2025 Wetlands and Watershed Stewardship Awards. Nominations are due by 9 am Friday, January 24, 2025.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 310 Application BT093-2024 William Schrock, DRTX, LLC/Skalkaho Creek-stream bank stabilization. Rosenberg tabled.
2. 310 Application BT104-2024 Glenn Construction/West Fork Bitterroot River-remove hazardous debris. Reagan tabled until after highwater.
3. 310 Application BT105-2024 Brian Waits/East Fork Bitterroot River-bank stabilization. Reagan reported that additional information will be submitted to meet the Corps requirements. However, the requirements should not change the scope of the project. The BCD Board, Lindstrom, and Livesay discussed the project in detail. Reagan moved to approve as proposed. Kerslake seconded. Myers asked when construction will begin. Lindstrom answered at the beginning of March 2025. Myers asked that the BCD visit the site during construction to make sure the work done is within the scope of work proposed. Motion carried.

### **OTHER OLD BUSINESS**

1. Reviewed notice of project completion and photos 310 permit BT056-2024 Carol Kuginskie/Ambrose Creek-bridge crossing. The follow up inspection was waived.
2. Reviewed notice of project completion 310 permit BT053-2024 Ravalli Electric Cooperative/Woodchuck Creek-utility bore. Follow up inspection waived.
3. Reviewed written notice of project modification 310 permit BT060-2024 Quintin Apedaile/Bitterroot River-stream bank stabilization. Due to a recent natural change in the river, the proposed installation of a temporary berm to catch sediment during construction cannot take place. The modification will not change the overall scope of the project and sediment will be monitored to meet best management practices. Myers moved to approve the modification. Dobberstein seconded, motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 310 Application BT108-2024 Michael Nelson/Rye Creek-remove old car bodies. Reagan reported that the applicant failed to meet on site. Reagan tabled the application for further information and another site visit.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

1. Kerslake was not available to meet at the site of a verbal complaint on Ambrose Creek. He asked if an official written complaint had been submitted. Ralston stated, to date, an official written complaint has not been submitted.

## **PUBLIC OPEN MIC**

1. Lindstrom warned the BCD Board of an email scam involving the submission of an invoice from the Clark Fork Coalition.
2. Hansen gave a brief report on an interesting presentation concerning “Why Did the River Move at Chimney Rock.” He shared the YouTube link <https://youtu.be/KKLh-MTTuE4?si=udpPOaIUspxQakLi>, if anyone was interested in the presentation.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

1. Rosenberg moved to approve BCD county checks 107001-107010. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. Discussed invoicing and the maintenance agreement with Kelley Create for the BCDs’ new copier.
3. Rosenberg reported that the rented storage unit for the BCD watershed trailer is no longer available. Therefore, Ralston moved the BCD watershed trailer to the fenced in cage area located behind the BCD building. The area is not covered so a heavy-duty tarp, tarp straps, and padlocks were purchased.
4. Myers reported he has completed the proposed draft appendix to the BCD adopted rules as asked to do so by the BCD Board. The appendix is currently being reviewed by the DNRC and State Legal Counsel. Myers explained that the appendix is not a rule change but something that can be used to outline the gray areas within the BCD adopted rules. Myers will present the draft appendix to the BCD Board when the state is done with its review.
5. Reviewed Form D-1 Business Disclosure Statement. Ralston reported it is possible Conservation District Supervisors are not required to fill out the form. A legal opinion on the matter is pending.
6. The BCD Board discussed that it would not have enough voting members for the first meeting in January. Therefore, the BCD Board will not meet until the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

## **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

Available for review:

1. Bitterroot Land Trust Fall Newsletter.
2. Bitterroot Water Partnership Fall Newsletter.
3. High Plains Conservation District thank you.
4. 4imprint.
5. MACD District Dispatch.
6. Monarch-Neihart Historical Group, Inc. “Preserving Our Heritage” Newsletter.
7. NACD Conservation Clips and eResource.
8. NRCS Conservation Success Stories.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Jeff Mark, Chairman



Julie Ralston, District Administrator

Date: 01-28-2025