



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
March 25th, 2025**

Board of Supervisors regular scheduled meeting, Tuesday the 25th of March 2025, called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Jeff Mark, Chairman.

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Tommy Dobberstein; Howard Eldredge; Mike Hansen; Joel Johnson; Dan Kerslake; Jeff Mark; Paul Rosenberg.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kent Myers; Bob Nelson; Todd Reagan; Chad Sutherlin.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Heather Barber, Executive Director Bitterroot Water Partnership (BWP); Steve Davis, General Public; Julie Ralston, BCD Administrator; Kimberly Richardson, Ravalli County Extension; Damon Tucker, Restoration Project Manager (BWP).

MINUTES:

Kerslake moved to approve the BCD meeting minutes for the 11th of March 2025. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. In the event there are additional Conservation District 2025 Legislative rule changes in need of public hearing notice, the BCD Board determined to postpone a public hearing notice for its proposed draft appendix to the BCD adopted rules until after the 2025 Legislative Session.
2. The BCD Board reviewed the 2025 Montana State Legislature Session updates for: HB20 that would require voted levies to be in dollars rather than mils; SB77, an Act requiring Conservation Districts to comply with state procurement laws; SB472, an Act revising civil penalties under the Natural Streambed Preservation Act of 1975 with an amendment to section 75-7-123, MCA. The BCD Board discussed its concerns with SB472 and determined to request that MACD ask the Legislature to deny and/or table SB472 until the 2027 Legislative Session giving Conservation Districts more time for input and/or amendments.

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The BCD Finance Committee will meet on the 4th of April at 10:00 am for the review of an accountability assessment.
2. The lease agreement forms for the BCD No-Till Seed Drill are in the process of development.

PARTNER REPORTS

1. Reviewed Catey Bauer, W. MT Conservation District Specialist, March written report.
2. Kimberly Richardson, Ravalli County Extension, gave a brief update on the programs and educational outreach events that Ravalli County Extension sponsors. She asked the BCD if it would be willing to give a short presentation on its cost-share opportunities during the AG News and Brews event on the 10th of April at 6:00pm, Wildwood Brewing. Kerslake agreed to give that short BCD presentation. Because this topic was not on the BCD meeting agenda, the BCD Board will make a motion to support Kerslake's time and mileage for that presentation at the next BCD Board meeting.

BCD COST-SHARE/GRANT PROGRAM

1. The 2026 BCD cost-share application deadline date is June 1st. The BCD has currently received four applications.

NOTICES

Reviewed:

1. The Department of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC) Water Resources notice of Tollefson Properties LLC proposal to change its point of diversion.
2. The DNRC Water Resources notice of Tin Cup Water & Sewer District proposed a change of use for 400-acre feet of its allocated 1500-acre feet to instream use.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT104-2024 Glenn Construction/West Fork Bitterroot River-remove hazardous debris. Tabled.
2. 310 Application BT011-2025 Russell Fox, Peter Krause/Bitterroot River-repair existing bank stabilization project. Tabled.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Reviewed:

1. Project completion 310 permit BT 013-2024 James Kauffman/Mill Fork Creek-utility crossing.
2. Project completion 310 permit BT083-2024 Quintin Apedaile, Tomas Fox/Bitterroot River-stream bank restoration.
3. Project completion 310 permit BT014-2025 Steve Davis/West Fork Bitterroot River-remove a portion of fallen tree with a modification in that two cuts were necessary on the upstream stringer instead of the one permitted cut.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT015-2025 Adele Post/Woodchuck Creek-removed cattails and debris from an existing stockwater tank. Kerslake tabled for inspection when the applicant is back in Montana.
2. 310 Application BT016-2025 Ivan Kralik/Churn Creek-irrigation structure. Dobberstein moved to approve. Kerslake seconded, motion carried.
3. 310 Application BT017-2025 Bitterroot Trout Farm/Camas Creek-replace existing headgate structure. Mark moved to approve with a 15-day waiver. Rosenberg seconded; Dobberstein asked if the applicant would need to file for a point of diversion change? It was explained that the headgate structure was not an inlet structure from the creek to the pond, but an outlet structure from the pond to the creek. Motion carried.
4. 310 Application BT018-2025 Pristine Properties LLC/Fred Burr Creek-replace bridge crossing. Dobberstein tabled for inspection.
5. 310 Application BT019-2025 Donald W. Nelson JR/North Fork One Horse Creek-remove blown down trees. Kerslake tabled for inspection.
6. 310 Application BT020-2025 Bitterroot Water Partnership/East Fork Bitterroot River-riparian fencing and livestock water crossing. Tabled for inspection.
7. 310 Application BT021-2025 David Buck/East Fork Bitterroot River-remove a section of a hazardous strainer. Rosenberg moved to approve as submitted. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.
8. 310 Application BT022-2025 David Buck/East Fork Bitterroot River-remove a hazardous strainer. Rosenberg moved to approve with a 15-day waiver and modification according to the field inspection report (rootwad will remain in the river and not pulled back up into the streambank). Mark seconded; motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT023-2025 William Schrock, DRTX LLC/Skalkaho Creek-buried revetment.
2. Discussed maintenance of the watershed trailer and viewed \$168.00 quote to repair the wiring on the trailer. The quote did not include any additional lights that may need repair. Dobberstein moved to repair all the wiring and lights not to exceed \$500.00. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.
3. Damon Tucker, Restoration Project Manager (BWP), presented a request for the BCD to sponsor a Renewable Resource NonPoint Source Grant Application in the amount of \$50,000.00 for riparian and stream restoration in the Burnt Fork Creek area. The grant application deadline date is the 14th of April. The BCD Board asked him to present an application with a budget proposal at the next BCD Board meeting. There was some discussion on the short notice of the request and concern about how the application will be submitted as Ralston is scheduled to be out of the office on the 10th-17th of April. This topic will be placed on the next BCD meeting agenda.

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Rosenberg presented the BCD February budget report. Kerslake moved to approve as presented. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. Rosenberg moved to approve BCD county checks 107066-107068. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
3. Reviewed the BCD April calendar.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Available for review:

1. Lewis & Clark Pollinator Seed Pickup Schedule.
2. MACD District Dispatch and Legislative Updates.
3. Montana Envirothon 2025 Agenda.
4. NAISMA Academy Certified Weed Free Products Program Inspector Training Courses.
5. National Conservation Planning Partnership Monthly Message.
6. Schumacher's Nursery & Berry Farm, Inc.
7. Valley County Conservation District Winter Newsletter.
8. Westland Seed Inc. Product Guide and Price List.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday the 8th of April 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Jeff Mark, Chairman



Julie Ralston, District Administrator

Date: 04-08-2025