



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
September 30, 2025**

Board of Supervisors regular scheduled meeting, Tuesday the 30th of September 2025, called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jeff Mark, Chairman.

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Tommy Dobberstein; Howard Eldredge; Mike Hansen; Dan Kerslake (by Zoom); Jeff Mark; Bob Nelson; Todd Reagan; Paul Rosenberg.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Joel Johnson; Kent Myers; Chad Sutherlin.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jason Lindstrom, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Floodplain & Planning Department; Julie Ralston, BCD District Administrator; Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent.

MINUTES

Rosenberg moved to approve the 9th of September 2025 minutes as sent. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Reviewed a thank you card from Bitter Root Land Trust for sponsorship.
2. Reviewed a thank you card from Bitterroot Water Partnership for sponsorship.
3. The BCD Board requested Ralston contact Andy Burton, Montana Territory Manager, to schedule a "Halter Effortless Rotational Grazing with Virtual Fencing" presentation.
4. Discussed registration and attendance at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) 2025 Convention, November 18-20 in Billings, MT.

BCD COST-SHARE/EDUCATION/GRANT PROGRAMS

1. The BCD's Solicitation of Qualification (SOQ) concerning consultant/engineering for the BCD Union Diversion Resource Improvement project was posted in the Bitterroot Star on the 17th of September and in the Ravalli Republic on the 18th of September. The notices will run again on the 7th and 8th of October. The deadline for SOQ submission is October 22, 2025.
2. Reviewed a request for reimbursement BCD CS003-2026 Sunset Irrigation ditch liner. Mark moved to approve reimbursement according to the contract agreement amount of \$5124.00. Rosenberg seconded, motion carried.

3. Reviewed the 2026 NCF-Envirothon Mississippi Competition topic: “Non-Point Source Pollution Mitigation-It Begins at Home.” This information will be distributed to the local high schools.

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Mark gave a brief oral report on the Area V annual meeting highlighting potential changes in Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) for Conservation Districts (CD); changes in CD procurement requirements; clarification of 310 definitions; proposed 2025 CD resolutions. Mark presented longevity awards to Eldredge for 20 years of service and Nelson for 30 years of service.
2. Reagan and Hanson reported on the BCD watershed trailer presentation given at the Mineral CD 5th Grade Conservation Tour, September 18, 2025. Over eighty students were in attendance, the presentations went well and everything on the trailer worked. Reagan stated that props for the BCD watershed trailer will need to be replaced for the 2026 presentation season. Nelson will meet with Hansen and/or Reagan to winterize the trailer.

PARTNER REPORTS

1. Reviewed the Bridger Plant Materials Center annual activities report.
2. Jason Lindstrom, Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) reported:
 - a. Base streamflow out of Painted Rocks Reservoir ended last week, lasting one week longer than anticipated due to a couple of rain events. This year’s streamflow for the Bitterroot River has been some of the lowest recorded.
 - b. FWP, in partnership with the Bitter Root Irrigation District (BRID), is currently releasing 50cfs out of Como Lake Reservoir to try to sustain target flow rates at Bell Crossing.
 - c. Lindstrom will be conducting field work near Hamilton, the upper East Fork and West Fork, all next week.
3. Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department, reported:
 - a. The county is applying for a ground water monitoring grant and will also study the feasibility of developing a water bank program.
 - b. The Ravalli County Commissioners have denied the Hamilton Heights (Calf Creek) subdivision proposal based on the fact there is not enough water in the area to sustain the development.
4. Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent, reported:
 - a. The Bitter Root Land Trust is continuing its free 3-part educational series for farm and ranch succession planning. The first series was “Succession Planning 101”, held on the 11th of September in Stevensville. This session was well attended. The second series “Learn Succession & Land Transfer Tools from Your Local Partners in Agriculture” will be hosted by the Bitterroot Stockgrowers, in conjunction with its annual banquet. The second series will be two different days with a panel discussion held on the 24th of October 6:00-9:00 pm and a classroom setting on the 25th of October 9:30 am- 2:00 pm. Both days will be held at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds. The third series “What’s Your Next Steps

to Legacy Planning?” will be offered in November. The date, time, and location are pending.

- b. BRLT is working on bringing a community-wide presentation of the “Yellowstone Bison Range Debate and Conservation.” One of its employees has a connection with the film director/creator and, if this is a possibility, film viewing may be used as the third series of the November Succession Planning Event. Richardson asked the BCD Board if it would be interested in attending the presentation. It confirmed that it would.
- c. Richardson is collaborating with her cohort in Missoula, Natalie Sullivan, to develop the AG News & Brews program for Missoula County. The first presentation will be on “AG Lands Classification” and will be held at the Lolo Brewing Company in Lolo on the 30th of October at 6:00pm. Ravalli County Extension will start its AG News & Brews series at the end of December. She asked the BCD if it would be willing to, once again, present at one of the AG News & Brews. It agreed that it would.

NOTICES

The BCD Board reviewed:

1. MACD notice of key shutdown information needed in the event there is a governmental shutdown. Livesay and Richardson both stated they have available offices within their offices at the County Admin Building if the BCD needs to find a place to land during the governmental shutdown. The BCD Board thanked them for the offer.
2. MT FWP notice of a SPA (124) permit issued to the Bitterroot National Forest Service for the installation of a trail bridge over Little Rock Creek.
3. NRCS notice of Certified Planner Registration on November 19, 2025, 1:30-3:30 EST.
4. Ravalli County Floodplain/Planning Department notice of floodplain permits issued to Grizzly Broadband, Peter Krause, Chris Lynn, and Tim Roberts.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT033-2025 Michael David Stephenson/Bitterroot River-recreational dredging. Request to place application on hold until Spring 2026. Tabled.
2. 310 10-year Maintenance Application BT061-2025 Isis Laland TTEE, Willow Laland-Yeilding TTEE/North Burnt Fork-annual irrigation work to capture irrigation flow. Tabled.
3. 310 Application BT062-2025 Isis Laland TTEE, Willow Laland-Yeilding/North Burnt Fork-restore stream channel by removing excess material to capture irrigation flows. Tabled.
4. 310 Application BT064-2025 JR Iman/Bitterroot River-restore flow to irrigation headgate and repair existing bank stabilization. Mark moved to approve as a project. Kerslake seconded, motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Permit BT018-2025 Pristine Properties request to modify the permit to match the new modified bridge design. Table for a site visit.

2. Rosenberg submitted follow-up inspection photos for 310 Permit BT023-2025 William Schrock/Skalkaho Creek-buried concrete wall revetment. The BCD Board reviewed, discussed, and approved the notice of project completion.
3. Reviewed, discussed, and approved the notice of project completion for 310 Permit BT032-2025 Albert Gardner/Putnam Gulch-culvert crossing.
4. Reviewed and discussed the notice of project completion for 310 Permit BT044-2025 Jerry Daniels/Tin Cup Creek-bank stabilization and mitigation planting. Reagan moved to approve as completed according to mitigation requirements. Dobberstein seconded, motion carried.
5. Reviewed, discussed, and approved the notice of project completion for 310 Permit BT054-2025 Stan Clevidence, Supply Ditch Association/Bitterroot River Slough-removal of beaver dam.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 10-Year Application BT065-2025 Randy Bailey, Arnold Polanchek/Kootenai Creek-10-year annual irrigation maintenance for the installation and removal of a rock/tarp irrigation diversion dam. Kerslake moved to approve as submitted. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 10-Year Application BT066-2025 Orr Ditch Users, Dalton Christopherson/West Fork Bitterroot River-10-year annual irrigation maintenance for the installation and removal of a rock/tarp irrigation diversion dam. Reagan moved to approve the 10-year maintenance plan. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
3. 310 Application BT067-2025 Brian Langton/Big Creek-replace existing irrigation headgate. Dobberstein moved to approve as submitted. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
4. 310 Application BT068-2025 Levi Petroff/North Burnt Fork Creek-utility septic crossing. Kerslake moved to approve as submitted. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
5. 310 Complaint BT069-2025 Quintin Aune against Martinez & Sons Landscaping/Sweathouse Creek-removed vegetation, left debris in the creek, and forded the creek with equipment without a 310 permit. Tabled for inspection.
6. 310 Complaint BT070-2025 Jak Evans against Jon Kott/Sleeping Child Creek-cleared vegetation from streambank, built an access road, and installed a fence across the stream without a 310 permit. Tabled for inspection.
7. 310 Application BT071-2025 Vincent Roth, Michelene Lee/Skalkaho Creek-remove a blown down tree and woody debris. Tabled for inspection.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. After the fact 310 Application BT072-2025 Ian Northcott, Jon & Donna Kott/Sleeping Child Creek-removed vegetation and built a fence. Inspection requested.
2. Reviewed David Buck photos of cut and fallen trees between Darby and Lone Pine. Hansen will review the site.

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

No public comment.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Rosenberg moved to approve BCD county checks 107158-107160. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. Rosenberg will meet with Gary Long-Zito and RC&D concerning filling the BCD's part-time administrative assistant position.
3. The BCD Board reviewed its October calendar and discussed that its first meeting in November is on Veteran's Day. Mark moved to cancel the BCD's first meeting in November. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.
4. Mark moved to purchase the Slatwall panels not to exceed \$400.00. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

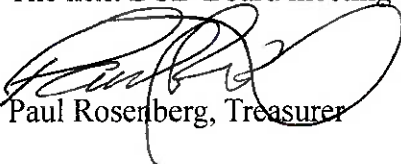
INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Available for review:

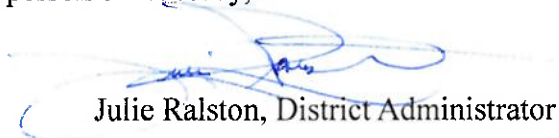
1. Lincoln Oakes Nurseries.
2. MACD District Dispatch.
3. Montana FWP Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program survey.
4. Montana Watershed Coordination Council September Watershed News.
5. MSU Extension September publication on reduction of annual watering.
6. Passing of Jackie Bjergo.
7. Radley Watkins, Missoula CD news article " Beavers Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 310 Law."
8. Safeguard.
9. Schumacher's Nursery.
10. September Offrange Newsletter.

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, the 14th of October 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Paul Rosenberg, Treasurer



Julie Ralston, District Administrator

Date: 10-14-2025