



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
October 28, 2025**

Board of Supervisors regular scheduled meeting, Tuesday the 28th of October 2025, called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Jeff Mark.

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

All present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Roy Fenster, 310 applicant (by Zoom); Lenita Hansen, public; Jason Lindstrom, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP); E.E. McLaughlin, public; Mark Oswald, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association; Julie Ralston, BCD District Administrator; Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent.

MINUTES

Rosenberg moved to approve the 14th of October 2025 minutes as sent. Myers seconded; motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Reviewed the Montana Forest Products update.
2. Myers presented BCD's goals and objectives for its water quantity and water quality resource concerns as listed in the BCD Long-Range Plan. The BCD Board discussed shortfalls, successes, future outreach and/or projects. It was determined by the BCD Board to keep water quality/water quantity as one of its top listed resource concerns and to continue support for concrete irrigation diversion blocks; USGS gauging stations; Bitterroot River Heath Check Monitoring Program; continued support for additional water storage capacity, project partnership building, and outreach. Myers presented the goals and objectives for the BCD's noxious weeds resource concern as listed in the BCD Long-Range Plan. The BCD Board discussed its shortfalls and success and determined to keep noxious weeds listed as one of its top resource concerns. Rosenberg suggested re-titling the resource concern to invasive/noxious species instead of just noxious weeds. Myers will make the title change.

Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent, reported that the Ravalli County Weed Board is proposing higher fines for landowners who are not trying to address the invasive noxious weeds on their property. She stated her concerns with control and calibration of weed management and the possible need for a county invasive species management officer. The BCD Board discussed its continued sponsorship of workshops and more outreach. The BCD Board discussed adding extra points to its cost-share ranking form if a proposed cost-share project addressed the BCD's top identified resource concerns. Myers will make the updates to the BCD's Long-Range 5-year plan.

BCD COST-SHARE/EDUCATION/GRANT PROGRAMS

1. Ralston reported, the BCD only received one Statement of Qualifications for the BCD Union Ditch Resource Improvement Grant. Mark moved to award the project to Morrison-Maierle, Inc. Myers seconded; motion carried.
2. Reviewed Blake Highline Ditch Users, Inc.'s request for reimbursement of BCD cost-share agreement 004-2026, irrigation delivery upgrade. The BCD Board held a brief discussion on the integrity of the 3500 linear feet of ditch liner. Rosenberg moved to reimburse according to the agreement. Dobberstein seconded: motion carried.

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None to report.

PARTNER REPORTS

1. Jason Lindstrom, Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) reported:
 - a. Ravalli County FWP will complete its 2025 field season next week.
 - b. This was a record year for numbers of Kokanee found in Como Lake. FWP has not stocked the lake with Kokanee in years. Unfortunately, numbers for Rainbow Trout were low considering FWP stocks the lake annually with over 8000 Rainbow Trout.
 - c. The Bureau of Business and Economic Research along with FWP has released the 2024 impact of fishing in Montana. Montana's fishing industry has brought in nearly 1.5 billion dollars and supports approximately 16,000 jobs.
2. Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent reported:
 - a. The 2025 AG EXPO was well attended.
 - b. The Snap Program through MSU Extension sunsets in September. There is some concern this program will not make it through the next Farm Bill.
 - c. Missoula County Extension's AG News & Brews program will begin October 30th, 2025, at 6 pm at the Lolo Peak Brewing Company in Lolo, MT. The topic is on "AG Lands Classification"
 - d. Rob Johnson, retired Ravalli County Extension Agent, will be honored Tuesday the 4th of November at the Teller Barn in Corvallis from 4-6 pm.
 - e. 14th and 15th of November Pile and Burn Workshop.
 - f. Tuesday, November 18, "Partners on the Plate" meeting from 5-7 pm Bitterroot Brewery. This event will focus on promoting, marketing and connecting rural producers to wholesale buyers.
 - g. The Ravalli County AG News and Brews program will start in January 2026 and run through May. She will contact the BCD about topics, dates, and places it would like to present.
 - h. There are changes coming from the EPA that will have an impact on private applicators. She will try to keep the BCD and Ravalli County up to date on those changes.

NOTICES

The BCD Board reviewed:

1. The Bitterroot Chamber AG & Local Food's notice of AG week honoring Rob Johnson, retired Ravalli County MSU Extension Agent, Tuesday, November 4, 4-6 pm, at the Teller Wildlife Refuge Barn.
2. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Right Bureau, notice of Clark Fork Coalition water right change on Tin Cup Creek.

3. Ravalli County Floodplain notice of permits/extensions issued to Dorene Sain, Grizzly Broadband, Matt Tull, Tim Joyner, and Ward Irrigation District.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT033-2025 Michael David Stephenson/Bitterroot River-recreational dredging. Tabled until 2026.
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 Complaint BT069-2025 Quintin Aune against Martinez & Sons Landscaping/Sweathouse Creek-removed vegetation, fell debris into the creek, and forded the creek with equipment without a 310 permit. Dobberstein moved as a valid complaint with no mitigation requirements. Kerslake seconded, motion carried. Dobberstein clarified that the Complaint is against the landowner and it was not Martinez & Sons that did the work.
5. 310 Application BT073-2025 Roy Fenster, Ken Siebel/Mitchell Slough-livestock fencing. Sutherlin moved to approve with a 15-day waiver. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
6. 310 Application BT074-2025 Russell Fox, Douglas Heltne/Blodgett Creek-bank stabilization. Mark moved to approve with modifications. Reagan seconded; one abstained, motion carried.
7. 310 Application BT075-2025 Lynn Bertane/One Horse Creek-bank stabilization. Sutherlin moved to approve with comments. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

1. Hansen stated he met with the CB Ranch manager concerning some trees that had been cut down on the streambank of the Bitterroot River without a 310 permit. Hansen was told that the trees blew down during a windstorm and were later cut off an existing fence to repair it. The CB Ranch left the trees lying on the riverbank.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT076-2025 Steep Creek Bridge & Road Association/West Fork Bitterroot River-repair existing bridge crossing. Reagan moved to approve with a 15-day waiver and the modification of adding 16 additional beams. Myers seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 10-Year Application BT077-2025 Blodgett-Culler-Grill (BCG) Water Users, Mike Doleac/Sleeping Child Creek-annual installation and removal of a tarp/rock irrigation dam. Rosenberg moved to approve. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.
3. 310 Application BT078-2025 BCG Water Users, Mike Doleac/Sleeping Child Creek-remove a fallen tree. Rosenberg moved to accept as a project. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. Reviewed 310 Application BT079-2025 Rachel Feldman/Canyon Creek-remove a fallen tree and debris.

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

1. Mark Oswald, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association, asked if Roy Fenster's fence crossing project on the Mitchell Slough would impede access? He was told, "no", as there are portage gates at the fence crossing and the fence will be placed high enough to be able to lift and float under it.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Rosenberg presented the BCD September budget report. Mark moved to accept the September budget report as presented. Myers seconded; motion carried.
2. Rosenberg moved to approve BCD county checks 107171-107176. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
3. Mark moved to approve the \$160.00 shipping expense for the wall display boards. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
4. The BCD decided it would prefer to hire a full-time administrative assistant at this time and not a part-time assistant. Its HR Committee will conduct interviews on the 14th of November.
5. Reviewed the BCD November Calendar.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Available for review:

1. Bitterroot Water Partnership thank you.
2. Broadwater CD Newsletter.
3. MACD District Dispatch.
4. Montana Watershed Council.
5. Uline thank you.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, the 25th of November 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Jeff Mark, Chairman



Julie Ralston, District Administrator

Date: [11/25/2025](#)