



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
June 30, 2026**

Bitterroot Conservation District (BCD) Board of Supervisors scheduled meeting, Tuesday the 30th of June 2026, called to order at 7:01 p.m., by Kent Myers, Vice Chairman.

MEMBERS' PRESENT

Tommy Dobberstein; Bob Nelson; Howard Eldredge; Mike Hansen; Joel Johnson; Dan Kerslake (by Zoom); Kent Myers; Todd Reagan; Paul Rosenberg, Chad Sutherlin

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Jeff Mark

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department; Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator, (BCD);; Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent (by Zoom)

MINUTES

Myers motioned to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026 meeting. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Myers motioned to approve Brent Pristis as an Associate Supervisor. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
2. BCD Adopted Rule Changes and Appendix public comment review.
 - a. Myers reviewed the public hearing comments and organized them into a document representing our responses to each comment. Myers also reformatted the draft rules to make it easier for readers to review the rules.
 - b. Reagan and Myers discussed the forestry concerns. BCD appreciates the input from the logging industry representatives that commented and recognized the overlap with the SMZ law.
 - c. Myers recommended removing the enforcement policy section from the Draft Rules.
 - d. Public comments discussed: Placing of 6in of less of woody debris above the high water mark after removal; Myers further explained the definition of "Immediately adjacent" and off stream revetments; recreational structures on the rivers are judged on case-by-case basis.
 - e. Dobberstein commented that the rules are made to be intentionally vague. This allows for interpretation, which is both good and bad. Eldredge followed that comment explaining how a 310 Permit may be required for riparian vegetation depending on the project, again emphasizing the interpretation of the rules.

- f. Many comments about the Draft Rules were mainly made on the current laws that cannot be changed unless they are through legislation.
 - g. The Board agreed that although comments addressing complaints were noted and appreciated, this is not the focus of the current changes.
 - h. Myers motioned to repost Draft Rules and Appendix along with the boards' responses on the BCD website. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
- 3. Bitterroot Water Partnership sponsorship request for Annual River Clean Up event. Tabled until budget can be reviewed for this sponsorship
- 4. Emergency Forest Relief Program (EFRP) BCD Partnership. Rosenberg and Puczkowskyj explained the EFRP program and that although BCD is supportive, there are better suited agencies to administer this program.

BCD COST-SHARE/EDUCATION/GRANT PROGRAMS

- 1. Cost-Share Program
 - a. Rosenberg reviewed the follow up inspection of the completed Cost Share Reminsber Project
 - b. Rosenberg motioned to approve and pay \$1445.50 per contract of Devoe CS-006-2026. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried
 - c. Cost Share Committee will meet to review and recommend the 2027 Cost Share applicants
 - d. Puczkowskyj presented the most current Cost Share Report

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Myers, Open Lands Board.
 - a. New project applicant: Rocky Lynn, Small parcel North of Corvallis, MT. Normally small parcels (70-80 acres) are not a part of the program, but this land is prime farmland. A site inspection will be conducted in the week of July 6th.
- 2. Reagan, Education Committee.
 - a. The Watershed trailer will have maintenance and repairs completed at Joel Johnson BCD Associate Supervisor's garage. A date will need to be decided as to when to begin the maintenance and repairs.

PARTNER REPORTS

- 1. Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department.
 - a. Floodplain Permit Extension Approval FA-25-03/Residential Construction, Barrow Pit, and Associated Utilities. This project is located on Gorus Loop and will be for constructing outbuildings.
 - b. There will be an upcoming site inspection conducted on Double Fork Ranch.
- 2. Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent
 - a. 2026 Western Agricultural Research Center Field Day Event, Thursday July 30th, 2026, 4:30-8:30
 - b. Darrell Fenner Loon Lake 4-H Camp, taking place on July 21st through July 24th, 2026, Bigfork, MT
 - c. Kimberley is very busy with Nitrate testing and plant identification from the public.
- 3. Catey Bauer, Conservation District Specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), July 2026 written report.

NOTICES

1. 2026 Western Agricultural Research Center Field Day Event, Thursday July 30th, 2026, 4:30-8:30, MSU Agricultural Research Center in Corvallis.
2. Two Grounds Maintenance Positions Openings at Rocky Mountain Labs, Full time, 40 hours per week with benefits, \$24/hour. Contact Jeff Mark for more information.
3. MACD 2026 Convention Planning Work Group.
4. MACD Call for Impact & Conservation Stories.
5. DNRC: Administrative Rules for Conservation District Grants- Public Comment.
6. Montana Historical Society Hosts Five-Day History Festival in Helena.
7. Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Permit SPA-22-26 R-2, 214 Permit Approval/Robbins Gulch/Culvert Removal and SPA-19-26 R-2, 214 Permit Approval/Daly Creek/Bridge Replacement.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Complaint BT033-2026 Brad Johnson against Summit Heating & Cooling Inc./Christisen Creek-digging in the creek without a permit. (Reagan, Hansen). Tabled until upcoming site inspection with Brad Johnson.
2. 10-year 310 Application BT041-2026 John Lewis/East Channel Bitterroot River-annual installation and removal of steel irrigation diversion. (Dobberstein, Eldredge). Dobberstein motioned to approve as proposed. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
3. 310 Complaint BT042-2026 Berro against Perkins/Pine Hollow Creek-excavation of a road across a stream without a 310 permit. (Sutherlin, Kerslake). Kerslake motioned to approve as a valid complaint, and that the applicant will apply for a 310 Mitigation Permit, with work being completed in the Fall of 2026. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.
4. 310 Application BT046-2026 Grizzly Broadband/ Multiple Creeks/ Directional Boring Utilities (Sutherlin, Kerslake) Sutherlin motioned to approve as proposed. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT041-2025/Kevin Whitetaker/Pond Maintenance/Cow Creek, Extension Request Myers motioned to accept extension request. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 Application BT012-2026/Northwestern Energy/ Utilities: Tree Pruning and Removal/ North Burnt Fork Creek: Verification of Project Completion
3. 310 Application BT058-2025/Brian Melius/Repairing Existing Leaking Pond/Blodget Creek: Verification of Project Completion. Kent will conduct site visit. Myers is requesting a follow-up site visit for the project on July 14th, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Complaint BT047-2026 Ronnie Carlton, John Frick against Roger Mikesell/Eight Mile Creek-working in the creek without a valid permit. (Sutherlin, Kerslake) Sutherlin motioned to accept this as a valid complaint with the mitigation being that Roger Mikesell applies for a new 10-year maintenance permit. Kerslake seconded; motion carried. The Board discussed the idea of creating a reminder system to notify applicants that their permit will be expiring.
2. 310 10-Year Application BT048-2026 Roger Mikesell/Eight Mile Creek- annual irrigation maintenance. (Sutherlin, Kerslake) Sutherlin motioned to accept as proposed. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

3. 310 Application BT049-2026 Ravalli Electric, Joe Parsons/Iron Cap Creek-utility bore. (Sutherlin, Kerslake) Tabled for inspection
4. 310 7-Year Application BT50-2026 for 310 Permit BT039-2021 Double Fork Ranch, ETNA, Webfoot, Union Ditches/Bitterroot River East/West Split-annual irrigation maintenance. (Dobberstein, Eldredge) Tabled for inspection

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT020-2026 Holly Goncena/North Fork Rye Creek/ Bridge Crossing – Project Completion.
2. 310 Application BT027-2026 Doug Gannett/Mitchell Slough/Ford Crossing – Project Completion.

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

1. Hansen reported from the Painted Rocks Dam Tender:
 - a. 390 CFS will hold until the 9th-10th of July then rapidly decrease to roughly half.
 - b. They plan to maintain a small amount of water discharging from above spill way, but most of the water will come out of the dam at the bottom.
 - c. They will maintain until Jason Lindstrom of Fish, Wildlife, and Park or ditch companies request more water.
 - d. Currently the flow is 60% of normal flows.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

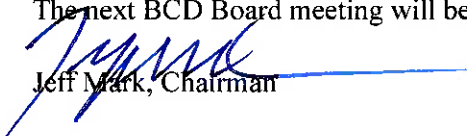
1. Rosenberg motioned to accept County checks 107293-107309 and corrected the posted agenda list checks 107293-107312. Checks 107310-107312 were not issued. Myers seconded; motion carried
2. BCD Credit Card for Puczkowskyj/Supervisors
3. Mileage and Per Diem Checks
4. Dobberstein motioned to accept the May Budget Report. Sutherlin seconded; motion carried.
5. Dobberstein motioned to approve the FY26/27 Budget, correcting the posted agenda item reading “FY27/28 Budget”. Sutherlin seconded; motion carried.
6. July Calendar
7. Annual Plan
8. Myers motioned to approve Puczkowskyj’s transition to District Administrator. Rosenberg seconded; motion carried.
9. Bonding Insurance for Puczkowskyj and Rosenberg. Tabled
10. CDA Amendment from Hailey Graf for 310 Software Upgrade Signed.

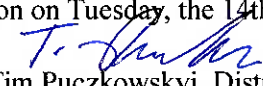
INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Western Landowners Alliance: Leadership from Land

Myers adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, the 14th of July 2026, at 7:00 p.m.


Jeff Mark, Chairman


Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator

Date: 07-14-2026