



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
August 11, 2026**

Bitterroot Conservation District (BCD) Board of Supervisors scheduled meeting for Tuesday the 11th of August 2026, 7:19 p.m., 1709 North First Street, Hamilton, MT.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tommy Dobberstein; Mike Hansen; Joel Johnson; Dan Kerslake; Kent Myers; Bob Nelson; Todd Reagan

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Jeff Mark; Brent Pristis; Paul Rosenberg; Chad Sutherlin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brad Johnson, Landowner; Steve Davis, Local Resident; Jason Lindstrom, Ravalli County Fish Biologist, Fish, Wildlife, & Parks; Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department (by Zoom); Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator, (BCD); Phil Roman Emergency Applicant; Stacy Welling District Conservationist, NRCS

MINUTES

Dobberstein motioned to approve the July 28th, 2026 meeting minutes. Reagan seconded; motion carried

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. BCD Adopted Rule Changes and Appendix
 - a. Public Notice has been posted in the Bitterroot Star and Ravalli Republic. Posting dates are August 4th, 5th, 18th, and 19th.
2. No-Till Drill Rental
 - b. Agreement Signed – Hayward, 20 acres, planting Rye/Vetch Cover Crop
3. Meyers motioned to donate \$35.00 to the MACD BPAC Agriculture Research Center. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.

BCD COST-SHARE/EDUCATION/GRANT PROGRAMS

Reviewed:

1. BCD Cost-Share
 - a. Signed Agreement: Bunner CS-002-2027

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Myers, Open Lands Board nothing
 - a. The next board meeting will be on August 20th, 2026, and they are expecting a new project to be presented.
2. Reagan, Education Committee
 - a. The Watershed Trailer was transported to Johnson's garage. An important task will be to replace the bottom floorboards. They will work on the top display separately. Reagan is creating a list of parts needed for repairs.

PARTNER REPORTS

1. Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department.
 - a. Livesay is working on ADB Companies' Floodplain applications.
 - b. The ETNA, Webfoot, and Union Ditch Companies application was approved.
2. Jason Lindstrom, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks.
 - a. The flow of the Bitterroot River is at 210cfs, and the West Fork Bitterroot River is at 309cfs.
 - b. Hoot Owl restrictions will end on August 13th, 2026, on the Bitterroot River from Hamilton and northward. Everything South of Hamilton will remain on Hoot Owl restrictions. The third week of August is when the river temperature typically starts to cool down to an acceptable degree for fish survival.
 - c. There is still quite a bit of water in the creeks above diversions.
3. Stacy Welling, Ravalli County NRCS
 - a. FY 2026 contracting has been completed. There was a total of 11 EQIP contracts obligated: 8 for forestry, 2 for pivot, and 1 Ventenata weed management contract.
 - b. No CSP funded projects for FY2026.
 - c. There are 4 different TIPS currently active. Three of those TIPS will carry over into 2027. After 2027, EQIP funding will be prioritized through proposals under the new 'Locally Led Conservation' effort. Prior to proposal development, Welling will need to hold a brief Local Working Group meeting to get other organizations input on targeted resource concerns.
 - d. Reginal Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposal- Welling is working with the Bitter Root Land Trust and Bitter Root RC&D on an RCPP proposal that will focus on forest land easements and forest health land management practices.

NOTICES

Reviewed:

1. American Ground Water Trust is accepting applications for Two Board of Directors Positions. 3-year term starting January 2027. Visit agwt.org for more information
2. MACD new resolutions and sunset challenges due date changed to September 1st, 2026. It was previously August 1st, 2026. Contact MACD if you would like to submit a resolution.
3. Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team is launching a statewide BioBlitz from August 10–17th, focused on the Eastern Heath Snail (EHS). They are asking for CD's to take a moment during these dates to survey an area of their choosing to look for these invasive snails and report back to them.
4. Funeral service for former MACD President Mark Suta will be August 21st, 2026, 10:00AM, at Cut Bank High School, Cut Bank, MT.
5. 2026 NCDEO Northern Plains Professional Development Workshop: Fargo, North Dakota, October 20-22nd, 2026. Register online at ndcdea.org

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Complaint BT056-2026/Michael Williams/Sheafman Creek: Digging near creek without a 310 Permit. (Dobberstein) All of the work that was done was at least 200ft away from the creek banks. Dobberstein motioned to deny this complaint. Kerslake seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 Complaint BT057-2026/Mary Ann Cusenza/Harlan Creek: Landowner altered stream channel without a 310 Permit. (Rosenberg, Johnson) Waiting for landowner response.
3. 310 Application BT062-2026 Patricia Baker/ Dickson Creek: 10-Year Maintenance Permit Cleaning Silt Trap & Pond. (Reagan, Nelson, Hansen) Inspection scheduled for the 25th of August 2026.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT021-2026 Glenn Construction/West Fork Bitterroot: Scour Depth and Staircase Modification Request (Reagan, Hansen). Reagan motioned to accept the modifications proposed. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 Application BT040-2026 Michael Mang, ADB Companies Inc./Bitterroot River: Bore Depth Modification Request (Mark, Meyers, Reagan, Hansen). Kim Snodgrass, representing ADB Companies, discussed with the board about understanding the requirements BCD has for directional drilling scour depth. She calculated the depths very conservatively for this application and was surprised by the recommended depth modification. The board agreed that for future applications she should submit with the conservative depths. Livesay commented that there is no regulation requiring doubling the scour depth. The recommendation of doubling the depth seems excessive. Hansen commented that the slope percent of the Bitterroot River can displace significant amounts of riverbed material. BCD requested she submit her original depths based off of different levels of erosion. This request will be tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT064-2026/Haley Kinch/Three Mile Creek: Directional Boring in Three Mile Creek and Unnamed Creek (Sutherlin, Kerslake). Kerslake motioned to approve as proposed. Reagan seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 Complaint BT065-2026/Jason Lindstrom/Bitterroot River: Vegetation Removed Along Immediate Bank of River (Reagan, Hansen) tabled for inspection.
3. 310 Complaint BT066-2026/Brad Johnson/Christinsen Creek: Drone Footage of Pond Excavated in Creek. (Reagan, Hansen). Puczkowskyj will Contact Hailey Graf, DNRC 310 State Coordinator for advice. Tabled for next meeting.
4. 310 Application BT067-2026/Glen Frost/Spade Creek: 10-Year Maintenance Permit for Silt and Debris removal (Reagan, Hansen, Nelson). Reagan motioned to approve as proposed. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
5. 310 Application BT068-2026/Gerald Browe /North Bear Creek: Failed Bridge Removal and Bridge Installation. (Dobberstein). Tabled for inspection

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT069-2026/Michael Mang/West Fork Bitterroot River: Directional Boring (Reagan, Hansen).
2. 310 Application BT070-2026/Michael Mang/East Fork Bitterroot River: Directional Boring (Reagan, Nelson).
3. 310 Emergency BT071-2026/Phil Romans/Bitterroot River: Woody Debris Removal (Mark, Meyers). Phil Roman discussed his plan to remove the woody debris. Both Lindstrom and Livesay agreed that it is a public safety hazard and it should be removed. Livesay recommended that smaller logs should be cut when the debris is removed.

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Meyers motioned to approve County checks 107322-107329. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. Meyers motioned to approve TrailWest Checks 5268-5271. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
3. BCD Credit Card for Puczkowskyj/Supervisors
4. Reagan motioned to approve the purchasing of Bonding Insurance at the \$250,000 coverage rate Dobberstein seconded; motion carried
5. Reviewed the new state Mileage Reimbursement rate.
6. Puczkowskyj reported on the 310 CDA Grant Award.
7. 2026-2027 Mill Levy Calculations Report
8. August Calendar

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

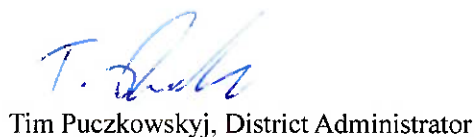
1. MACD Communications Newsletter
2. MACD District Dispatch
3. NAISMA August 2026 Newsletter
4. OffRange – Issue #192
5. Western Digest – July 2026
6. RECEDA Producer Newsletter
7. NCDEA Connections Newsletter

Myers adjourned the meeting at 8:36PM

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, the 25th of August 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



Jeff Mark, Chairman



Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator

Date: 08-25-2026