



**BITTERROOT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(BCD)
1709 NORTH FIRST STREET
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
MINUTES
September 29th, 2026**

Bitterroot Conservation District (BCD) Board of Supervisors scheduled meeting for Tuesday the 29th of September 2026, 7:00 p.m., 1709 North First Street, Hamilton, MT.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tommy Dobberstein; Mike Hansen; Jeff Mark; Kent Myers; Brent Pristis; Paul Rosenberg; Todd Reagan

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Dan Kerslake; Bob Nelson; Chad Sutherlin

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Jason Lindstrom, Ravalli County Fish Biologist, Fish, Wildlife, & Parks; Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department; Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator, (BCD); Michael Miller (by Zoom); Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent (By Zoom)

MINUTES

Dobberstein motioned to approve the September 8th, 2026 meeting minutes. Myers seconded; motion carried.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. MACD Fundraiser Auction Item Donation Request. The board discussed unique items representing the Bitterroot valley to donate.

BCD COST-SHARE/EDUCATION/GRANT PROGRAMS

1. BCD Cost Share
 - a. BCD CS-007-2027 Wings Program: Application modification. Rosenberg motioned to accept the modification request, but the BCD will still only pay based on the same percentage, which was originally awarded.
 - b. BCD CS-001-2027 Salley Hayes: Application modification requesting use of an 18-inch culvert instead of the 24-inch culvert which was originally proposed. Rosenberg motioned that the modification be accepted as written.
 - c. Reviewed BCD 2028 Cost Share Application Todd Floyd: requesting seed to rewild 5 acres of grassland.

BCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Myers, Open Lands Board.

- a. Myers was not at the last meeting. A new project will be presented at the next meeting but It will not be officially reviewed until November. The county commissioners are still reviewing applications.

PARTNER REPORTS

2. Rob Livesay, Ravalli County Planning and Floodplain Department.
 - a. The county is accepting public comments on subdivisions zoning regulation changes. Commissioners will vote on them in December.
 - b. Exempt well monitoring project plan has been posted on Ravalli County Planning Department webpage.
 - c. PFAS was detected in the Hamilton water supply. There is testing available at local labs to test for PFAS contamination.
3. Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Resources/Horticulture Agent.
 - a. Stock Growers Expo October 9th & 10th 2026 at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds.
 - b. Scholarships available for people interested in attended conferences or continued education classes.
4. Jason Lindstrom, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks-
 - a. Painted Rocks water reservoir is running out of water. The last flow reduction will be September 30th, 2026. Lake Como will continue to alleviate irrigation demands. August rainstorms really helped maintain water levels in the reservoirs. Rainbow and brown trout population numbers were up near the Stevensville area in the Bitterroot River. At the "Hannon", Rainbow trout populations are a little below normal numbers but brown trout populations are about average.
5. Other partner reports.

NOTICES

Reviewed:

1. Reimagining Rural Roadshow, October 7th, 2026, Winnett, MT
2. Funding The Experience, Montana Agritourism Grant & Grower Gathering. October 6th, 2026, 9:00AM at Fork, Spoon & Knife, Missoula, MT.
3. RCEDA's Professional Development Training Series Starts September 30th, 2026 – May 27th, 2026. Register online at Bitterrootchamber.com

OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Complaint BT057-2026/Mary Ann Cusenza/Harlan Creek: Landowner altered stream channel without a 310 Permit. (Rosenberg) Cusenza requested to withdraw her complaint. Rosenberg motioned to accept the complainant's request to withdraw her complaint, because the work was done by the previous landowner. Myers seconded; motion carried.
2. 310 Complaint BT066-2026/Brad Johnson/Christinsen Creek: Drone Footage of Pond Excavated in Creek. (Reagan, Hansen) Tabled for legal guidance.
3. 310 Application BT069-2026/Michael Mang/West Fork Bitterroot River: Directional Boring (Reagan, Hansen). Reagan motioned to approve as proposed. Myers seconded; motion carried.

4. 310 Application BT070-2026/Michael Mang/East Fork Bitterroot River: Directional Boring (Reagan, Nelson). Reagan motioned to approve as proposed. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
5. 310 Application BT073-2026/Kelly Cole/Nelson Creek: Irrigation Diversion Replacement (Reagan, Hansen). Modification Request. Modification approved earlier in the meeting. (BCD Cost Share 1.B.)
6. 310 Application BT080-2026 Jason Floyd/Little Creek: Culvert Crossing Installation (Sutherlin/Kerslake). Dobberstein motioned to approve as proposed. Myers seconded; motion carried.
7. 310 Complaint BT081-2026 Alex Brown vs Mark Huson/Kootenai Creek: Irrigation Diversion in Stream Without 310 Permit (Sutherlin, Kerslake). The work being done is not a 310 violation. They remove the diversion at the end of each irrigation season. Mark motioned to deny this complaint. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
8. 310 Application BT082-2026 Robert Kubiak/Little Sleeping Child Creek: 10-Maintenance Permit to Remove Sediment from Stock Watering Site in Creek (Rosenberg) Rosenberg motioned to approve as proposed. Reagan seconded; motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT052-2026 Trevor Stotka/Cow Creek: Channel Dredging- Project completion Follow-up Inspection (Dobberstein). Dobberstein commented that they did a great job and It turned out well. They did not dredge too deep and they spread the silt out well.
2. 310 Application BT043-2026 Logan Stahly/Big Creek Lake: Dam Repairs- Project Completed (Sutherlin, Kerslake)

NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Complaint BT084-2026 George Mohoff/Christisen Creek: Tree removal and skidding logs through the creek. (Reagan, Hansen) Tabled for inspection.
2. 310 Application BT085-2026 Anna Grace Foreman/Bitterroot River: Knife River Corporation Rock Quarry 310 Waiver (Dobberstein). Tabled for inspection.
3. 310 Application BT086-2026 Catherine Evans/Bitterroot River: Requesting 310 Waiver for Directional Boring Under Wetlands Area. (Reagan, Hansen) Reagan motioned to approve this as not a project. Myers seconded; motion carried.
4. 310 Application BT087-2026 Water Rights Inc./Sweathouse Creek: 10 Year Maintenance Permit for Rock and Tarp Diversion (Dobberstein). Tabled for inspection.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. 310 Application BT088-2026 Josh Schroeder/Bitterroot River: Irrigation Pump Installation (Sutherlin, Kerslake)
2. 310 Application BT089-2026 Jennifer Lint/Big Creek: Woody Debris Removal (Dobberstein)

PUBLIC OPEN MIC

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Rosenberg motioned to approve County checks 107338-107340. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
2. Myers motioned to approve the August Budget Report. Dobberstein seconded; motion carried.
3. October Calendar

4. 310 Software Update. Puczkowskyj briefed the board of the status of choosing a company to build a new 310 permit management program.
5. CDA-27-0232 Grant. Signed
6. Mark reminded the board that December will have one meeting at the beginning of the month and January will have one meeting during the second half of the month. November will still have two meetings.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD District Dispatch
2. Judith Basin Newsletter
3. Petroleum CD Fall Newsletter

Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM

The next BCD Board meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, the 13th of October 2026, at 7:00 p.m.


Jeff Mark, Vice Chairman


Tim Puczkowskyj, District Administrator

Date: 10-13-2026