

## March 10, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner John Jackson, Commissioner Michael McGinley, Commissioner Tom Rice and Commissioner Support Specialist Dana Basile.

### Pledge of Allegiance

At this time, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance aloud to begin the day.

### Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris was present and reported that they are hauling gravel to Sweetwater this week. They hauled gravel to the fairgrounds last week. Currently he is just working on bridge stuff like getting ready to go on Nissen Ln Bridge.

The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

March 2nd to March 8th, 2025  
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

#### DILLON AREA

- Plow snow on Byway, Horse Prairie
- Millings on Midway at Fairgrounds
- Pour Concrete for Abutements Nissen Ln Bridge
  - Equipment Repairs and Maintenance
    - Check local roads

#### WISDOM AREA

- Road Check
- Parts Run, Change Cutting Edges, Equipment Service
- Plow Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, Lower North Fork, Little Lake, Big Swamp and Big Lake
  - Plow Twin Lakes, Rock Ck, Moose Ck, River Rd, Upper North Fork, and Gibbonsville

#### LIMA AREA

- Plow Snow on South Valley Road Rd
- Equipment Repair, Welding, and Fabricating
  - Shop Maintenance
  - Road Check

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Treasurer Cathy Hucke, Planner Rob Macioroski, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Sheriff David Wendt, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, and Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, joined the meeting.

Nick commented that Tracy got ahold of DIS last week to get the kiosk up and running.

Tom mentioned he's been gone traveling lately. He took a class for DES. This week he is looking at the Homeland security grants.

Mike added the Rural Schools science fair was last week and went well. He was gone 3 days for the County Superintendents Spring Conference. The Superintendents discussed the counties participation in the spelling bee and a few counties would like to do away with it. He is not in agreeance with it. They discussed a few bills going through right now- two of concern are HB 778 adding requirements for homeschoolers, and HB814 which forces consolidation of all K-8 schools to join with a high school district.

Rob mentioned he issued a flood plain permit awhile back and it stated before the property owner proceeds he needs more steps, the property owner did not follow instructions so he is issuing a cease and desist again. Planning board meeting is this week.

Shonna commented they got the boiler fixed that went down. They also had all the electrical outlets moved around in old weeds office, new elections office and the blinds are going up this week in there. She has a meeting with the plumber today to look at the showers in the jail. Shonna will start the Master Gardener class this week with Jack

Stacey mentioned they are slowly starting to prep for election in May.

Amber commented she has spent the last week reading grants. She is heading to Helena for hearings the rest of this week. She is looking at Forest Service grants that are on pause right now. They looked at the floor of new building, main part is looking good. Older part is still a little tacky. They will not need to redo them.

Cathy added they are going to a new DMV system so they are not able to do any transactions Thursday and Friday. Monday will be training experience for all- they have completed the training modules for new system.

Tracy added he has been doing lots of computer stuff. Tom, Shonna, and Mike Miller have new computers he is setting up. He is helping Nick with getting the kiosk building at the landfill set up. He is also working on CWPP mapping.

Randi commented that today there are some hearings utilizing Language Link as the translator. She added that over the weekend there was a felony warrant issued.

David added that it was a busy week with 21 downstairs. He is working on jail and cleaning up.

McGinley added he is glad to be back. He is still watching different bills going through right now.

#### **Discussion- Chad Elser presentation Regarding the PAD new Construction App**

Present: Chad Elser Regional Manager with Montana DOR Property Assessment Division, Bob Ferris, Mike Miller, Rob Macioroski

Chad began the discussion with passing out a handout for the Commissioners to review regarding a new software development program that allows county or state employees to report potential new construction to the Mt DOR. The form notifies the DOR to go out and make sure the building is permitted and assessed. It is voluntary, not mandatory to report new construction.

Mike asked if it is up and running right now. Chad replied yes.

The University of Utah property was discussed at Red Rock as they have been adding structures recently.

Mike added the controversy is that some might feel they are turning in their neighbor and they might not want to do it.

Tom W added him and Joyce are around the county all the time and he wouldn't have an issue using the new form to submit what they see.

Rob asked if they are looking at picking up new buildings on Cadastral Mapping. Chad answered they are using aerial images in conjunction with permits pulled and this is just another tool in the toolbox.

Tom asked if they are looking for remodels too or just new builds? Chad answered additions and outbuildings can be reported too. Tom added he has a lot of issues with existing residence adding a second residence and no permit needed so it is not being reported.

Bob asked if there is a way to know if there is a permit pulled. Tom W replied that Bob can tell him or Joyce and they can look into it and report it if they don't have anything.

Casey (reporter) asked is this form is open to the general public. Chad replied that at this time, it is only for county/state employees.

McGinley said he is for it so if the taxes need to be reassessed they can be. He would also like a report back to see if it is effective. If it is not doing good, then we don't need to continue but if it is helping then we can keep up.

The Commissioners thanked Chad for coming and talking to us about this and answering questions.

**Drought Task Force Meeting**

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Jackson started the meeting and stated that anyone who has signed in on the sheet is not federally employed nor paid to be here.

A copy of the sign in sheet can be viewed below:

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATR: <b>Bearhead County DES</b>		POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: <b>Tom Wagnerbach</b>		Training/Event/Meeting Roster			
EVENT/MEETING NAME: <b>Drought Task Force</b>				DATE AND TIME: <b>3/10/2025 @ 10am</b> CONTACT NUMBER:			
LOCATION: <b>Bearhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room</b>							
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Jay Cornell</b> None	<b>jkcornell@hotmail.com</b> <b>Dillon</b>	Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Mike McGee</b> Commissioner		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Dana Baskin</b> BUSD County		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Lisa Guillen-Sanchez</b> BUSD County		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Travis Wilson</b> LEAFD		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>BJ X/osc</b> DUFD		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Casper Elliott</b> Dillon Tribune		Yes/No	Yes/No				

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<b>Gene Rice</b> Commissioner		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>John H. Jackson</b> Commissioner		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
<b>Tom Wagnerbach</b> Bearhead County DES		Yes/No	Yes/No				
Name: Title	Email or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Yes/No	Food/Other	Event Fee/Other	Security & Fire Protection	Food/Other
		Yes/No	Yes/No				
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		Yes/No	Yes/No				
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		Yes/No	Yes/No				

**National Weather Service**

Jane Fogleman, Meteorologist from the National Weather Service joined the meeting via Teams and began her presentation. A copy of the presentation can be viewed in the DES Office.

**Bureau of Rec/East Bench Irrigation/Clark Canyon Water Users**

Commissioner Rice read the progress report (a copy of which can be viewed below) and reviewed it aloud.

**EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Drought Task Force**

March 7, 2025

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:**

	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: Feb 2025	5658.87'	133,109 a/f	70% Full	118% of avg.
YEAR: Feb 2024	5543.99'	163,538 a/f	84% Full	137% of avg.
	Difference	- 28,429 a/f		

**Present Elevation: 5539.00 feet: 139,606 a/f Storage: 80% Full, 116% of avg.**

**Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 165 cfs/day**

**Present releases: 51 cfs**

INFLOWS FOR: Feb 2025	9,370 a/f	180 cfs/day	79% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR: Feb 2024	13,902 a/f	242 cfs/day	117% of avg.

RELEASES FOR: Feb 2025	2,808 a/f	Storage Gain: 6,562 a/f
RELEASES FOR: Feb 2024	7,212 a/f	Storage Gain: 6,600 a/f

**SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin**

Mar 6, 2025	89% of avg.
Mar 6, 2024	91% of avg.

**Above Red Rock Basin**

Mar 6, 2025	77% of avg.
Mar 6, 2024	87% of avg.

**Lima Dam:**

Mar 6, 2025	Elevation: 6,073.58 ft	Storage: 40,289 a/f	47% Full	116% of avg.
Mar 6, 2024	Elevation: 6,077.99 ft	Storage: 58,382 a/f	69% Full	169% of avg.
	Difference	- 18,093 a/f		

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 36 cfs/day

Present releases: 0 cfs

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Recess**

At 12:00 noon, Commissioner Jackson recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner McGinley, and Commissioner Rice reconvened the meeting with and their Assistant Dana Basile present.

**Legislative Update**

Commissioner McGinley started the discussion with no updates this week.

**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**

**Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.

**Payment of Invoices**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$102,525.59 beginning with check #217315 and ending with check #217383. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board