

## **May 19, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on May 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner John Jackson, Commissioner Tom Rice, Commissioner Michael McGinley 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 the following. They plowed the Byway on Monday, cleaned the cattleguards and opened the gates on Thursday 5/15. It snowed again after they plowed. Lemhi pass is also open. Steel Lane Bridge will be done first week of June. Opening bids this afternoon for it being purchased.

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

#### **BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

May 11th to May 17th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

##### **DILLON AREA**

- Clean Cattleguards at Bannack Rd and Argenta Rd
  - Blade on Stoddard and Argenta Rd
  - Open Byway, Plow Byway
  - Repairs and Maintenance
    - Road Check

##### **WISDOM AREA**

- Road Check
- Shop Clean, Equipment Service, Yard Maintenance
  - Oil Collection, Parts Run, Safety Meeting

##### **LIMA AREA**

- Blade on Medicine Lodge, Sage Creek, and Bitman Lane
- Moved Equipment, Service Equipment and Repair
  - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Finance Assistant Becky Hankinson, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Fairground Manager Justin Kellabrew, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Deputy County Attorney Coty Calvin, Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Sheriff David Wendt, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, Public Health Director Lilia Gullien-Sanchez, joined the meeting.

Jack added there is a public meeting at the 4H building tomorrow for Wild and Domestic Sheep Comingling and there is a welcome meeting for new interns on Friday.

Tom mentioned last week he was at Fort Harrison for a FEMA training for emergency response. There have been a few septic permits coming in. There are enforcement issues in Grant and Monida he is working on.

Justin commented this week they are doing inspections on the concession stand booths. The Jr High rodeo is next week. They are working on putting up new gates on the sides of the grand stands, paid for by Jaycees.

Shonna added last week Alexis took boiler test and will need to retake within 45 days. Shonna will be out Wednesday. This week they are taking the Master Gardener test with Jack. She got a new rope for the flag on flagpole.

Lilia added two of her staff attended a WIC conference in April. One is out this week at a breastfeeding conference. She attended a conference in San Antonio earlier this month. Currently, Montana has had 8 measles cases. The clinic holds a vaccine clinic on

Wednesdays each week. Sarah and Katie are working on a program to obtain a Public Health certificate. The car seat check had a good turnout. The generator hookup was successful at the Public Health building.

Joyce commented she has been inspecting the trailer courts lately. She attended a hoarding training in Missoula on Friday and she learned some ways to handle that in the county if needed. She is recommending a nuisance ordinance for the county. This week she is doing the inspections at the fair grounds to make sure they're up to standards. More mobile food trucks permits coming through.

Randi added her office is busy preparing for jury trial on Wednesday. Today there are 2 sentencing hearings. They are also preparing to send out next year's jury pool notices.

Mike mentioned it is the last week of school for the rural schools. Last week the Wise River students went to Missoula for a field trip. The Wise River 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation is this week. All the students testing needs to be done by Wednesday. He has OPI reports due in June. They will need one new teacher in Polaris. Wisdom is reducing to 1 teacher with an aide.

David commented it was a busy week. They had to rescue a treasure hunter in the valley. Nick and he went up to Mauer to help restore power, the snow was very deep up there. There was a standoff up Frying Pan on Friday night.

Ian added the jail is busy. They are working on getting inmates to different destinations. Jail is at 18 as of this morning. He has been working with Barrett Hospital and MACo to get medical billing back on track.

Bob Ferris asked about a beaver issue. Ian replied he is able to help but the county needs to obtain a special permit from fish and game and appoint him as the agent.

Coty mentioned Sky will be out this week and a little next week for family matters.

Mike mentioned Randi was on the radio this week to advertise the last week of Great Harvest bake days funds going towards the Bus Brigade.

#### **Discussion and Action- Records Retention, Clerk and Recorder**

Clerk and Recorder, Stacey Reynolds was present and presented the Commissioners with a request to destroy files from the 2024 Special District Election. Their retention time is 1 year.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice motioned and Commissioner McGinley seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously to approve the request to destroy records for the Clerk and Recorder.

Stacey recommended have the state come down and train on records retention schedules so everyone knows how long they are supposed to keep what on file before destroying. Some records are permanent.

#### **Discussion and Action- Audit Contract and Renewal**

McGinley said they got the draft audit back with asking for corrections. Bob Denney is retiring and he sold his business to the employees and they renamed it. They need to decide if they're staying with the same company just under different name.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley motioned to elect Nexus to be hired and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

They have always had a 3-year audit and they need to elect that Nexus do that contract.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley motioned to elect Nexus to be hired for the 3-year audit and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

McGinley went over the other pages needing to be signed to choose Nexus, they are the same as what was signed with Denney.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley motioned to sign all the other pages in the contract with Nexus and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The audit should be mostly complete. There was one issue that is being looked into regarding accounts at the Bank of Commerce.

**Discussion and Action- Appoint Compensation Board Members**

McGinley added it is state law that we do this every year. The board needs 3 Commissioners, 3 elected officials, county attorney and members of the community. Commissioner McGinley nominates Cathy Hucke, Commissioner Rice nominated David Wendt, Commissioner Jackson nominated Stacey Reynolds. Community members nominated by the Commissioners are Jim Mayne and Marti Laknar.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley motioned appoint the above named and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously to appoint the above mentioned to the Compensation Board.

The secretary will schedule the meeting in the next 2 weeks.

**Discussion- Axes Canyon Road Update**

The Commissioners began with wanting to update the public. There have been a lot of emails and letters from community and information regarding the negotiations between the mine and the land owners. They did the investigation that was required and now they are doing their du diligence. McGinley looked into the history of this abandonment. He believes there was issue with the 1991 petition that need to be researched. It may have been abandoned illegally. The county and attorneys need to look into if there was a flaw in that process. Coty added he agrees if a mistake was made then we need to correct that and explore options. He has spoken with MACo and is seeking advice. There is no deadline on making the decision on the road. McGinley added this case had brought up other road abandonments that may have issues they are also looking into. Rice added he appreciated the two parties negotiating with each other. Matt Kelly, lawyer for Smith Unit, asked about a public meeting and if it is being tabled for now. McGinley answered yes, we need to do more research on what we are doing so we can answer questions accordingly.

Sign in sheet below:

Axes Canyon Update Meeting  
May 19, 2025  
COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, DILLON, MT

PLEASE PRINT


NAME	REPRESENTING
FRANCES STRODTMAN-TAYLOR	Self
Matt J. Kelly	Smith Unit
Judy Brown	Self
Josie Raab	High Divide Minerals
Casey Walker	High Divide Minerals
Casey Elliott	Dillon Tribune
Quincy Sauerbrin	Deputy C&R
Cathy Calver	CA
Munich	C&R office
Tracy Sawyer	GIS

Drought Task Force Meeting

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. This portion of the meeting is recorded on Teams.

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

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES			<div>Training/Event/Meeting Roster</div> <div></div>					
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht								
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force								
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room								
DATE AND TIME: 5/19/25 @ 11am CONTACT HOURS:								
Name / Title: BJ Klose	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: DUFD	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Troy Wilson	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: LRVFD	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Tom Wagenknecht	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: BVHD Cmty	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Tracy Sawyer	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: Burhd GIS	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Tim Egan	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: DNRC	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Jaslemon	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: DNRC	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Cathy Elliott	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: Dillon Trch	Address:	Yes / No						

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EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force								
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room								
DATE AND TIME: 5/19/25 @ 11am CONTACT HOURS:								
Name / Title: Tom Rice	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: BVHD COMMISSIONER	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: John H Jackson	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: BVHD COMMISSIONER	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Kaycie Mikunda	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: EBID	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title: Mike Meigs	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization: Commission	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title:	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization:	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title:	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization:	Address:	Yes / No						
Name / Title:	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	
Organization:	Address:	Yes / No						

National Weather Service

Jane Fogleman, Hydrologist 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

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



EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Drought Task Force

May 19, 2025

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: Apr 2025	5540.64'	147,181 a/f	84%Full,	110% of avg.
YEAR: Apr 2024	5546.18'	174,712 a/f	100% Full,	130% of avg.
	Difference	- 27,531 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5540.37 feet: 145,916 a/f Storage: 84% Full, 110% of avg.  
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 131 cfs/day  
Present releases: 140 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	Apr 2025	5,062 a/f	85 cfs/day	33% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	Apr 2024	20,107 a/f	338 cfs/day	132% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	Apr 2025	3,098 a/f	Storage Gain:	1,964 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	Apr 2024	17,181 a/f	Storage Gain:	2,926 a/f

SNOW PACK:	Above Beaverhead Basin	
	May 16, 2025	66% of avg.
	May 16, 2024	113% of avg.
	Above Red Rock Basin	
	May 16, 2025	9% of avg.
	May 16, 2024	36% of avg.

Lima Dam:					
May 16, 2025:	Elevation:	6,581.35 ft	Storage:	75,599 a/f	89% Full; 123% of avg.
May 16, 2024:	Elevation:	6,582.34 ft	Storage:	81,710 a/f	96% Full; 133% of avg.
		Difference		- 6,111 a/f	

Jay Lemon, DNRC reported on the county fire status. The Sawlog fire was determined to be human caused but not exact on origin start of fire. There was also a 7-acre fire from a campfire in the county. Their staffing update is they will be fully staffed as of end of this week. Training academy at the college campus will be end of May. He gave the new county co-op agreement for the commissioners to review and sign.

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.

Discussion- Workers Compensation Renewal

David Seitz with Seitz Insurance Agency joined the Commissioners to discuss the renewal proposal for next fiscal year. Coverage details can be found in the finance department.

Discussion and Action- Opening Bids for Steel Bridge

At the time of this meeting, there was one bid submitted.

Dan Greenslade - \$69.00

After discussion ensued, the Commissioners and Road Supervisor Bob Ferris decided that the bid be awarded to Dan Greenslade. Bob will reach out to coordinate with Dan.

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the May 5th, 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.

**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**

5/5/25 Ck #217760 \$710.00 Bozeman Municipal Court Bond Fee

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$120,999.20 beginning with check #217761 and ending with check #217814. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$62,726.37 beginning with check #217815 and ending with check #217856. 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