

## June 9, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on June 9, 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 not present.

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

#### BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

June 1st to June 7th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

#### DILLON AREA

- Blade Trapper Cr, Bighorn, Cherry Cr, Canyon Cr, Browne's Bridge, Anderson Lane, and Rock Cr
  - Steel Bridge Lane Job Prep for Bridge Installation
    - Equipment Service and Repair
      - Road Check

#### WISDOM AREA

- Blade Twin Lakes, Miner Lake, and Warm Springs
- Check Skinner Meadows, Clean Ditch Little Lake
  - Pull Willows on Rock Creek
- Blade Moose Creek and Skinner Meadows
  - Equipment Grease and Repair
    - Road Check

#### LIMA AREA

- Steel Bridge Lane Job Prep for Bridge Installation
  - Blade Sage Creek
- Blade and Rock Raked Medicine Lodge
  - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Fairgrounds Manager Justin Kellabrew, Deputy Clerk of Court Cheryl Pierce, County Attorney Sky Jones, Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, , Jail Commander Ian Ternes, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, joined the meeting.

Nick added that he worked on the scale house last week. It is almost completed, they are waiting on DIS.

Jack mentioned the 4H camp is coming up this week Wednesday thru Sunday at Birch Creek Bender Center.

Justin added that the Fairgrounds has the Demolition Derby this weekend.

Tom commented he was out last week for family matters. There have been more permits coming in. He is also handling a complaint in regards to a permit. He has been fielding questions regarding a flood plain permit.

Stacey added that Wednesday is the candidate filing close for Municipality Elections in Dillon and Lima. She will be out for 2 weeks on vacation starting next week.



Shonna mentioned that last week they checked all courthouse fire extinguishers. Fire Alarms will be checked this week. This week they are moving Tracy/GIS into Planners old office. The electrician will be coming this week to install Public Health sign.

Lilia added she has been busy with meetings and new task orders coming through regarding deliverables.

Mike commented the rural schools are all now closed. The teachers have turned in records and blue books. Polaris school hired their new teacher. He is finishing up OPI reports. He will be in Bozeman next week for a training and heading to Helena for OPI function this Friday.

Tracy added he is working on the Hirschy gravel pit and getting information to DEQ.

Ian commented that the jail this weekend and last week was between 15-20. There were lot of calls out through the weekend and Saturday there was a rescue for a person that didn't have a life vest on a kayak. Sheriff is out today dealing with road issues in Monida.

Sky mentioned it is a quiet week and he is still catching up. He introduced the interim Judge Jennifer Ray who is helping while Judge Braddock is out at a training.

Cheryl added information about the BBQ on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Discussion and Action- Axes Canyon Road Hearing Update**

Commissioner Rice informed the public that there will be a public hearing June 26, 2025 at 5:30pm in the Lewis and Clark Room on UMW Campus. Written comments can be submitted in advance and given to the Commissioners or Clerk and Recorder prior to the meeting. Public comments will be heard at the event with time limits.

Sign in sheet viewed below:

Axes Canyon Update  
Monday, June 9, 2025  
COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, DILLON, MT

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME

Nick Vanden Bos

Josh Ragan

Chad Walby

Casey Elliott

Nancy Mayne

Jim Mayne

Tracy Reynolds

Coty Calvin

#### **Discussion- Kelly Proffitt, FWP, regarding HB 648**

Present Coty Calvin, Jim and Nancy Mayne, Casey Elliott, Warren Hansen, Tracy Sawyer

Warren Hansen, Montana FWP, joined the Commissioners via Teams to discuss House Bill 648 regarding predator release in the county. This bill requires FWP to inform all the Commissioners and Sheriff if they need to release a grizzly bear or black bear in our region. Releasing a black bear is rare, usually it gets euthanized. Black bears get released if they're trapped accidentally when trying to capture a grizzly in the same area. Currently they are researching black bears and catching them to collar and track. For grizzly bears, if they are trying to capture a "conflict"



grizzly bear they usually euthanize. If they release, it is usually non-conflict to mark and monitor for research. They are now legislatively required to inform them of any catch and release in our region. He asked of the commissioners how they would like to be informed of this process when It comes up.

McGinley asked where are the approved sites in Beaverhead County. Hansen answered there are county adjacent sites but not in Beaverhead County. He added that they would inform the Commissioners of any grizzly/black catch and release in the county.

Jackson commented if he can just email the Commissioners when this happens. Rice asked if they would contact the Sheriff/Dispatch to get the message across also.

Warren took down all the emails for the 3 commissioners and the sheriff. Secretary will follow up by sending the emails to FWP.

Coty questioned if this includes mountain lions and wolves. Warren added they do not have the authority to relocate a wolf or mountain lion anywhere. They can catch and collar.

He also questions the ecosystem being at capacity. Warren briefly discussed the delisting for grizzly over the last few years.

The Commissioners thanked Warren for joining them and elaborating on the House Bill.

**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			Training/Event/Meetin Roster		
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht					
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force					
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room					
DATE AND TIME: 6/9/25 @ 11am CONTACT HOURS:					
Name / Title: Mike Migonzy	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: Beaverhead County	Address:	Yes (No)			
Name / Title: Jim Mayne	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization:	Address:	Yes (No)			
Name / Title: Nancy mayne	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization:	Address:	Yes (No)			
Name / Title: Casey Elliott	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: Dillon Tribune	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Travis Wilson	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: WRFD	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Jane Fogleman - Hydrologist	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: NWS	Address: jane.fogleman@noaa.gov	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Kaycie Mikunda	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: EBID	Address:	Yes / No			

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES			Training/Event/Meetin Roster		
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht					
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force					
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room					
DATE AND TIME: 6/9/25 @ 11am CONTACT HOURS:					
Name / Title: Dana Basile	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization: BVMC county	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title:	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	C
Organization:	Address:				

**National Weather Service**

Jane Fogleman, Hydrologist from the National Weather Service joined the meeting in person 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

June 9, 2025

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: May 2025	5539.39'	141,387 a/f	81% Full,	110% of avg.
YEAR: May 2024	5544.63'	166,785 a/f	96% Full,	130% of avg.
	Difference	- 25,398 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5537.45 feet: 132,651 a/f Storage: 76% Full, 104% of avg.  
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 184 cfs/day  
Present releases: 775 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	May 2025	6,960 a/f	113 cfs/day	43% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	May 2024	14,963 a/f	243 cfs/day	92% of avg.

RELEASES FOR:	May 2025	12,754 a/f	Storage Loss:	5,794 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	May 2024	22,890 a/f	Storage Loss:	7,927 a/f

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin  
June 8, 2025 0% of avg.  
June 8, 2024 0% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin  
June 8, 2025 0% of avg.  
June 8, 2024 0% of avg.

Lima Dam:				
June 8, 2025:	Elevation: 6,580.63 ft	Storage: 71,466 a/f	84% Full;	116% of avg.
June 8, 2024:	Elevation: 6,582.41 ft	Storage: 82,167 a/f	97% Full;	134% of avg.
	Difference	- 10,701 a/f		

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 148 cfs/day  
Present releases: 554 cfs

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.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 2, 2025 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley 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

New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

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

Payment of Invoices

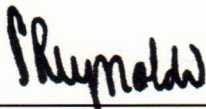
The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$74,351.68 beginning with check #217925 and ending with check #217980. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

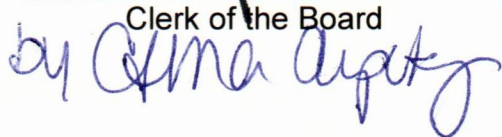
Adjourn

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

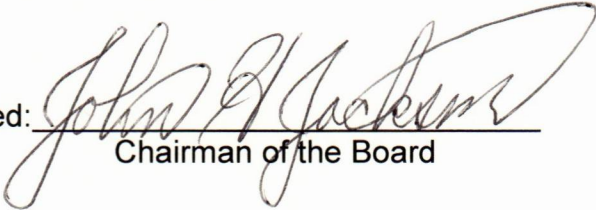
Attest:



Clerk of the Board



Approved:



Chairman of the Board