

July 14, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner John Jackson, 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 the following. They're doing more chloride and blading around the county. They are starting some patch work this week. They looked at Browne's bridge for upcoming inspection. They put up the speed limit signs for the Bannack days speed ordinance.

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

July 6th to July 12th, 2025
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Bloody Dick, Town of Bannack, Bannack Bench, and Blacktail
- Chloride on Bond, Anderson, Trout Cr, Fern, Darrin, Christine, Wendy, Amber, and Brand
 - Inspect Browne's Bridge
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Skinner Meadows, Upper North Fork and Gibbonsville
 - Load, Haul, and Spread Gravel Big Lake
 - Shop Maintenance
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed Medicine Lodge Road and South Valley Road
- Watered and Hauled Gravel on South valley Road
 - Installed Culvert on South Valley Road
 - Equipment Service and Repair
 - Yard Maintenance
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, County Attorney Sky Jones, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Finance Administrator Becky Hankinson, County Planner Tina Caron, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick added that last week the trainings for the scale started. He is expecting it to be up and running soon.

Tom mentioned he has been working on permits, reviewing CWPP, and some DES stuff. He is going into rotation with state fire soon.

Jack added he had a great week at the 4H conference. Beaverhead is sending 5 kids to nationals. He will be heading to centennial today for a hay inspection. The extension office intern leaves this week.

Becky added she is still working on budget and paying bills.

Shonna commented that this week Sean is out, Kevin will be out later in the week and next week. She is meeting with carpet company to install in CA office expansion.

Joyce added BOH meeting Friday in Lima was informative. She's running all over county for inspections.

Mike mentioned it is quiet. He has a meeting in Wise River Wednesday night about tuition.

Tina commented that she is still in transition. Cody has been helping a lot. There will be one small subdivision coming up next month.

Stacey added she is working on elections and the transition with Tina moving out of the office.

Tracy commented that he's working on CWPP and landfill scale. He feels there should be some kind of a public notice when the scale goes live.

Sky mentioned he was at a conference last week. They learned about some new resources regarding technology. He is working on water commissioner things. Coty is out this week.

Discussion and Action- Appoint New Members of MHLAC and BOH

The following members applied for membership to the Mental Health Local Advisory Counsel and were approved at the last regular meeting:

Miranda Zent Stiles

Alexandra White

Joel Stewart expressed interest and was approved by the LAC however did not get an application to the secretary before the Commissioners approval. When he submits his application, the Commissioners will review and approve it.

After brief discussion, the Commissioners approved adding Miranda Zent Stiles and Dr. Alexandra White to the LAC. Tom Rice motioned. Jackson seconded. All approved.

Sue Hansen applied to be on the BOH. After brief discussion, Tom Rice motioned and Jackson seconded. All approved.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the above named be approved for the MHLAC and BOH. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action- Speed Zone in Big Sheep Creek

The Commissioners have received a few calls from a landowner on Big Sheep Creek claiming people are driving 60mph down the road. Sheriff Wendt went out to investigate and did not witness vehicles driving excess. He stated dust is a big concern for property owners with the traffic but the trucks seem to drive the suggested speed.

Tom Rice said the sign currently says "suggested speed 35mph" from the creek bottom. He moves to table this topic to look into it further and see if there are other concerns regarding the speed in this area.






There was no public comment at this time.

Drought Task Force

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/Meeting Roster		MONTANA DISASTER EMERGENCY SERVICES DES	
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht					
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force					
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room					
DATE AND TIME: 7/14/25 @ 11am		CONTACT HOURS:			
Name / Title: Kaycie Mikunda	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: CBID	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: BJ Klose	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: DUFD	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Tom Wagenknecht	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co, DES	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Tracy Sawyer	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co, GIS	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Casey Elliott	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Dillon Tribune	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Nancy Mayne	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization:	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Jim Mayne	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization:	Address:	Yes / No			

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EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force					
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room					
DATE AND TIME: 7/14/25 @ 11am		CONTACT HOURS:			
Name / Title: Jay Lemor	E-mail or Phone #: jlemor@mt.gov	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: MT DNR C, Dillon	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Tom Rice	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co Commissioner	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: John Jackson	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co Commissioner	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Dana Basile	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co Secretary	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Rochelle Huerfing	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Bvnd Co Secretary	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title: Joe Brumell	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Organization: Madison Co DES	Address:	Yes / No			
Name / Title:	E-mail or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile
Orga:     	Address:	Yes / No			

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

July 14, 2025

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: June 2025	5532.91'	113,294 a/f	65% Full,	94% of avg.
YEAR: June 2024	5538.85'	138,925 a/f	78% Full,	116% of avg.
	Difference	- 25,631 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5530.44 feet: 103,347 a/f Storage: 59% Full, 92% of avg.
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 184 cfs/day
Present releases: 765 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	June 2025	11,833 a/f	199 cfs/day	45% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	June 2024	11,163 a/f	188 cfs/day	42% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	June 2025	39,926 a/f	Storage Loss:	28,093 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	June 2024	39,023 a/f	Storage Loss:	27,860 a/f

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin
July 13, 2025 0% of avg.
July 13, 2024 0% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin
July 13, 2025 0% of avg.
July 13, 2024 0% of avg.

Lima Dam:					
July 13, 2025:	Elevation:	6,574.80 ft	Storage:	45,000 a/f	53% Full, 104% of avg.
July 13, 2024:	Elevation:	6,578.94 ft	Storage:	62,760 a/f	74% Full, 147% of avg.
		Difference		- 17,760 a/f	

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 19 cfs/day
Present releases: 270 cfs

DNRC

Jay Lemon reported that they have been watching the area- little fire activity but outlook not good with drought conditions. They have been staffing 24/7 since July 4th to be ready.

Recess

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 7, 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.

Discussion and Action- Appoint Flood Plain Administrator

The County Planner, Tina Caron and DES Coordinator, Tom Wagenknecht were present.
Tom W. began the discussion that Madison County Planner, Cody Marxer, suggested we have someone appointed in this position immediately. Tina will be primary and Tom secondary.

Commissioner Rice motioned to appoint Tina Caron as the Flood Plain Administrator and Tom Wagenknecht as the secondary administrator.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to appoint Tina Caron as the Flood Plain Administrator and Tom Wagenknecht as the secondary administrator. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action- Appoint Public Administrator

The Commissioners have received a few letters of interest for the Public Administrator position. The interested parties are Lelonni Leeper, Mike English, and Todd Hazelbaker.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Rice nominated Mike English.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to appoint Mike English as the Public Administrator. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The payroll administrator mentioned the county paid the health insurance for the previous Public Administrator so we need to discuss if that will continue for the new appointment. The Commissioners and Payroll Administrator will look into this further and a letter will be drafted to send to Mike English.

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 \$979,947.33 beginning with check #218150 and ending with check #218213. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

7/07/25

Ck#218147/218148 Madison County Inmate Bonds

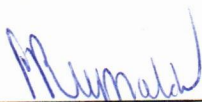
Ck#218149 Bank of Commerce \$210 Safety Fair

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Adjourn

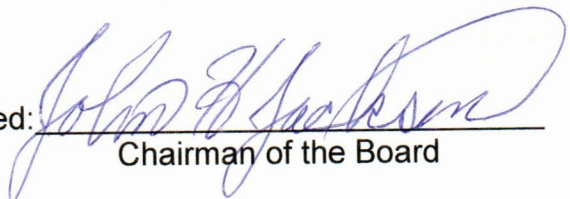
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board