

September 8, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on September 8, 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 have been blading Carter Creek for fuel trucks to be able to go through. They fixed the guard rail on the Scenic By Way. There is an update on 91 bridge that the detour will be through January, weather dependent.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

August 31st to September 6th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Rebish, Carter Cr, Blacktail, Hwy 324
- Repair Guardrail and Cattle Guard on ByWay
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Spray Twin Lakes
- Blade Miner Lake, Twin Lakes
- Haul and Spread Gravel Lower North Fork
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed South Valley Rd, Elk Lake Rd, and Brundage Rd.
 - Equipment Repair and Move
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Director of Public Health Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Finance Administrator Becky Hankinson, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, County Attorney Sky Jones, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, and Fairgrounds Manager Justin Kellabrew joined the meeting.

Jack mentioned he is finishing carcass evaluations and then done with Fair. Fair board tonight. Meetings all week.

Justin added that the fair is over, cleanup done, and he is finishing up projects. There were no issues during Fair and the new toilets worked out great. The high school rodeo is next weekend and college after that.

Mike added schools started, all going well. He recieved a notice from OPI about a teacher at Wise River being on emergency authorization and needing one more thing done.

Joyce commented Tom is on vacation all week. She mentioned the fair went great- no issues with food services. Will be updating some areas for future Jaycee booths. Getting food trucks for football games updated.

Stacey added nothing new for her office.

Becky mentioned that Biometrix will be here tomorrow for the Fall blood screenings. She also mentioned changes in payroll as we have started using Daily Time Cards.

Lilia added all the flu vaccines are ready to go for season. On hold for the Covid vaccines, waiting to be approved. Interviews for BH position next week. Public Health Interventionist position posted as Katie transitions to nurse position.

Randi added there are 3 new felony warrants over the weekend. Megan is going to a clerk conference in two weeks.

Shonna mentioned that the door for treasurer's office will be in next week. They got the shower parts sent to premier plumbing and will hopefully be back in 2-4 weeks. Longie finished the walkway outside. The prep for the concrete pad for generator is ready to be set this week. They will have the trench dug this week. The steps were installed in the new county attorney office.

Tracy mentioned working on CWPP last week for Tom. Website and computer work.

Sky commented Coty out this week. Him and Margot are working on felonies.

Discussion and Action- Rick Hartz Requesting Letter of Support for Action, Inc.

Rick Hartz brought information to the Commissioners last week to review in preparation for asking for a letter of support. Rick began the discussion with stating he went to city counsel with the same request. They approved and sent letters. He is looking for the same from the Commissioners. His request is to write letters in support of the program and send them to senators.


Rice read through and expressed approval. McGinley commented they have not been asked to prioritize their requests and that's something to think about going forward.


MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded to sign the letters of support for Action Inc. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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: **It is noted that individuals who signed in are not federally employed nor paid to be here.**

JURISDICTION USING SORT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES		POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Vigeneknecht		Training/Event/Meeting Roster			
EVENT/MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force		LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room		DATE AND TIME: 9/8/25 @ 11am		CONTACT HOURS:	
Name: Mike McLean	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: BVAD, Co	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: Cathy Elliott	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: Dillon Tribune	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: Tom Rice	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: Beaverhead Co	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: James H. Jackson	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: Community Resources	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: JANIS ELLIOTT	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: SENIOR SERVICES HYDROLOGIST	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: Tracy Sawyer	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: Beaverhead	Address:	Yes (No)					
Name: Pamela Heeringa	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Local Pay Mile	Hourly Fee	Total Staff Month
Organization: Bund Co DES	Address:	Yes (No)					

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATCH: <u>Beaverhead County DES</u>		 Training/Event/Meeting Roster	
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: <u>Tam Wagenknecht</u>			
EVENT/MEETING NAME: <u>Drought Task Force</u>			
LOCATION: <u>Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room</u>			
DATE AND TIME: <u>9/8/25 @ 11am</u>		CONTACT HOURS:	
Name: <u>Dana Basile</u>	E-mail or Phone #: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? <u>Yes</u>	Trip Miles Total Hours Cost Per Mile Hourly & Per Mile Rates Total Staff Meals
Organization: <u>Beaverhead County</u>	Address: _____	Yes / No	
Name: _____	E-mail or Phone #: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? _____	
Organization: _____	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 was absent so Commissioner Rice distributed and read the progress report aloud (a copy of which can be viewed below).

EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT Drought Task Force

September 8, 2025

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>		
YEAR: August 2025	5518.26'	62,197 a/f	36% Full,	80% of avg.
YEAR: August 2024	5528.92'	97,451 a/f	56% Full,	126% of avg.
	Difference	- 35,254 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5517.18 feet: 59,189 a/f Storage: 34% Full, 77% of avg.
 Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 149 cfs/day
 Present releases: 395 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	August 2025	9,804 a/f	159 cfs/day	64% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	August 2024	11,372 a/f	185 cfs/day	75% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	August 2025	30,293 a/f	Storage Loss:	20,489 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	August 2024	22,094 a/f	Storage Loss:	10,722 a/f

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin

Sept 7, 2025	0% of avg.
Sept 7, 2024	0% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin

Sept 7, 2025	0% of avg.
Sept 7, 2024	0% of avg.

Lima Dam:

Sept 7, 2025:	Elevation: 6,566.24 ft	Storage: 21,306 a/f	25% Full,	80% of avg.
Sept 7, 2024:	Elevation: 6,572.18 ft	Storage: 35,671 a/f	42% Full,	140% of avg.
	Difference	- 14,365 a/f		

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 34 cfs/day
 Present releases: 19 cfs

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 September 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**

County Attorney Sky Jones and Dillon Mayor John McGinley were present and briefly discussed the land to possibly place a Coroners building.

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

Payment of Invoices

9/3/25

CK#218682 Voided Check Printed Wrong Printer

CK#218683 Silverbow County Justice Court \$585.00

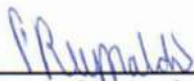
CK#218684 Buzzards Broom RAC Wages \$272.00

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$70,740.25 beginning with check #218685 and ending with check #218728. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**Adjourn**

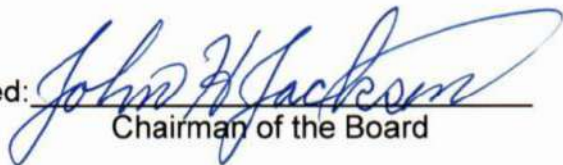
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: _____



Clerk of the Board

Approved: _____



Chairman of the Board