

March 9, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Chairman C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner John H. Jackson, 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 they plowed snow in some places. They held interviews last week and offered the position. The new hire will start on April 6th.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
March 1st to March 7th 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow Local Roads, Horse Prairie and Byway
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Plow Gibbonsville, Skinner Meadows, Twin Lakes, River Rd, Rock Ck, Lower North Fork, Miner Lake, Warm Springs, Little Lake, Big Swamp, Big Lake, Moose Ck
 - Scrap to Bitterroot, Shop Clean, Equipment Grease
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Plowed Snow on South Valley Road, Big Shep Creek, Hansen Lane, Airport Road, Sage Creek, Oregon Shoreline, Quarter Circle Trail
 - Equipment Repair and Service
 - Shop Maintenance
 - Checked Local Roads

Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, County Attorney Sky Jones, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Sheriff David Wendt, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, and County Planner Tina Caron, joined the meeting.

Jack mentioned that it is a quiet week, getting ready for a program on March 30.

Nick added that he has been fixing fences this week from wind damage.

Tom commented that he is reviewing the EOP from UMW. He has been working on septic permit applications and subdivision applications.

Shonna added that last week they moved Sam and set up the HR office. The lights are done in the CA office. She will have interviews for the facilities position tomorrow.

Sheriff mentioned that busy week. 18 downstairs. He and Jack split the cost of a drone with infrared and they have been using it. This weekend he sent Jack to Ennis to fly for Madison County. Seth and Ian are out of personal leave.

Mike added it is a quiet week for schools. The Science Fair went well last week.

Joyce added she was at a conference on Saturday with MSU. She has been busy with inspections. She is still waiting to hear about the FDA grant.

Randi commented that it has been busy. 3 felony warrants over weekend. There has been an uptick in civil cases. Next Friday she will tour the prison in Deerlodge with other judges.

Tina added nothing big there are some surveys coming through.

Tracy commented that he is finishing up offices internet and phones and working on maps online.

Sky mentioned they're busy.

Discussion and Action- Syck Family Transfer

Present: Tina Caron, Rochelle Hoerning, Gayle Syck Samuel and Ashley Syck

The property is on Stone House and 278. Gayle is transferring a piece to her son, Samuel.

Commissioner Rice asked questions from the Family Transfer Questionnaire. Gayle affirmed. The property was not purchased, it was inherited and she lives on it. There is no intention to transfer further. They did not talk to subdivision review. It will be developed with a house and will reside on the property.

No further questions.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to approve the Syck Family Transfer. 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.**

SUBSECTION HUNG SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES		Training/Event/Meeting Roster					
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Vagnerbach							
EVENT/MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force							
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room							
DATE AND TIME: 2/9/26 @ 11am CONTACT HOURS: 5							
Name/Title	Address	EMSP/Federally Funded?	Top Wks	Total Wks	Cost Per Wk	Priority & Fee Reduction	Total Cost Wks
Rochelle Hoerning Beaverhead Co DES		Yes / No					
Tom Rice BPHD Commissioner		Yes / No					
Ashley Elliott BPHD Commissioner		Yes / No					
Dana Basile BPHD Co		Yes / No					
Kenzie Meadows CBAD		Yes / No					
Jack Buccione County MSUE - BPHD Co		Yes / No					
Tom Jackson BPHD Commissioner		Yes / No					

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Jim Mayne Citizen	208 726 2613 532 Kentucky Ave	Yes / No					
Nancy Mayne Citizen	208 726 2605 532 Kentucky Ave	Yes / No					
Mike McGinley Commissioner		Yes / No					
		EMSP/Federally Funded?	Top Wks	Total Wks	Cost Per Wk	Priority & Fee Reduction	Total Cost Wks

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 was present and read the progress report aloud (a copy of which can be viewed below).

EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Drought Task Force
March 9, 2026
PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>		
YEAR: Feb 2026	5529.97'	101,501 a/f	58% Full,	84% of avg.
YEAR: Feb 2025	5538.67'	138,109 a/f	79% Full,	116% of avg.
	Difference	- 36,608 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5530.54 feet: 103,742 a/f Storage: 60% Full, 85% of avg.
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 174 cfs/day
Present releases: 35 cfs

INFLOWS FOR: Feb 2026	9,696 a/f	175 cfs/day	83% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR: Feb 2025	9,370 a/f	169 cfs/day	79% of avg.
RELEASES FOR: Feb 2026	1,940 a/f	Storage Gain: 7,756 a/f	
RELEASES FOR: Feb 2025	2,808 a/f	Storage Gain: 6,562 a/f	

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin
Mar 8, 2026 88% of avg.
Mar 8, 2025 93% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin
Mar 8, 2026 76% of avg.
Mar 8, 2025 77% of avg.

Lima Dam:
Mar 8, 2026: Elevation: x,xxx.xx ft Storage: xxxxx a/f xx% Full: xx% of avg. *
Mar 8, 2025: Elevation: 6,573.04 ft Storage: 40,505 a/f 48% Full: 117% of avg.
Difference Unknown a/f

Inflows last five (5) days Average: xx cfs/day * Out of Service
Present releases: 0.4 cfs

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 9th and 23rd 2026, meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson 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 \$80,394.14 beginning with check #219790 and ending with check #219864. 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 3:00 p.m.

Attest: 
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Chairman of the Board