

March 16, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 16, 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 there was a little snow last week up Elkhorn and Big Hole. They are going to start blading and hauling gravel up Ten Mile. The Brownes Bridge project should start soon.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
March 8th to March 14th 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow Byway
- Haul Gravel on Sweetwater
- Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Plow Upper North Fork, Gibbonsville, Skinner Meadows, Lower North Fork, Twin Lake, Moose Ck, Rock Ck, Big Lake, Miner Lake, Big Swamp
 - Equipment Clean and Repair
- Weld Fabricate, Shop Clean, Clean Furnace
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Equipment Repair and Welding
- Shop Maintenance and Cleaning
 - 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.

Tom commented that they are getting permit applications in and one big violation was uncovered last week. He is working on updates to the fire and emergency operations plan. DEQ will be in the LEPC meeting to talk about oil spills.

Jack mentioned it is a busy week- he is speaking at the library Wednesday night and has a few Zoom meetings.

Lilia added that the site review went well. There was WIC training in January. Katie is completing a lactation consultant class this year. They are working on daycare reviews to report to the state, working on the health needs assessment with Barretts hospital and working on deliverables.

Stacey added at the end of February she attended the elections administrator training. This week the election judges will be in to help prep election. For the local races, the only one contested is Commissioner for District 1.

Betty introduced Theresa Eathorne as the new HR Director.

Shonna mentioned she held interviews and hired a new facilities member. Last week the furnaces were fixed in the public bathrooms. The generator test was this morning and went well.

Amber commented last week were funding hearings. They were recommended to receive funding this year.

Randi added last week they had a lot of jail appearances. They are doing conference planning this week for the end of April and beginning of May.

Joyce mentioned there is a sanitarian conference in Billings this year. She applied for a grant to pay for this cost and got it. We are nearing the end of the 1st quarter and fees were raised for licensing.

Mike mentioned he has a zoom meeting this afternoon. He is going to do final observations at the schools this week.

Tracy added that the project he is working on is phone replacement.

The Sheriff commented that they've been busy and have 18 downstairs.

Carly mentioned business as usual.

Sky added everything is going smoothly and they are prepping for trials coming up.

Tina commented on updating subdivision regulations and there will be flood plain issues coming soon.

Discussion and Action- Appoint Compensation Board Members

The Commissioners will appoint Marti Laknar and Jim Mayne again. The 3 elected officials this year will be Randi Braddock, Stacey Reynolds, David Wendt. There will be a third community member so there are 3 rotating terms and one new is picked every year. The 3rd person has not been decided yet.

The current plan is for the meeting to be on April 13, 2026.

McGinley added details about the meeting and they are needing to do research on cost of living, etc to prepare for the Compensation Board Meeting.

LEPC Meeting

The minutes from the LEPC Meeting will be available in the DES Assistants office. **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 SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES		Training/Event/Meeting Roster 				
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht						
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)						
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room						
DATE AND TIME: 3/16/26 @ 9:35am CONTACT HOURS: 1.5						
Name / Title: Casey Elliott Dillon Tribune	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: John H Jackson Beaverhead Commission	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Shanna Graham Beaverhead Facilities	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Amber Burch Beaverhead Weed	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Jack Bazemore Extension	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Nick Horst Landfill - DVFID	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Travis Wilson LRUFD	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer

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LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room						
DATE AND TIME: 3/16/26 @ 9:35am CONTACT HOURS: 1.5						
Name / Title: Jeri Stewart Chief DVF	E-mail or Phone #: jstewart@beaverheadcounty.mt.gov Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Randi Braddock, Judge Justice Court	E-mail or Phone #: randi.braddock@mt.gov Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Crystal McKinney (visitor) NA	E-mail or Phone #: crystal.mckinney0660@gmail Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Jim Mayne citizen	E-mail or Phone #: 205-720-7613 Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Nancy Mayne citizen	E-mail or Phone #: 205-721-3205 Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Gary Feltus Vigilante Electric	E-mail or Phone #: 406-683-2327 Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer
Name / Title: Tom Rice Commissioner	E-mail or Phone #: _____ Address: _____	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ Volunteer

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Name/Title	E-mail or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	
Rochelle Hoerning Bvhd Co DES		Yes/No				
Randy Shipman Dillon Elem. S.D. #10	rshipman@dillonclerk.com	Yes/No				
David Wendt Sheriff Lt	dwendt@beaverheadsheriff.com	Yes/No				
Luke Reges DEAC BCSO	lreges@beaverheadsheriff.com	Yes/No				
Jessica Elkins PHA BvHD County Public Health	jelkins@beaverheadcounty.mt.gov	Yes/No				
Katie Corbin, PHN BvHD Co Public Health	kcorbin@beaverheadcounty.mt.gov	Yes/No				
Mike McGee Commissioner		Yes/No				

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DATE AND TIME: 3/16/26 @ 9:35am CONTACT HOURS: 1.5						
Name/Title	E-mail or Phone #	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers
Harry Reynolds Clerk/Recorder		Yes/No				
Lilia Guillen Sanchez Public Health	lguillena@beaverheadcounty.mt.gov	Yes/No				
Karen Lache Public Health	klache@beaverheadcounty.mt.gov	Yes/No				
Anna Pien DEQ	anna.pien@mt.gov	Yes/No				
John Resman DEQ	jresman2@mt.gov	Yes/No				
Stacie Steinhilber DEQ	ssteinhilber@mt.gov	Yes/No				
		EMPG/Federally	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers

Safety Team Meeting

The minutes from the Safety Team meeting are filed with the Clerk and Recorder.

Public Hearing for Secure Rural Schools Title 3

McGinley began with stating that SRS was reauthorized for 3 more years. Of the funds, 15% subtracted can all go to Title 2 but we allocate 8% to Title 2 and 7% goes Title 3. 85% stays in Title 1. Title 2 money goes through RAC.

Title 3 gets 7% for county projects on Forest Service ground. This is currently at \$177,000 with an estimated \$75,000 coming in April. It is restricted on what to be used on.

He would like part of the funding to go to CWPP; and part of the funds can go to 911 emergency equipment. We can obligate that money for new repeaters. It can also be used to reimburse search and rescue for rescues on Forest Service ground. It can also be used for technology for rural schools. CWPP can be used for firefighting in forest service.

He would like to propose the following breakdown of the funds:
911 equipment \$120,000
CWPP for forest fuels, water source \$75,000
Rural Schools technology \$25,000
Sheriff Search and Rescue \$25,000

The numbers can be adjusted as needed. This is a starting point to get the conversation going.

**Public Hearing: SRS Title 3 Funds
March 16, 2026
Commissioners Room
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, DILLON, MT**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

Nick Hoang
Tom Rice
John Jackson
David Wandt
Tom Wagenknecht
Mike McGinley

Discussion and Action- Records Retention Clerk and Recorder

Shannon Burkenpas joined the Commissioners to request to dispose of three boxes of records.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to approve the records retention request. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 9, 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

