

July 13, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas 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 that they did chloride last week and this week on dump road and north of town, subdivisions off Laknar. They are getting ready for mine roads this week and the Bannack area. The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

July 5th to July 11th 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Mag Chloride on Bond, Anderson, East Bench, Trout Cr, Ten Mile, Beaverhead, Buffalo, Elk, Amber, Fern, Darrin, Brand, Wendy, Christine
- Blade on Bannack, Stone Cr, Sweetwater, Hwy 324, Anderson Ln, Clayton, Brice, Grant, Antelope, Mountain View, North & South Freeman
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Gibbonsville, Miner Lake, Little Lake, Steel Ck, Rock Ck, Skinner Meadows, Upper North Fork
 - Spray Gibbonsville, Jackson Yard
 - Equipment Service, Shop Clean
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Cleaned Cattle Guards on Lima Dam, Cabin Creek Rd, Medicine Lodge Rd
 - Bladed and Watered South Valley Rd and Elk Lake Rd
 - Equipment Repair
 - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Land Use Sanitation/DES Tom Wagenknecht, Food use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Landfill Manager Nick Hoem, County Attorney Sky Jones, and MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore joined the meeting.

Nick commented that they were dealing with computer issues last week. Looked at the site to move septic guys across.

Jack added that last week was state 4h conference in Bozeman. This week is slow-getting ready for Fair.

Tom mentioned that fire danger is posted up to high currently. DNRC is fully staffed and ready. He has a conference call tomorrow with local to discuss restrictions. Burning has been banned currently until we see significant moisture. Working with Sky on enforcement issues. New septic permit applications.

Mike added that the schools are quiet. The transportation meeting is on Wednesday.

Stacey commented that things are quiet, getting ready for the General Election in November.

Shonna mentioned that last week they did a lot of yard work and will continue this week. They are staying busy cleaning.

Joyce added that she is still doing inspections around the county and helping with compliance issues. The State forms are digital now. She is waiting on quarter 2 audit.

Theresa mentioned that she has been busy with interviews and other compliance issues. Finance will be out Thursday-Friday this week.

Randi commented that the interviews for deputy clerk were last week and they chose a candidate. She will be doing a training at the clerks conference in the fall. There are a few bench trials coming up and an eviction hearing this afternoon.

Adam added the website outage on Thursday and was fixed by the end of the day. He is currently working on the new phones project.

Sky mentioned the County Attorney conference went really well last week. Some updates are coming through the Supreme Court. They are getting ready for trials, working on ordinance, and contracts for septic companies.

Discussion and Action- Amending Resolution 2026-27 Resolution to Add the Charter to the General Election Ballot (per Study Commission)

Present: Rebecca Jones, Stacey Reynolds, Mark Boka, Sky Jones, Tom Wagenknecht

At the last Commissioner meeting, it was found that there was an error in the Resolution adopted last week. The ballot language has been added that matches what is in the charter.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to adopt Amended Resolution 2026-27 to Add the Charter to the General Election Ballot. 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 SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES		 Training/Event/Meeting Roster					
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wagenknecht							
EVENT/MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force							
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room							
DATE AND TIME: 7/13/26 @ 11AM CONTACT HOURS: .5							
Name / Title: Mike McGinley Commissioner	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Stacey Elliott Dillon Tribune	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Danica Basile BVMC Co.	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Nancy Mayne	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Jim Mayne	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Tom Rice	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					
Name / Title: Shonna Reynolds Beaverhead Hydration	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
		Yes / No					

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATCH: Beaverhead County DES		Training/Event/Meeting Roster 					
POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Tom Wigenknecht							
EVENT/MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force							
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room							
DATE AND TIME: 7/13/26 @ 11AM		CONTACT HOURS: 5					
Name / Title: Rachelle Huerning	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☒ Yes / ☐ No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Bvhd Co DES	Address:	☐ Yes / ☒ No					
Name / Title: Tom Wigenknecht	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☒ Yes / ☐ No					
Organization: Bvhd Co DES	Address:	☐ Yes / ☒ No					
Name / Title: Joe Brummell	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☒ Yes / ☐ No					
Organization: Madison Co DES	Address:	☐ Yes / ☒ No					
Name / Title:	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☐ Yes / ☐ No					
Organization:	Address:	☐ Yes / ☐ No					
Name / Title:	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☐ Yes / ☐ No					
Organization:	Address:	☐ Yes / ☐ No					
Name / Title:	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? ☐ Yes / ☐ No					
Organization:	Address:	☐ Yes / ☐ No					

National Weather Service

Jane Fogleman, 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 not present but sent the irrigation report. Commissioner Rice read the report and discussed recent business from the water district.

EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Drought Task Force

July 13, 2026

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: June 2026	5522.25'	74,239 a/f	43% Full,	63% of avg.
YEAR: June 2025	5532.91'	113,294 a/f	65% Full,	94% of avg.
	Difference	- 39,055 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5521.73 feet: 72,593 a/f Storage: 42% Full, 66% of avg.
 Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 147 cfs/day
 Present releases: 470 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	June 2026	8,837 a/f	149 cfs/day	37% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	June 2025	11,833 a/f	199 cfs/day	45% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	June 2026	26,253 a/f	Storage Loss:	17,416 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	June 2025	39,926 a/f	Storage Loss:	28,093 a/f

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin
 July 12, 2026 0% of avg.
 July 12, 2025 0% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin
 July 12, 2026 0% of avg.
 July 12, 2025 0% of avg.

Lima Dam:
 July 12, 2026: Elevation: x,xxx.xx ft Storage: xx,xxx a/f xx% Full; xx% of avg.
 July 12, 2025: Elevation: 6,574.94 ft Storage: 45,560 a/f 54% Full; 104% of avg.
 Difference Unknown a/f

Inflows last five (5) days Average: xx cfs/day * Out of Service
 Present releases: 387 cfs

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 6 2026, meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve the minutes as read. 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**

Judge Braddock presented a letter to recommend hiring for the part time Deputy Clerk position in her office. Commissioners approved this action.

Theresa also presented a recommendation from the Fair Board to hire Cory Birkenbuel for the Fairground Facilities position. The commissioners approved this action.

Leo Smith with the Wise River Fire District submitted a letter of resignation. The commissioners accepted the letter and will post the vacancy so they can appoint a new trustee.

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

Payment of Invoices

CK#220748 Frontline Ag \$31,250.00 (Road Dept Equipment)

CK#220749 West Electric \$93,000 (Lima Generator)

CK#220750 Robert Okrusch \$17 (inmate funds)

CK#220751 Robert Okrusch \$200 (inmate funds)

Ck#220752 Madison County Justice Court (Inmate Bond)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$66,511.71 beginning with check #220753 and ending with check #220783. 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 4:00 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk of the Board

Approved: _____

Chairman of the Board