

August 10, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 10, 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 have been out blading and mowing throughout the county.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

August 2nd to August 8th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade: Bloody Dick, Blacktail
- Repair Washouts on Stone Cr and Sweetwater
- Mow: Airport, Sweetwater, Overland, Laknar, Webster, Schuler, Pioneer, Selway, Lovers Leap
- Equipment Setup, Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Spray Upper North Fork, Miner Lake, GP 300, Grant Shop, Bloody Dick, Bannack Bench Rd,
 - Load/Haul/Spread Gravel Miner Lake
 - Barricade Make and Deliver in Wisdom
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Blade Big Sheep Creek, North Valley Rd, Landon Ridge Rd
 - Hauled Gravel and Watered on Big Sheep Creek
 - Yard Maintenance and Equipment Repair
 - Checked Local Roads

Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, County Attorney Sky Jones, DES Assistant Rochelle Hoerning, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, County Planner Tina Caron, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller and Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds joined the meeting.

Mike added that the schools have a fall orientation meeting at Western on Wednesday.

Jack commented that they're working on Fair, and they opened the fairgrounds for evacuations if needed.

Shonna mentioned last week they were working on cleaning windows. Doug starts taking boiler classes at the end of August.

Lilia added a busy week with two staff out at conference in Helena, they will have a booth at the Senior health fair at YMCA and a booth for new student orientation at Western this week. They will also be in office all week assisting with evacuations and looking at long-term solutions for the area. They have been putting out information on air quality and warnings.

Joyce commented that last week they were in Kansas for FDA meeting. She mentioned wearing masks to help with air quality.

Tom added information about the large fires in Beaverhead County- Sand Creek Fire and Bobcat Lakes Fire. There was an evacuation order as the fire is moving towards Elkhorn Hotsprings and Maverick Mountain area. The response of resources has been really good- they have local help and state/federal. He also added that Nick is meeting to get the repeaters serviced in the area.

Tina commented that there are a couple surveys and a subdivision review this week.

Stacey mentioned last week she was at a convention in Anaconda all week. Today is the deadline for resolutions to be put on November Ballot. Kelly Rowe was the candidate added for the Republican Party for Commissioner District 3.

Adam added he had a few address requests last week. The website was down on Friday and it got back up in the afternoon.

Sky commented there is not a lot of court, so they are finishing up contracts, working on a deposition tomorrow, and staying ready.

Discussion and Action-Resolution 2026-28 Setting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Travis Wilson, Mark Boka, Kelly Rowe, Tom Wagenknecht, Jack Bazemore, Rochelle Hoerning, Jim and Nancy Mayne

Rice asked if anyone has questions. With no questions or comments, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-28 Setting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mark read the restrictions. Discussion ensued regarding when we can go to Stage 2 restrictions. Wagenknecht added that he has a conference call tomorrow to discuss.

116665 Fee: \$ 0.00 File: 2026-28 Page: 1
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 8/10/2026 At 9:55 AM
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
By: Shannon Burkholder

RESOLUTION 2026-28

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Beaverhead County Commissioners by unanimous vote on August 10, 2026 decided to enter into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in the county.

WHEREAS, extreme drought conditions exist, high winds, record high temperatures, low relative humidity, low water supplies and lack of precipitation are contributing to an increase in fire danger.

WHEREAS, Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners declares that all the private land not under the jurisdiction of the municipalities or state or federal agencies is a high fire hazard area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following acts are prohibited:

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

Building maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. 36 CFR 261.52(d)

Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting either USDA Forest Service Standard 5100-1a (as amended), or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335(b) and J350(a) (36 CFR 261.52(j)).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Beaverhead County Board of County Commissioners this the 10th day of August, 2026.

Michael J. McGinley
Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner

C. Thomas Rice
C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner

ATTEST: Stacey Reynolds
Clerk & Recorder



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

Resolution 2026-28 Imposing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in Beaverhead County

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 3, 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
Tom Rice signed a letter to send to DNRC asking for assistance as needed for the Bobcat Lakes and Sand Creek Fires for areas under county and not forest service.

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

CK#220950 Safeway \$1915.00 (Detention Meals)
CK# 220951-220994 Voided Printer Jam

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$105,190.30 beginning with check #220995 and ending with check #221038. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

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 Waganknecht									
EVENT/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force									
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room									
DATE AND TIME: 8/10/26 @ 11AM		CONTACT HOURS:							
Name / Title: Casey ENTRECH	Email or Phone #: Dillon Tribune	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: TRAVIS Wilson	Email or Phone #: LIPUD	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Dana Basile	Email or Phone #: BUND CO	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Mike McCordy	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Jim Mayne	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Nancy Mayne	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Patricia Humming	Email or Phone #: Bundco DES	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		
Name / Title: Tom Waganknecht	Email or Phone #: Bund Co. DES	EMPG/Federally Funded? Yes / No	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly & Fee Volunteer	Total Both Match		

National Weather Service

Maura Casey, 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

August 8, 2026

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>		
YEAR: July 2026	5517.88'	61,126 a/f	35% Full,	67% of avg.
YEAR: July 2025	5524.81'	82,686 a/f	47% Full,	57% of avg.
Difference		- 21,560 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5515.73 feet: 55,323 a/f Storage: 32% Full, 66% of avg.
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 155 cfs/day
Present releases: 466 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	July 2026	11,562 a/f	188 cfs/day	62% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	July 2025	12,359 a/f	201 cfs/day	59% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	July 2026	24,675 a/f	Storage Loss:	13,113 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	July 2025	42,967 a/f	Storage Loss:	30,608 a/f

SNOW PACK: Above Beaverhead Basin
 August 9, 2026 0% of avg.
 August 9, 2025 0% of avg.

Above Red Rock Basin
 August 9, 2026 0% of avg.
 August 9, 2025 0% of avg.

Lima Dam:

Aug 9, 2026:	Elevation:	6,566.45 ft	Storage:	21,745 a/f	26% Full;	66% of avg.
Aug 9, 2025:	Elevation:	6,570.73 ft	Storage:	31,625 a/f	37% Full;	93% of avg.
		Difference		-9,880 a/f		

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 22 cfs/day
 Present releases: 17 cfs

Budget Discussions

Commissioner McGinley was working on county budget and any employee could walk in with questions.

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