

August 17, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 17, 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 blading and this morning they are checking for flood damage in the area.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

August 9th to August 15th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade: Blacktail, Birch Cr, Browne's Gulch, Browne's Bridge, Anderson Ln, Frying Pan, Lovers Leap, Buster Brown
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Equipment Move. Shop Clean
- Spray Dump, GP300, Gibbonsville, Big Lake, Big Swamp, Repeater
 - Fill Ditch at Jackson Sewer
- Load/Haul/Spread Gravel Upper North Fork and Skinner Meadows
 - Cattle Guard Repair
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Blade North Valley, Landon Ridge, Big Sheep Creek
 - Equipment Repair. Moved Equipment.
 - Checked Local Roads

Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, County Attorney Sky Jones, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller and Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds joined the meeting.

Nick commented that he checked all the repeater sites last week; only one had a rodent issue.

Jack mentioned that they are getting ready for the county fair in two weeks.

Tom added that he's been busy with fire business. It slowed down as of Saturday with rain. There have not been massive losses with the current conditions. He has also been working on land use issues.

Theresa added that she is working on payroll today.

Stacey commented that they have been busy and getting ready for the general election.

Joyce mentioned that she was up at fire camps last week. Her second quarter audit was approved, so she should receive that reimbursement. She has also been busy entering inspections in the new database.

Lilia added that everything has calmed down from the fires with her office. Calls have slowed. Bike rodeo is Wednesday with Y camp kids. They are getting flu shot clinics and health fair dates set up for the Fall.

Adam added he worked a lot with forest service last week on the fire data and maps. Tomorrow new phones arrive and begin to get set up.

Mike mentioned that the rural schools set up health fair dates with public health. Teachers are gearing up to get back to school. The Rural teachers meeting was last week. Jackson will be non-operational this year, the students will be going to Wisdom. Reichle will be full at 26 students, two teachers and a student teacher.

Randi commented that there are a few bench and jury trials coming up in the next couple weeks. Felony over the weekend.

Sky added that they are finishing up details for solar lease and other civil projects. They are busy with court dealings as well.

Discussion and Action-Resolution 2026-29 to Cancel Public Administrator Election

Present: Mark Boka, Kelly Rowe, Stacey Reynolds, Tom Wagneknecht

Stacey Reynolds commented that this is due to no one filing for Public Administrator. She had sent a letter to the republican central committee to select someone. They did not select anyone and wish to combine this with the County Attorney office after the general election.

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 2026-29 Canceling the Public Administrator Election. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



116683 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-29 Page:1
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 8/17/2026 At 10:59 AM
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
By: Shannon Burkenpas

RESOLUTION NO: 2026-29

CANCELLATION OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR POSITION FROM THE 2026 FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, according to Section 13-1-403(4) MCA, if the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, the Election Administrator shall notify the governing body that the election is not necessary and the governing body may by resolution cancel the election; and

WHEREAS, the Election Administrator has given proper notice that the office of Public Administrator has received no filings from any political party, and

WHEREAS, there have been no Independent or Write-In candidate filings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2026 election for the office of Public Administrator is hereby cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Administrator position will not appear on the 2026 Federal General Election ballot.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17 day of August, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

C. Thomas Rice
C. Thomas Rice, Chairman

Michael J. McGinley
Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner

(Vacant)

Shannon Burkenpas
Attest: Clerk & Recorder

Discussion and Action- Resolution 2026-30 to Cancel Conservation District Election

Stacey Reynolds added that this is the only special election on the general election. There was only one candidate that can be appointed by acclamation.

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 2026-30 Canceling the Conservation District Election. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



116684 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-30 Page:1
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 8/17/2026 At 11:00 AM
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
By: Shannon Bruckner

RESOLUTION NO: 2026-30

CANCELLATION OF THE BEAVERHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION

WHEREAS, according to Section 13-1-502(4)(b) MCA, if the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, the Election Administrator shall notify the governing body that the election is not necessary and the governing body may by resolution cancel the election; and

WHEREAS, the Election Administrator has given proper notice that the office for Beaverhead Conservation District Supervision has received only one candidate declaration, and

WHEREAS, there are currently three positions that are up for election, and

WHEREAS, there have been no Independent or Write-In candidate filings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2026 election for the office of Beaverhead Conservation District Supervisor is hereby cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Supervisor position will not appear on the 2026 Federal General Election ballot.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17 day of August, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

C. THOMAS RICE
C. Thomas Rice, Chairman

Michael J. McGinley
Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner

(Vacant)

Shannon Bruckner
Attest: Clerk & Recorder

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 10, 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

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

Payment of Invoices

Ck#221039 Jess Elkins \$112.70 (Reimburse Meals)
CK#221040 Safeway \$2160.00 (Detention Meals)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$64,751.81 beginning with check #221041 and ending with check #221091. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Mark Boka, Kelly Rowe, and Tom Wagenknecht were in to discuss the fires in the county and contracts.

Budget Discussions

Stacey Reynolds came in to discuss a possible HAVA grant in her budget for next year.

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