

September 14, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on September 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner Michael J. 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 the following. They have been busy blading around the county. They are touching up parts of Sweetwater this week and working on projects before winter. The Big Sheep landslide dammed up the creek and made a pond, they're afraid it will freeze or flood again in the spring. FWP might want to work with them to clean it up. Fire mitigation on the Byway looks good.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

September 6th to September 12th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Birch Cr, Schoolhouse, Old Stage, Rebish
 - Equipment Setup
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Upper North Fork, Big Swamp, and Little Lake
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on South Valley Rd and Shineberger Rd
 - Equipment Move and Repair
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, County Planner Tina Caron, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Deputy County Attorney John Gardiner, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Sheriff David Wendt, and Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick mentioned that they have been busy. They will need a new computer for the scale.

Jack commented that he is busy this week grading last beef in Dell, quarterly meeting for 4H shooting sports working group, Melrose to get hay samples, and next week he is in White Sulphur Springs for range training.

Theresa added that she is going through HR files and working with auditors. She is almost done on evacuation maps. She is getting blood borne pathogen training with Sheriff Office put together.

Stacey mentioned that ballots should be in this week.

Shonna commented that she brought a letter for the Commissioners regarding Doug's 6-month probationary period is up this week, and she is recommending his grade up.

Last week jail plumbing was fixed. This week is replacing front doors and extension door projects.

John mentioned that there are a few big trials in the next few months they are prepping for.

David added that there are 18 in the jail. Busy weekend. Radios and phones had a lot of issues last week but should be sorted.

Mike added the teachers had a good first week of school. There is a BCHS school board meeting tonight to swear in a new trustee.

Adam mentioned that he was at a planner conference training last week that was very informative. He is still working on phone issues; Friday made great progress. DIS is coming today to work on an access point for Justice Court.

Randi commented that over Labor Day there were around 22 tickets for the whole weekend and one felony. Last week she had to order a mental health evaluation for a misdemeanor. Megan is at clerk conference this week.

Tina added that the conference was good last week. She learned a lot.

Tom mentioned that he was also at the planners conference. He is dealing with permits and enforcement issues.

Drought Task Force Meeting

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/OR MEETING NAME: Drought Task Force								
LOCATION: Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room								
DATE AND TIME: 9/14/26 @ 11AM CONTACT HOURS: .5								
Name / Title: Rochelle Hoerning		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Bvndco. DES		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Dana Basile		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Bvndco.		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Casey Elliott		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Dillon Tribune		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Cog Nelson		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: DNRC		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Travis Wilson		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: LRVFD		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Tom Rice		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Commissioner		Address:	Yes / No					
Name / Title: Mike McKinley		Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost Per Mile	Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match
Organization: Commissioner		Address:	Yes / No					

National Weather Service

Jane Fogleman, from the National Weather Service, joined the meeting remotely 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**

September 14, 2026

PROGRESS REPORT

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:

	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>		
YEAR: August 2026	5515.07'	53,685 a/f	31% Full,	66% of avg.
YEAR: August 2025	5525.19'	70,622 a/f	41% Full,	84% of avg.
	Difference	- 16,937 a/f		

Present Elevation: 5514.18 feet: 51,397 a/f Storage: 29% Full, 68% of avg.
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 118 cfs/day
Present releases: 45 cfs

INFLOWS FOR:	August 2026	9,284 a/f	151 cfs/day	66% of avg.
INFLOWS FOR:	August 2025	9,804 a/f	159 cfs/day	64% of avg.
RELEASES FOR:	August 2026	20,334 a/f	Storage Loss:	11,050 a/f
RELEASES FOR:	August 2025	30,293 a/f	Storage Loss:	20,489 a/f

SNOW PACK:	Above Beaverhead Basin	
	Sept 14, 2026	0% of avg.
	Sept 14, 2025	0% of avg.
	Above Red Rock Basin	
	Sept 14, 2026	0% of avg.
	Sept 14, 2025	0% of avg.

Lima Dam:					
Sept 13, 2026:	Elevation:	6,566.77 ft	Storage:	22,417 a/f	26% Full; 91% of avg.
Sept 13, 2025:	Elevation:	6,566.30 ft	Storage:	21,430 a/f	25% Full; 84% of avg.
		Difference		987 a/f	

Inflows last five (5) days Average: 9.4 cfs/day
Present releases: 15.6 cfs

DNRC

Cody Nelson was present and gave a brief update on the fires in Beaverhead County.

Recess

At 12:00 noon, Commissioner Rice recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Rice and Commissioner McGinley reconvened the meeting with Assistant Dana Basile present.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice 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

Ck#221181 Voided Check (Fair cat threw up on it)
Ck#221239 \$2,170.00 Safeway (Detention meals)
CK#221240 \$3,526.00 406 Armory (Sheriff)
CK#221241 \$1,750.00 Beaverhead Motorsports (Weed 4 Wheelers)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$165,427.10 beginning with claim warrant #221242 and ending with claim warrant #221330. 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 5:00 p.m.

Attest: _____



Clerk of the Board

Approved: _____



Chairman of the Board