



Missoula Conservation District
June 9th, 2025 5:30 p.m.
1075 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801 – with virtual option

Missoula Conservation District Attendees: Tim Hall (Chair), Libby Maclay (Vice-Chair), Bart Morris* (Supervisor), Josh Schroeder (Associate Supervisor), Karen Williams (Associate Supervisor), Radley Watkins (Staff), Bryan Vogt (Staff), Sonja Skovlin (Staff)

Absent: Travis Greenwalt (Treasurer), Art Pencek (Supervisor), Robert Schroeder (Supervisor)

Additional Attendees: John Hart (Senior Deputy County Attorney), Ladd Knotek (MT FWP), Nels Larson* (EM-01-25), Sarah Larsen (MS-17-25), Matt Weiss (MS-17-25), Claudia Becerra (MS-17-25), Lucas Dupuis (MS-17-25), Daniel Fultz (MS-18-25), Gretchen Watkins (ICG-07-25), Cloe Silva (graduate student), Chris Hindoi (Rocky Mountain Insurance Services), Brandon Honzel (Envirothon), Brady McInnis (Big Sky High School student and Envirothon team member)

*Denotes virtual participation via Zoom

Call Meeting to Order – Chair Hall started the meeting at 5:35 pm.

April 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – Libby Maclay moved to approve the May 12th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Travis Greenwalt was not present for the meeting due to an excused absence. Sonja Skovlin presented the following account balances from the District's QuickBooks Balance Sheet dated June 5th, 2025, included in the Supervisors' meeting packets. Also included was the year-to-date Profit and Loss report and a Budget vs Actual Profit and Loss report, all dated June 5th, 2025.

First Security Bank – Checking	\$21,265.26
First Security Bank – Petty Checking	\$1,757.89
First Security Bank – Savings	\$58,558.24
DADCO Savings	\$204,311.36
Tax Mill Levy Account at County	\$350,270.70
Total Bank Accounts	\$636,163.45

Public Comment – No public comment was offered.

Reports

NRCS Report – Travis Lemke was absent. No report was provided.

County Attorney Report – John Hart stated he had no report to offer.



Montana FWP – Ladd Knotek stated that he had no report to offer. Radley Watkins asked if the FWP virtual town hall on fisheries concerns was worth participating in and if there are any issues to bring forward.

Knotek stated that instream flows are a major issue this year with low projected stream flows, and the Milltown water rights are likely to be challenged as there will be calls on water this year FWP holds senior rights along with the tribes.

DNRC Conservation District Bureau – Catey Bauer, CD Specialist for western Montana CDs, submitted a report that was included in the Supervisor's meeting packets. R. Watkins displayed highlights from her report including MACD trainings occurring during the upcoming Spring Board meeting that will be streamed virtually for anyone interested in participating. Directors need to be added to the DNRC newsletter email list; individual supervisors need to check to make sure the emails aren't getting sent to their spam folder.

MACD – R. Watkins displayed the calendar included in the MACD newsletter. Directors need to be added to the MACD newsletter email list; individual supervisors need to check to make sure the emails aren't getting sent to their spam folder.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay stated that she did not have news to report.

Dept. of Ecology and Extension/Weed District/GWMEC Building – R. Watkins reported that Sydney Young has started as the new administrative assistant for MCDEE. She formerly worked for MT FWP as a game warden and is also involved in the Backcountry Horsemen group. R. Watkins stated he participated in a meeting with other building partners regarding new banners for the front of the building.

Watershed Groups – Gretchen Watkins with the Clark Fork Coalition, and Cloe Silva, a graduate student at the University of Montana and working in conjunction with CFC, introduced themselves.

Lower Grant Creek Restoration - R. Watkins presented slides from G. Watkins showing designs for Grant Creek, primarily on the Frey and Miller properties - this work was done in partnership with MCD. CFC used these designs to develop the Grant Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) and then applied for a DEQ non-point source funding to implement the project, which they were awarded. They have also secured funding from DNRC. G. Watkins reported that CFC has applied for Future Fisheries funding. Future project phases will include the FWP property at the mouth of Grant Creek immediately below the Miller property and areas above the Frey properties. She stated that CFC is working on securing landowner agreements.

Chair Hall asked if some of the grant money is allocated for fencing, and whether less fencing was needed if producers are using E-collars. G. Watkins responded that the hard fence shown on the plans will be installed even if e-collars are being used to manage the cattle. She clarified that these fences are currently planned to just exclude cattle, not wildlife. Ladd Knotek asked how wildlife would be excluded to allow for riparian plant establishment. He stated that there is significant wild ungulate pressure, and it would negatively impact any new riparian vegetation planting.



Central Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan - G. Watkins discussed efforts to revitalize the Central Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan development process. CFC has applied for grant funding, but efforts are moving forward anyway. UM graduate student Cloe Sliva was awarded a scholarship to work on the project this summer.

Cloe stated that the area includes the CF River from the confluence with Flint Creek at Drummond down to the confluence with the Flathead River. She clarified that Flint Creek has its own WRP. G. Watkins stated that there will be a project kickoff meeting on August 8th where all parties involved will be invited to participate. She said that there are many 2020 priority projects that have been implemented, so it is important to update the list and identify any new projects. That DEQ focuses on TMDLs was discussed. R. Watkins asked the Board to inform him of any specific issues to be aware of so that he can bring these to the group's attention when he participates in these planning meetings.

Miller Creek 310 permit for the Leik property – R. Watkins displayed photos of the project area. G. Watkins discussed the implemented site restoration on upper Miller Creek. Part of the project involved fencing. There is a hardened crossing and watering hole for the horses on Miller Creek. As the fencing contractor built the fence, they placed one of the posts in the middle of the creek and another right on the edge of the creek. She asked if the 310 Permit issued by the CD allows for this or if the posts should be removed. She stated that the permit didn't specify.

The Board discussed that there shouldn't be posts installed in the creek, as debris will hang up on them and that eventually they would scour out the creek bottom.

Paul Parson moved to have the fence posts that were installed within the channel and along the streambank under the existing, referenced 310 permit for the Leik property on Miller Creek to be removed from their existing locations and be placed in a location outside of the immediate channel or streambank. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder stated only that Missoula County has been updating zoning. He mentioned that the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) 2040 Master Plan will soon be adopted.

Water Quality District – Chair Hall stated that he had no report to offer. He is working to coordinate with the County Board of Commissioners a observational float past the Smurfit-Stone site later in July. Paul Parson mentioned that he would like to attend. While they would like EPA staff to attend, the EPA's travel budget has been cut, so no one from the Helena office will be able to attend.

District Committees – The Board stated that the Budget committee will meet soon to review the proposed FY26 budget. Vogt reported that the Grants Committee met on June 5, and that he will provide more details later in the meeting. Chair Hall noted that there may be some organizational changes to the Personnel Committee.

Missoula CD Employees – Written reports were included in the Supervisor's packets.



Other Reports – R. Watkins reported that the Governor vetoed SB 472, so the fines will remain the same, and there are no exemptions for SMZ projects as those had been included in the bill.

New Business

Correspondence and Upcoming Events – Information was included in Supervisor Packets. R. Watkins explained his idea of Skovlin emailing the Board and advisors about two weeks before the meeting to ask if there is anything to add to Upcoming Events. The Board expressed support for this approach.

Site Inspections Scheduling – Watkins reported that the next site inspection with Ladd Knotek will occur on July 2.

Speaker Series – R. Watkins reported that he has been attending the Chamber of Commerce Forest Resources Committee meetings, which, in part, inspired the idea for the CD to host a monthly speaker series, partnering with the Chamber for some of the talks. Partnering with the Missoula Chamber of Commerce would facilitate the availability of adult beverages, which helps draw the public in. Watkins explained that MCD would benefit from a monthly speaker series because it provides an opportunity for attendees to learn about the CD and what we do, as well as sharing information about all manner of natural resource topics. CDs around Montana and other building entities host similar speaker series. Chair Hall proposed to form an ad hoc committee to work with Rad in putting together a multi-month series, with three speakers throughout the fall and three or four throughout the winter and early spring. Partnering with the Chamber Forest Resources Committee during some of those months, the series could focus on forestry topics.

Missoula Chamber of Commerce Membership – R. Watkins stated that the Missoula Chamber focuses notable time and energy on natural resource topics and sharing related information to the public. He suggested that being a member, at a cost of \$495/year, could help the CD gain visibility. Watkins displayed the levels of membership from the Chamber's website. Chair Hall stated that the Board may explore this idea further at the next meeting.

Work Planning – This topic will be revisited at a later meeting.

Programs

Grants Program

MCD Grants

ICG-07-25 Grass Roots Collaboration – Restoring Miller Creek - Vogt reported that the Grants committee met to review the Innovative Conservation Grant application. He summarized the project and stated that the committee recommended approving full funding. G. Watkins provided additional details and R. Watkins displayed an example video produced by the videographer CFC plans to use. The video would highlight restoration work in Miller Creek.



Chair Hall moved to approve Innovation Conservation Grant ICG-07-25 Grass Roots Collaboration – Restoring Miller Creek in full for \$10,000 as recommended by the Grants Committee. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion carried.

CEG-02-25 Treece Engineering Design for Miller Creek Restoration - Vogt updated the Board that CFC has withdrawn the CEG application now that the award letter for the DNRC Nonpoint Source Program Grant has been received that will provide state grant funds for this project.

Outside Grants -Vogt reported that the DNRC awarded MCD a Nonpoint Source Program Grant – Miller Creek Obsolete Diversion Removal in the full amount of \$17,476 requested. The CD is awaiting a grant agreement contract to sign.

Vogt reported that he submitted the application for a DNRC CDA Grant – 310 Reimbursement for 2024 Permits & 2026 MACD Dues.

Soil Health/Equipment Program –Vogt had nothing new to report regarding the Soil Health program. He reported that, to date, 15 individual or entities have rented the no-till drill and that the drill was rented out for 29 days. The no-till drill was used to plant approximately 145 acres this spring. Vogt stated that Julie Ralston with Bitterroot CD informed him that they purchased an Ellis-Remilinger 2300 with a 7.5 small seed box and a 7.5-bushel seed box. The Teller Wildlife Refuge purchased the trailer to haul the drill. Vogt relayed that the BCD is working with the Teller to develop a loading and unloading video, that the Teller's attorney is reviewing the rental agreements, and an IT contractor is developing a website rental page. The BCD anticipates that the drill will be available for the fall planting season.

Pollinator Program/MTNSN: Vogt reported that the Homegrown Habitat: Benefits of Native Plant Landscaping workshop on May 31st went well with 16 participants, 14 of which were from the ReWild Your Yard Workshop. Missoula CD wound up 65 native plant packs to distribute, 30 over the 25 anticipated. Homes were found for all of these additional plant packs. Five other CDs came and picked up 10 packs each for their CD on May 30th. Tiffany Lyden participated in both the May 30th train-the-trainer and May 31st Homegrown Habitat event. The event was well-received.

Skovlin reported that she sends out weekly email reminders of the MTNSN volunteer planting day at the DNRC Nursery. Last week, classes from the MCPS Agricultural Education program volunteered at the nursery. On her own time, Skovlin has coordinated a group of community volunteers who will be planting next week. R. Watkins stated that he has approved sending Skovlin on work time to participate next week.

Other New Business – None was offered.



Old Business

Accident Plan for District Supervisors - Chris Hindoein with Rocky Mountain Insurance Services gave a presentation on the additional accident insurance policy available to the CD. Thirteen other Montana CDs have chosen to participate. The annual minimum premium is \$1,500 per year. If MCD decides to proceed with it, he recommended making it effective on 7/1 when FY26 starts. Hindoein inquired as to whether the CD has thought about a bond. A bond for Missoula CD would run about \$350 per year. Many of the other CDs across the state are choosing to purchase the bond as recommended by DNRC. John Hart requested he send R. Watkins a quote for the bond.

Envirothon Report and National Competition Support –Brandon Honzel introduced himself, and thanked MCD for their generous support of the local Envirothon teams. He explained that he takes time to put together a field trip for the Missoula teams at the front end of the State Envirothon contest as he wants to give the students the opportunity to see regenerative agriculture in practice. This year, he reported, they toured Timeless Seeds in Ulm. He stated that the Envirothon is one of the most important and impactful activities he helps provide for students.

This year one of the Big Sky High School teams placed first overall, Missoula FFA placed 3rd, and a Sentinel team placed 4th. The margins between teams were very narrow.

Brady McGinnis, a junior at Big Sky HS, discussed his participation in the Envirothon and his roles on the team. He thanked the CD, and Mr. Honzel, remarking how he donates his lunch periods to coach the team.

Honzel stated that he plans to keep working with local teams, and is in contact with Brian Connelly, a Hellgate teacher who he hopes will assemble a team. Honzel said he has asked Tenley Atchison, the state Envirothon coordinator, for state funding to support the winning team as they travel to the international competition.

Paul Parson moved to approve a \$1,200 stipend to Brandon Honzel in support of his coaching and chaperoning the team to the national competition in Calgary, Alberta. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Other Old Business – No other old business was presented.

310 Emergency Notices

EM-01-25 – Nels Larson – Lolo Creek – Debris Removal

Geocode: 04-1975-06-1-02-04-0000

R. Watkins displayed slides showing the emergency notice Form 275, the site location, and photos of the area from the site inspection and several that the applicant submitted. He described the work conducted and discussed possible decisions/outcomes from the Emergency Notice form for the Board to vote on. Larson explained that the July 2024 derecho caused significant vegetation to pile up, particularly close to the top of the headgate. Thus, he hired an excavator to remove and redistribute vegetation. An APO will address the frequent accumulation of vegetation at the diversion. Knotek in his TMR recommended reconstruction of a fish passage, and aggressive revegetation, reseeding the denuded areas with native grass species and planting shrubs. Chair Hall



stated that the applicant's actions were an appropriate use of the emergency provisions of the 310 Law. Larson agreed to scatter piled woody materials on the site.

Chair Hall moved to declare work conducted under Emergency Notice No. EM-01-25 an appropriate use of the emergency provisions of the 310 Law. No additional actions are required at this time, but there is an understanding that an application for annual plan of operations (APO) will be submitted no later than November 1, 2025. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for those Supervisors who voted, and the motion carried. Libby Maclay abstained.

Existing 310 Permits

APO Applications – No APO applications were presented.

310 Permit Applications

MS-16-25 – Paul Parson obo Amy Johnston Waller – Ninemile Creek – Channel/Bank Projects
Geocode: 04-2635-22-1-01-05-0000

R. Watkins showed a site location slide and photos from the site inspection. Paul Parson stated that he has been working on restoration projects in the Ninemile drainage for 15 years. Each project involved many agencies and other partners. Thirteen mine sites have been cleaned up and restored to a more natural ecological function. R. Watkins showed photos from other completed project phases. This project is the last on the mainstem of Ninemile Creek. Parson explained that a vein of gold existed 30-ft down under the streambed and floodplain, and how mining efforts dug up the entire valley bottom to the vein, leaving a series of mounds and pools. Parson stated that project entails leveling the entire 4000-foot length of the area and then rebuilding and restoring the floodplain.

Chair Hall recommended approving the project as proposed. Knotek recommended approving the project with the requirement that fish salvage is coordinated with MT FWP.

Chair Hall moved to make application MS-16-25 a project for consideration under the 310 Law, to approve the project with the modification of requiring the applicant to coordinate with FWP for fish salvage before the project area is dewatered, and to waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for those Supervisors who voted, and the motion carried. Paul Parson abstained.

MS-17-25 – Sarah Larsen obo Matt Weiss and Claudia Becerra – Rattlesnake Creek –
Buildings/Structures

Geocode: 04-2200-11-2-05-04-0000

R. Watkins presented a site location slide, and photos from the site inspection. He clarified that the applicant had modified the application to now include the removal of the existing fire ring within the riparian area, the addition of naturalized steps down to the stream, and ceasing mowing in the riparian zone. The initial application only included proposed changes to the house, which is likely located outside of the jurisdictional 310 zone. Discussion centered on designing the steps so that they would have a naturalized appearance. The Board and applicants discussed using stones, vegetation that mimics what exists on the opposite side of the creek and building them no wider than 30 inches.



Paul Parson moved to make application No. MS-17-25 a project for review under the 310 Law, to approve the project with modifications incorporating recommendations from TMRs and the newly submitted site plan that includes removal of the fire pit, addition of naturalized steps down to the stream no greater than 30" wide, and cease any future management or removal of vegetation within the riparian zone of the stream, and to waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-18-25 – IMEG c/o Daniel Fultz obo Legendary Lodge Holdings LLC – Unnamed Creek – Buildings/Structures

Geocode: 04-2435-09-1-01-03-0000

R. Watkins displayed a site location slide and photos he had taken from the road. There was no official site inspection. Dan Fultz with IMEG stated that work had commenced to replace the caretaker's residence which was damaged by windstorm last year. While Watkins showed project design, Fultz explained that the camp wants to replace the drain field system near the church building. Knotek recommended a wider vegetative buffer of 10 feet to reduce the possibility of fertilizers and pesticides seeping into Salmon Lake. It was clarified that the permit application is for boring of the septic line under the creek to an existing, improved septic tank on the site.

Groundwater monitoring exists, and no groundwater has been detected at a 10-foot depth.

Bart Morris moved to make Application MS-18-25 a project for review under the 310 Law, approve the project as proposed, and require the applicant maintain an un-mowed vegetated buffer of 10 feet on either side of the stream, and waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision.

Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion carried.

MS-19-25 – George Neumunz c/o Howard Anderson – Sixmile Creek – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2427-23-2-01-02-0000

R. Watkins showed a site location slide, photos of the proposed project site, and a plan design. He informed the Board that Matt Heimel is requesting an engineered plan, as the proposed project is in a Zone A 100-year floodplain.

Bart Morris moved to make application MS-19-25 a project for review under the 310 Law and table any further action until the applicant produces a design for the project that is sufficient for Missoula County floodplain review. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-20-25 – Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited – Morrell Creek – Channel/Bank Projects

Geocode: 04-2331-04-2-01-03-0000

No action will be taken until a site inspection is conducted with the applicant.

310 Complaints

CM-04-25 – Stan Hendricksen – Lolo Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2092-33-1-01-06-0000



R. Watkins displayed a site location slide, and photos from his site visit and from the site inspection. He stated that vegetation is growing back since he visited the site a month ago. Chair Hall noted that vegetation had been removed closer to the stream than is ideal. In his TMR, he recommended that any further vegetation removal cease and desist within 50 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of Lolo Creek. Knotek concurred.

Bart Morris moved to declare Complaint CM-04-25 a violation of the 310 Law for work done on a perennial stream without a valid permit, and for the landowner to cease and desist any further work and/or vegetation removal within 50-ft of the OHW mark of the bank of Lolo Creek, and for the landowner to allow the riparian vegetation to fully recover. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

CM-05-25 – Trevor Thornburg and Rick Thornburg – McCormick Creek – Excavation of Creek Banks

Geocode: 04-2429-27-4-01-06-0000

R. Watkins showed a site location slide, and photos from the site inspection. Chair Hall stated that it was not the most egregious violation, but that the landowner and equipment operator should cease and desist all further work and all for natural revegetation. Ladd Knotek requested that a large rock placed in the streambed be removed.

Bart Morris moved to declare Complaint No. CM-05-25 a violation of the 310 Law, require that a 310 Permit be obtained to remove the large rock placed in the streambed, and to cease and desist any further work within 10-ft of the stream on either side without first obtaining a valid 310 Permit. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Existing Violations Needing Action

CM-01-24 – Glen and Rhonda Brownlee – Donovan Creek – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2095-08-3-01-05-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

Existing Violations Pending Follow-up Inspection

CM-03-23 (Re: MS-17-23) – Tyler and Tracy Deeds – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2540-14-2-02-05-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-10-23 – Patricia Coolidge – Clearwater River – Construction in a Riparian Area

Geocode: 04-2540-10-1-02-05-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-14-23 – Joan Mulligan – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2095-21-2-02-01-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.



CM-05-23 (Re: MS-41-23) – David and Lori Rath – Lolo Creek – Stream Excavation
Geocode: 04-1972-05-1-01-03-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-03-24 – Nathan Woronik – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal and Heavy Equipment Operation
Geocode: 04-2540-10-3-01-13-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-05-24 – Gary and April Yetter – Lolo Creek – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Dock
Geocode: 04-1974-02-1-02-01-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-08-24 – Northwestern Energy – West Fork Twin Creek – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2328-35-1-01-01-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-01-25 – Redmond Revocable Trust – Rattlesnake Creek – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2200-11-3-06-12-0000

CM-02-25 – Lawrence and Frances Daly – Rattlesnake Creek – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2200-11-3-06-11-0000

CM-03-25 – Charles and Mary Erickson – Clark Fork River – Unpermitted Berming
Geocode: 04-2201-27-2-03-03-0000

310 Inquiries & Issues

Knotek stated that there are some alleged violations along the Clark Fork River. One is a stairwell immediately across from the Sha-Ron Fishing access another is a new rock path at the upstream most house located on the golf course subdivision. Both complaints can be initiated with Knotek as the complainant.

R. Watkins discussed a recent site visit to a landowner on lower Ninemile Creek who wishes to reactivate an irrigation diversion site and may need to conduct some bank work at that site.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Libby Maclay announced that this will be her last meeting as a Missoula Conservation District Supervisor. She submitted a letter of resignation resigning from her position effective June 10, 2025. She stated she appreciated being able to serve in this capacity for such a long time but feels it appropriate to step down.



Libby Maclay moved to pay the June bills and claims and to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 pm. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion passed.

The next regular Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 14th, 2025, at 5:30 pm** in the Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center, 1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT, 59801. A virtual option will also be offered.

Voting Record – CD Supervisor	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Tim Hall	12	-	-
Libby Maclay	11	-	1
Travis Greenwalt	-	-	-
Paul Parson	11	-	1
Art Pencek	-	-	-
Robert Schroeder	-	-	-
Bart Morris	12	-	-

<i>Timothy Hall</i>	7/14/2025
Minutes approved by	Date
<i>Sonja Skovlin</i>	7/9/2025
Minutes prepared by	Date