



**Missoula Conservation District
February 9th, 2026, 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), Travis Greenwalt (Treasurer), Art Pencek (Supervisor), Josh Schroeder* (Associate Supervisor), Karen Williams* (Associate Supervisor), Radley Watkins (Staff), Bryan Vogt (Staff), Sonja Skovlin (Staff)

Absent: Robert Schroeder (Supervisor) – excused, Bart Morris (Supervisor) – excused.

Additional Attendees: Patrick Swart (Missoula Planning, Development, and Sustainability), Tim Worley (Missoula Planning, Development, and Sustainability), Mark Oakland (public), Dylan Shields* (MS-01-26), Carrie Olson* (MS-03-26), Ron Pierce (Lolo Watershed Group), Jason Marks (public), Alex Marks (public),

*Denotes virtual participation via Zoom

Call Meeting to Order – Chair Hall started the meeting at 5:31 pm.

January 12th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes – Travis Greenwalt moved to approve the January 12th, 2026 meeting minutes. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Travis Greenwalt presented the account balances from the District’s QuickBooks Balance Sheet dated February 6th, 2026, included in the Supervisors’ meeting packets. Also included was the year-to-date Profit and Loss report, dated February 6th, 2026.

First Security Bank – Checking	\$34,022.41
First Security Bank – Petty Checking	\$994.65
First Security Bank – Savings	\$58,589.69
DADCO Savings	\$212,172.77
Tax Mill Levy Account at County	\$279,176.75
Total Bank Accounts	\$584,956.27

Public Comment – No public comment was offered.

Reports

NRCS Report – Travis Lemke was absent and no report was provided. Vogt discussed last month’s water supply and snowpack report put out by NRCS that he will forward to the Board.

County Attorney Report – John Hart was absent and no report was provided.

Montana FWP – Ladd Knotek was not present at the meeting. Chair Hall reported that Knotek’s last meeting with MCD as an FWP Representative will be in April; he will retire sometime that month.



DNRC Conservation District Bureau – Catey Bauer’s written report was included in the Supervisor’s meeting packets for review. Watkins displayed a slide that included the following information:

- FY26 P3 Grant Cycle 2 opens on February 1st and closes March 15th. - CDs may want to consider drafting their budgets for next fiscal year (FY27) this month as spring can be busy for many CDs.
 - MACD and DNRC are hosting a grant management workshop February 9th-10th.
- Watkins highlighted the MCA requirements (76-15-511) to provide the county a budget by the first Monday in July. Chair Hall stated that he would like the CD to comply with state rules.

MACD – Watkins displayed a slide that contained the following information:

- Soil Health Symposium - Bart Morris served as a preconference panelist on Feb. 2nd for Marketing Avenues: Producer’s Perspectives
- Shared Legal Services for Conservation Districts
- Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Annual Conference
- Central Montana Invasive Annual Grasses Workshop
- Conservation District Directory

Watkins will present at the Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Annual Conference, traveling to Great Falls and returning to Missoula the same day.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay reported that there had been no updates since last month.

County Departments

Riparian Resource - Tim Worley, Senior Planner, Missoula County Planning, Development, & Sustainability Department and Patrick Swart, Planner II, Missoula County Planning, Development, & Sustainability Department introduced themselves. They presented on Riparian Resource requirements contained in the current version of the County’s Zoning Standards, which have been in place since July of 2022. Worley identified that with these requirements, the City of Missoula is seeking to maintain water quality, enhance stormwater conveyance, maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. He articulated that the zoning applies to the “donut hole” – the area within the city limits, defined in 1946, where the CD does not have jurisdiction. Worley displayed a table for minimum riparian resource buffers for various stream bodies and stretches in Missoula County and identified that the riparian resource protection area is adjacent to the stream channel/CMZ. He stated that the public can access buffer overlays on Missoula Property Information System.

A member of the Board stated that it seems like the CD is in the business of permitting what can happen, while the county is now in the business of restricting what happens. Is it the case that the two entities are now somewhat in conflict or at least could be.

Watkins summarized the MCD 310 permitting process and mentioned the possibility of inviting City Planning, Development, & Sustainability to 310 site inspections when applicable.

Worley and Swart clarified that the riparian resource requirements are most applicable when a new permit or change in zoning/use is applied for.



Watershed Groups

Lolo Watershed Group Drought Management Plan - Ron Pierce introduced himself as a retired FWP Fisheries Biologist who now lives in the Lolo Watershed and is a Board member of the Lolo Watershed Group (LWG). Pierce reviewed the mission of the LWG, which prioritizes community-led conservation efforts. Pierce stated that various agency personnel have reviewed the LWG Draft Drought Plan, and that the PowerPoint presentation he is sharing with the Board and staff at this meeting will soon be shared with the public for further review. Watkins reminded the Board of the grant that MCD applied for and obtained to assist with the development of the drought management plan and that MCD is a partner on this project.

Pierce's presentation identified features of the Lolo watershed such as water sources, water uses, flow values, and that it has a primary trout spawning tributary of the Bitterroot River. He emphasized that engaging the community with the development of a more extensive, in-depth drought management plan is key to its successful implementation. Pierce stated that one of the goals of the plan is to implement short-term water leases during drought years and articulated recent legislation that allows for this. Pierce spoke about developing a River Conditions Tool that would monitor streamflow and help identify drought conditions. He would like all water users to be informed of these conditions so they can alter their water use.

The Board inquired as to how many irrigators had measuring devices. Pierce did not have an answer for that. The Board suggested that potentially the CD could assist with irrigators obtaining these devices. The Board asked as to how to get domestic water users involved – particularly those with exempt wells, especially since irrigators are not necessarily the primary water users anymore.

Martin Oakland stated he is involved with the Blackfoot Challenge and the Upper Clark Fork Watershed Group, both of which are also developing similar plans. Pierce reported, that he wrote much of the Blackfoot River Drought Management Plan.

Watkins stated that it was good to witness MCD Board interest in this project, and that it could be beneficial to have a Board member on the Lolo Drought Management Plan development committee.

Pattee Canyon DEQ Grant - Watkins explained that City Stormwater had asked the MCD to apply for this grant on their behalf and has since decided to apply on their own.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder reported that the consolidated City/County Planning Board reviewed their last proposal, one from Blackfoot Crossing LLC near Bonner-Milltown to change from heavy industrial center to a mixed use/development zoning. He stated that the Board unanimously approved it. The proposed plan has centralized wastewater and water utilities. Members of the local public commented on travel plaza plans across from where Town Pump is located. Schroeder noted that the developer has self-imposed density restrictions and is facing significant infrastructure costs.

Schroeder said that the only other meeting that has occurred was the first of the consolidated County Board which has now incorporated the Board of Adjustments. The meeting was procedural, electing officers, adopting by-laws, and similar types of actions.



Water Quality District – Chair Hall reported that no meeting had taken place in the past month. He will schedule Elena Evans to present a report at a later meeting.

District Committees – Chair Hall stated that Libby has stepped off the Personnel Committee, and that Supervisors Pencek and Morris have agreed to join. He said that the full board will meet to discuss work planning before having the Personnel Committee conduct annual employee evaluations.

Missoula CD Employees – Written reports were included in the Supervisor’s packets. Chair Hall recognized the staff for successfully planning and hosting the Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference on Jan 29-30. Supervisor Pencek stated that he felt all the presentations were relevant and engaging.

Other Reports – Watkins shared an invitation to participate in the Trails, Rivers, & Forests Expo that he would like to table at on Wednesday, June 3rd from 5-9pm at Trail Head River Sports. MCD also received an invitation to table for three days at this year’s Old Salt Festival, June 19-21st; Watkins and the Board generally felt that the commitment of three days was more than what the staff had capacity for. Watkins also spoke of a weekend tabling opportunity at the Montana Environmental Educators Convention, and that he had told the group staff did not have the capacity.

New Business

4-H Chair Sponsorship - The Board supported 4-H Chair Sponsorship request in 2025. Travis Greenwalt stated that the Missoula Conservation District was mentioned to everyone at the presentation of the 4-H awards during the fair. Travis Greenwalt Moved to sponsor a 4-H award in the amount of \$54.00 for the Top Senior Dairy Goat Showman at the 2026 Western Montana Fair. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp Donation and Camper Sponsorship - Vogt gave details on the level of support MCD has provided the MNRYC for the past few years. The Board has provided \$1,500 in general support and \$1,500 to pay for up to 5 camper registration fees for participants from Missoula County for a total amount of \$3,000. Vogt reiterated to the Board that this amount is provided up front to the camp, and the camp then reimburses campers once they have registered, paid, and been accepted to the camp. The 2026 MNRYC will be held July 13th-17th at Lubrecht Experimental Forest. Watkins verified with Karen Williams that she will teach the stream/riparian class at the camp this year in his place, along with Vogt assisting NRCS staff with the soils classes. Tim Hall moved to sponsor the 2026 Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp for a total amount of \$3,000 split as \$1,500 towards general camp support and \$1,500 to cover up to 5 camper registration fees for Missoula County residents. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion passed.

2026 Envirothon - Vogt requested the Board to consider MCD paying \$150 per team to cover the registration fee for Missoula County Envirothon Teams. Due to team registration deadlines near the beginning of March this requires action so that he can communicate with local teams about MCD’s support. Vogt stated that he will have teams fill out a sponsorship form for any travel assistance they request and have that information to present at the March meeting. He anticipates five or six



Envirothon Teams from Missoula County.

Travis Greenwalt moved to pay the \$150 per team registration fee for Missoula County teams who will participate in the 2026 Envirothon competition. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion carried.

Watkins requested approval for overnight travel expenses so that he may assist with the 2026 Envirothon competition that will be held April 20-21st in Great Falls.

Travis Greenwalt moved to authorize overnight travel expenses for Radley Watkins to attend and assist with the 2026 Envirothon competition in Great Falls, Montana. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Correspondence and Upcoming Events – Information was included in Supervisor Packets. Watkins presented slides of upcoming events. Vogt noted that he will be speaking at the No-till Drill Workshop at the Teller Wildlife Refuge on March 17th.

Site Inspections Scheduling – Watkins reported that the next site inspection will occur on Tuesday, March 3rd. Art Pencek volunteered to serve on the March site inspections team, and Travis Greenwalt volunteered to serve on the team in April 7th.

Programs

Grants Program – Vogt handed out copies of the Grants Program Report at the meeting.

MCD Grants

Operations Mini Grant

OpMG-02-26 Bitter Root RC&D - Vogt reviewed discussion of this application at the January meeting. The questions sent to the applicant, their responses, and the Committee's comments were included with the Grants Program Report sent out with the meeting packet.

Travis Greenwalt was not supportive of funding this application given that they were involved with the violation the Board had to deal with in Grant Creek. Vogt stated that Robert Schroeder voiced similar thoughts in his email response but also that he could support funding them this year and favored that over funding OpMG-03-26. Tim Hall spoke to the fact that the MCD's application doesn't have enough criteria and questions to exclude funding them this year given they addressed all the questions and follow-up questions. He mentioned Vogt had proposed revisions to the OpMG policy for the upcoming fiscal year 2027 program that the Committee will likely adopt.

Libby Maclay moved to approve Operations Mini Grant application OpMG-02-26 Bitter Root RC&D Area Inc. for a \$500 award with the provision that the grantee provide updated information to the follow-up questions included in the February 9, 2026, Grants Committee Memo at the end of the 2026 calendar year. Art Pencek seconded the motion. Three Supervisors voted for the motion, and one voted against it. The motion carried.



OpMG-03-26 Mayfly Project - Vogt provided an overview of the applicant organization and their funding request. He stated that staff and Grants Committee review were included in the meeting packets sent to the Board.

Travis Greenwalt stated that he felt the organization is worthwhile and he could see how the project related to the MCD's mission, but he didn't feel strongly about funding the purchase of life vests. Chair Hall expressed his agreement.

Chair Hall moved to deny funding Operations Mini Grant application OpMG-03-26 The Mayfly Project – Missoula Chapter as the funding request doesn't match directly with the Missoula Conservation District's goals. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Outside Grants – No report was offered.

Soil Health/Equipment Program – Vogt again mentioned the March 17th no-till drill workshop at the Teller Wildlife Refuge. The Board indicated that a motion was not needed to take the drill out of the county to educational events such as this.

Pollinator Program – Vogt reported that Watkins will meet with Morgan Owens at Green Mountain CD soon to discuss the Area 5 2026 seed order.

Other New Business – Watkins discussed the annual CDB Accountability Assessment that DNRC requires. He would like to handle this at the upcoming special board meeting to review work planning. The Board agreed to this approach.

Old Business

310 Civil Penalty Working Group Meeting - Watkins displayed information regarding a structure for the fee/penalty process prepared by the working group. Watkins mentioned his desire to see the fee and penalty structure based on the overall impact rather than simply the length of stream impacted. He gave an example of one tree removed per 1,000 liner feet of stream, stating that that action is less impactful than a channel-spanning dam that has less “measurable” distance. He discussed varying views shared with the working group, such as one participating district supervisor who stated that they don't want CDs to have the authority to levy a criminal penalty for any reason.

The Board discussed having incentives to follow the rules, but that Boards need to have the ability to be punitive as necessary so that private landowners don't ignore the penalty assessment. One Board member thought it could be insightful for a survey of Districts to see how many times they have levied fines and for what total amount against how many permits they issue each year. That Board member felt that such a survey would show that CDs aren't out to be punitive. Watkins stated that that question had been asked in a survey, for which he will receive the results and will share them with the Board.

Board Officer Elections – Art Pencek moved to elect Tim Hall as Chair, Robert Schroeder as Vice-Chair, and Travis Greenwalt as Treasurer of the Missoula Conservation District for the 2026



calendar year. Tim Hall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MCD Scholarship – Art Pencek moved to launch the Missoula Conservation District Scholarship program as presented with the following deadlines and modifications:

- Launch date of February 15, 2026, or sooner,
- Application deadline of March 31, 2026,
- Recipients will be invited to the May 11, 2026, Missoula CD Board meeting for recognition of their awards,
- Application will include working that states Missoula CD may conduct applicant interviews as part of the scholarship selection process,
- Application will include a provision for approval of parents or guardians of applicants under 18 to approve of Missoula Conservation District's use of the applicant's name, photograph, and application information in its advertising and promotion materials.

Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Other Old Business – Travis Greenwalt reported that he attended a county meeting on servitudes. He stated that Farm Connect Montana has helped set up that program in the county and that the Missoula CD was mentioned in the context of potentially being able to do follow up inspections and/or give support to the servitude process. He said that they discussed that the CD's role may still be warranted given that many individuals involved with Farm Connect Montana may also be the individuals receiving servitudes. Missoula CD's involvement may be useful to avoid any potential conflicts of interest this could involve.

310 Emergency Notices – None were presented.

Existing 310 Permits

MS-13-25 – Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited – Clearwater River – Channel/Bank Projects
Geocode: 04-2331-04-2-01-03-0000

Watkins reviewed the approved permit and the request for a one-year time extension. Chair Hall moved to approve a one-year extension to 310 Permit MS-13-25 with all other provisions of the permit to remain unchanged. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-19-25 – George Neumunz c/o Howard Anderson – Six Mile Creek – Crossings/Roads
Geocode: 04-2427-23-2-01-02-0000

The Board took no action taken while still awaiting additional information from the Missoula County Floodplain Administrator.

APO Applications – None to discuss at this meeting.

310 Permit Applications



MS-01-26 – Montana Forest Consultants Inc. – O’Brien Creek Tributary – Crossings/Roads
Geocode: 04-2199-29-1-01-02-0000

Watkins displayed a site location slide for this project that had been permitted. The permit had lapsed before Montana Forest Consultants obtained an extension. Watkins confirmed that Knotek gave permission to review his TMR for the previous application. Watkins reviewed the modifications from the previously approved and expired permit, and the Board clarified that the new permit should also include the modifications stated in the prior permit.

Dylan Shields stated that implementation will occur next winter when the ground is frozen.

Travis Greenwalt moved to consider Application No. MS-01-26 a project for consideration under the 310 Law, to approve the project with modifications incorporating the same modifications from prior team member reports for Application No. MS-28-24; and waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board’s decision. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-02-26 – Karen Sippy – Grant Creek – Tree Removal

Geocode: 04-2326-29-4-04-05-0000

Watkins presented a site location slide, photos from the site inspection, and shared the applicant’s rationale for removing the one ponderosa pine that is leaning towards the neighbor’s house. Chair Hall, reviewing his TMR, recommended approval with modifications. He mentioned observing additional understory vegetation removal at the site and discussion with the applicant of how this practice needed to stop. His and Knotek’s TMR include requests to minimize disturbance at the site in the riparian area and refrain from using heavy equipment, leave root structure and at least 10 feet of trunk in place to provide stability and habitat, discontinue mowing, weed whacking, or removing any vegetation from the top of the terrace to the creek edge to encourage native woody riparian vegetation, and to mitigate removal of lost shade by planting three ponderosa pine (> 4 ft rooted stock) in corridor within 25 feet of the stream bank. Hall moved to consider Application No. MS-02-26 a project for consideration under the 310 Law; approve the project with modifications incorporating recommendations from the team member reports; and waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board’s decision. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-03-26 – Grant Creek Crossing – Missoula, LLC – Grant Creek – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2200-06-1-01-25-0000

Watkins displayed a site location slide, and shared photos from site visits for a prior related application. He stated that plans for trail design and installing utilities – provisions for which the CD Board is being asked to permit - are not well defined in the documents submitted as part of the application. Carrie Olson of WGM stated that the utilities will be trenched in, and that the trail will be paved to match the hotel’s trail and City of Missoula’s standards. The Board stated that a plan view would be helpful to see the trail’s distance from the creek. Chair Hall remarked that flagging in the project area is confusing in certain areas. He pointed out an opportunity for revegetation and other stream restoration efforts and said that the City of Missoula would need to be part of that discussion since the trail will come under their purview. Olson stated that WGM will resubmit the application with updated plans on how the trail will be installed and placed in reference to the creek.



Travis Greenwalt moved to consider Application No. MS-03-26 a project for consideration under the 310 Law and table further action until more information is obtained from the applicant on the location of the shared use trail. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

310 Complaints

CM-15-25 – Kim Kinsman – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Structures
Geocode: 04-2427-34-3-02-11-0000

Discussion: As there has been no response from the landowner to a complaint letter sent, the Board directed staff to send a certified letter.

CM-16-25 – Kenneth Brewington – Butler Creek – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2326-19-2-03-03-0000

Watkins presented a site location slide and a photo from a site inspection. The landowner has not responded to a certified letter notifying him of a violation of the 310 Law. The Board recommended that the violation letter be forwarded to Missoula County Deputy Attorney John Hart. Chair Hall moved to declare Complaint No. CM-16-25 violation of the 310 Law for activities initiated on a perennial stream without a valid permit and send the violation letter to Missoula County Deputy Attorney for handling due to a lack of response to prior correspondence. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Existing Violations Needing Action

There were no updates on these violations and the Board took no action.

CM-01-24 – Glen and Rhonda Brownlee – Donovan Creek – Crossings/Roads
Geocode: 04-2095-08-3-01-05-0000

CM-05-25 – Trevor Thornburg and Rick Thornburg – McCormick Creek – Excavation of Creek Banks
Geocode: 04-2429-27-4-01-06-0000

CM-11-25 – Wild Country Enterprises LLC – Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek – Unpermitted Culvert Installation
Geocode: 04-1975-26-4-02-02-0000

CM-12-25 – Michael and Shirley Mitchell – O'Brien Creek – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2199-27-1-02-26-0000

Existing Violations Pending Follow-up Inspection

Watkins mentioned that the following 310 violations would not be revisited until spring or later.



CM-03-23 (Re: MS-17-23) – Tyler and Tracy Deeds – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2540-14-2-02-05-0000

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

CM-10-23 – Patricia Coolidge/Dianne Nagy – Clearwater River – Construction in a Riparian Area
Geocode: 04-2540-10-1-02-05-0000

CM-14-23 – Joan Mulligan – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2095-21-2-02-01-0000

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

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

CM-06-25 – Marc and Tonya Davidson – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2201-18-3-05-13-0000

CM-10-25 – Richard Orizotti – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Building of Structure
Geocode: 04-2201-18-3-05-12-0000

CM-14-25 – Karl and Nancy Grenager – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Bank Excavation
Geocode: 04-2427-33-1-02-01-0000

310 Inquiries & Issues – Watkins reported on receiving an email from a landowner who would like to retro-permit a bridge on Petty Creek before he sells the property. The landowner stated in the email that the bridge was in place before he bought the property. The Board discussed that if the bridge existed prior to the 310 Law then it would not need to be permitted but if it was built after the passage of the 310 Law then it should be permitted.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Chair Hall informed the Board and staff about a gathering with former Supervisor Paul Parson at the Dram Shop next to the mall at 5:30 pm on February 10th to recognize his recent retirement from the Board.

Skovlin informed the Board that FSB has approved MCD's application for FSB credit cards, and that she will be working through that transition in the coming weeks.



Chair Hall moved to pay the Missoula Conservation District bills and to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion passed.

The next regular Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 9th, 2026, 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	15	-	-
Libby Maclay	15	-	-
Travis Greenwalt	14	1	-
Art Pencek	15	-	-
Robert Schroeder	-	-	-
Bart Morris	-	-	-

<i>Timothy Hall</i>	3/9/2026
Minutes approved by	Date
<i>Sonja Skovlin</i>	2/25/2026
Minutes prepared by	Date

APPROVED