



Missoula Conservation District
July 13th, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
1075 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801 – with virtual option

Missoula Conservation District Attendees: Robert Schroeder (Vice Chair), Travis Greenwalt (Treasurer), Art Pencek (Supervisor), Libby Maclay, Bart Morris (Supervisor), Karen Williams (Associate Supervisor), Radley Watkins (Staff), Bryan Vogt (Staff), Sonja Skovlin (Staff)

Additional Attendees: John Hart (Senior Deputy County Attorney), Travis Lemke* (NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist), Olivia Hinds (OpMG-05-26, Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group), Mike Day (MS-42-25), Tom Pohl* (MS-21-26 and CM-03-26), Laura Lundquist* (CTG-03-26), Cheryl Harrelson (Public), Brandon Honzel (Envirothon)

Absent: Tim Hall (Chair) – excused, Martin Oakland (Supervisor) – excused, Josh Schroeder (Associate Supervisor) – excused.

*Denotes virtual participation via Zoom

Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Robert Schroeder started the meeting at 5:33 pm.

June 8th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes – Art Pencek moved to approve the June 8th, 2026 meeting minutes. Bart Morris 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 July 9th, 2026 included in the Supervisors' meeting packets. Also included was the year-to-date Profit and Loss report and FY26 Budget vs. Actuals Report, both dated July 9th, 2026.

First Security Bank – Checking	\$12,419.91
First Security Bank – Petty Checking	\$628.86
First Security Bank – Savings	\$58,608.83
DADCO Savings	\$211,613.36
Tax Mill Levy Account at County	\$342,485.45
Total Bank Accounts	\$625,756.41

Travis Greenwalt moved to approve a quarterly transfer of \$37,500.00 from the Missoula CD mill levy account to the First Security Bank checking account. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Supervisor Maclay was not present for this vote.

Art Pencek moved to approve payment of the Missoula Conservation District monthly bills and quarterly Supervisor reimbursement claims for July 2026. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Maclay was not present for this vote.

Public Comment – No comments were offered.



Reports

NRCS Report – Travis Lemke reported that his staff is still contracting. He anticipates they will complete this work soon. He stated that his staff is assisting area soils staff with teaching soils classes at the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp.

County Attorney Report – John Hart stated that he had no report to offer. He informed the Board that he will miss the August meeting.

Montana FWP – Pat Saffel was not present and no report was provided. Watkins reported that he participated in FWP interviews for a Missoula Area Fisheries Biologist, and that it was a well-qualified panel of candidates.

DNRC Conservation District Bureau – Catey Bauer's written report was included in the Supervisor's meeting packets for review. Watkins shared that based on recent guidance from the DNRC regarding Open Meeting Law, it appears that CDs need to notice and make all committee meetings open to the public and that CDs are to record minutes for those meetings. DNRC is confirming this with their legal counsel.

Art Pencek voiced opposition, stating that this could limit committees from functioning efficiently in terms of scheduling and conducting business. He stated that committees only meet to discuss matters that are then brought to the Board for official decisions. Therefore, he doesn't feel this necessitates open public committee meetings.

John Hart stated that based on his reading of Bauer's report open public meeting law would only be pertinent if a quorum of the Board was present and making decisions. The Board directed staff to not advertise committee meetings if there is no quorum of Supervisors on the respective committee and no official decisions are made during a committee meeting.

MACD – Watkins mentioned that the Area 5 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Lincoln CD, will take place on September 29th at Riverstone Family Lodge in Eureka. He further stated that the state convention will take place December 1-3 at Fairmont Hot Springs, with Area 5 and Area 6 CDs hosting.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay stated there was nothing new to report.

County Departments – No reports were provided.

Watershed Groups – No reports were provided.

Consolidated Land Use Board Update – Josh Schroeder joined via Zoom prior to the meeting being called to order. He stated he did not have a report to offer. He did not remain on the call to attend the meeting.

Water Quality District – Chair Hall, excused from this meeting, did not provide a report.

District Committees – No reports were provided.

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



Other Reports –Watkins reported that he and Vogt recently met with the new DNRC Nursery Manager, Marissa Zaricor, along with Ashley Mattson and Kylie Brown. He stated that Zaricor is committed to keeping the seed program and principal partner relationship with MCD going forward.

310 Emergency Notices

None to discuss at this meeting.

Existing 310 Permits

MS-42-25 – Rusty Landon obo Missoula Expressway Hotel LLC – Trail Construction
Geocode: 04-2200-07-1-01-03-0000

Watkins displayed the MCD letter sent with the original permit, and the design for where the trail will be located at the project site. He stated that the permittee is requesting an amendment to the 310 existing permit to allow utilities to run along and under the already permitted trail. Mike Day of WGM Engineering – representing one of the three property owners at the site of the trail - stated that at the time the permit was issued, inclusion of the utility lines in the plan was an oversight among these owners and consultants. He discovered this oversight in a recent review of the approved plans and permit. The trail will serve as a ROW for the city to access and maintain the utilities, therefore it must accommodate vehicle traffic as well as foot traffic. The only encroachment within the riparian zone is what was in original permit.

Bart Morris moved to approve the requested modification to the existing 310 Permit MS-42-25 to document the utilities that will run under and adjacent to the trail, with all other requirements of the approved permit remaining unchanged. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

APO Applications

No APO applications were submitted to the CD in the past month.

310 Permit Applications

MS-13-26 – Joshua Wallace obo Potomac Corp – South Fork Lolo Creek – Agricultural and Irrigation Projects
Geocode: 04-2091-31-1-01-03-0000

The applicant provided no new information. The Board took no action on this application.

MS-16-26 (Tabled 6/8/2026) – Curtis Dakolios – Clark Fork River – Channel/Bank Projects
Geocode: 04-2091-31-1-01-03-0000

Watkins will conduct a site visit with the applicant prior to the August board meeting. The Board took no action.

MS-19-26 (re: CM-01-26, Tabled 6/8/2026) – Curtis Dakolios – Clark Fork River– Channel/Bank



Projects
Geocode: 04-2323-07-1-02-02-0000

Watkins will conduct a site visit with the applicant prior to the August board meeting. The Board took no action.

MS-21-26 (re: CM-03-26) – Dylan McDowell obo Sherri Davidoff – Rattlesnake Creek – Other Projects
Geocode: 04-220011-2-05-05-0000

Watkins displayed a site location slide and photos from the site inspection. This project is for stabilizing erosion and replanting a sloping hill running onto a stream bank. He provided background information for the application and stated that it was associated with a complaint. The applicants have applied for and received a City Floodplain permit for the work they are doing, but were not aware of the 310 permit. Watkins started a complaint file when other agencies informed the CD of the work that they had approved, so that the Board could review the work and discuss how they wanted to address this. Watkins displayed diagrams from the application for the restoration work being conducted.

Martin Oakland and Pat Saffel were the team members on Complaint site inspection. This 310 Permit Application was received after the site inspection deadline, so the Site Inspection Team did not review this application on site, only the potential violation, and there is no TMR for the 310 application.

Skovlin read the joint comments on the Complaint Form signed by Oakland and Saffel.

Tom Pohl, the landowner, stated that no machinery will be used to complete the project. They are working to revegetate the site to prevent additional erosion.

Bart Morris moved to make Application MS-21-26 a project for review under the 310 Law, to approve the project with modifications to include the Missoula CD's survivability standards for plantings, and to 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.

310 Complaints

CM-02-26 – Laurie and Edward Stalling – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Structure

Geocode: 04-2540-10-1-03-13-0000

Watkins displayed a site location slide and photos from the site inspection. He explained the landowner had contacted him several months ago inquiring how to restore the property. This complaint was submitted because the landowners' installed low-tech stairs on a bank to stabilize an eroding trail without a permit. The Board discussed whether the work fell within the jurisdiction of the CD. They agreed that they would like to learn more about Supervisor Oakland's perspective on the work at the site, as he served on the site inspection team for this complaint. Skovlin read from the complaint form from Oakland and Saffel that stated that work had been completed without a permit.

Bart Morris moved to table consideration of Complaint CM-02-26 until Martin Oakland can participate and speak to his observations during the site visit conducted in July 2026. Art Pencek seconded the



motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

CM-03-26 – Thomas Pohl and Sherrie Davidoff – Rattlesnake Creek – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Structure

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

Watkins explained that this complaint was brought to his attention by a City of Missoula employee in association with other permitting for the work.

Art Pencek moved to dismiss Complaint CM-03-26 as the observed activities were conducted with other permitting agencies' approval, and the lack of obtaining the 310 permit was an oversight. Bart Morris 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

Watkins showed photos from the July site inspection. Watkins pointed out that the landowner has developed a larger riparian buffer than on the initial site visit. Watkins discussed that if the Board has not already requested the bridge be removed, one option the Board has is to permit the bridge as is. The Board decided to table a discussion until Supervisor Oakland is present and can share his observations from the site visit.

CM-11-25 – Wild Country Enterprises LLC – Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek – Unpermitted Culvert Installation

Geocode: 04-1975-26-4-02-02-02-0000

John Hart stated that he has no updates to offer. He clarified that Gangle was waiting for low flow before he would act.

CM-12-25 – Michael and Shirley Mitchell – O'Brien Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2199-27-1-02-26-0000

Staff and the Board agreed to table discussion of this violation until Supervisor Oakland is present and can discuss his observations from the site visit.

CM-01-26 – Curtis Dakolios – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2323-07-1-02-02-0000

The Board took no action. Watkins stated that he will conduct a site visit prior to the August board meeting.

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



Watkins presented photos associated with the prior violation determination and photos from a recent site visit. The County Floodplain violation has been resolved. Watkins stated that only one of the planted trees appears to have survived, but the landowners reestablished a healthy riparian buffer.

Art Pencek moved to consider Violation CM-03-23 resolved based on observations documented during the July 2026 site inspection. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

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

The Board took no action.

CM-07-23 – Kathy and Bruce Graham – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal
Geocode: 04-2540-14-2-02-01-0000

Watkins displayed a site location slide and photos from a recent site visit. He reminded the Board that this was a plugged side channel of the Clearwater River. Watkins stated that landowners have reestablished a riparian buffer, smaller than requested, but perhaps adequate for the stagnant side channel.

Art Pencek moved to consider Violation CM-07-23 resolved based on observations documented during a July 2026 follow-up site visit. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

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

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

Watkins showed photos from the original complaint site visit and photos from a recent site visit showing cessation of mowing and planting of trees in the riparian buffer zone.

Bart Morris moved to consider Violation CM-03-24 resolved based on observations documented during a July 2026 follow-up site inspection. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

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

The Board took no action.

CM-06-25 – Marc and Tonya Davidson – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal



Geocode: 04-2201-18-3-05-13-0000

The Board took no action.

CM-10-25 – Richard Orizotti – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Building of Structure

Geocode: 04-2201-18-3-05-12-0000

The Board took no action.

CM-14-25 – Karl and Nancy Grenager – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Bank Excavation

Geocode: 04-2427-33-1-02-01-0000

The Board took no action.

CM-15-25 – Kim Kinsman – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Structures

Geocode: 04-2427-34-3-02-11-0000

The Board took no action.

310 Inquiries & Issues – None were presented.

New Business

Envirothon – Funding - Brandon Honzel reported that one of the Big Sky HS Envirothon teams is traveling to the international Envirothon competition at Mississippi State University towards the end of July. He stated that he obtained one grant and applied for others but due to the increase in cost for airline tickets, the team is still about \$2,200.00 short in funding. Watkins displayed a spreadsheet of expenses versus funds secured for the trip. Honzel requested additional funding to ensure the team can travel to the international competition and added his appreciation for all the previous support MCD has provided.

Bart Morris moved to cover the Big Sky High school Envirothon team's remaining travel expenses of approximately \$2,200.00 to allow them to participate in the upcoming international competition at Mississippi State University. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Columbia River Basin Tour Sponsorship Opportunities – Watkins displayed a flyer describing the multi-town tour, co-hosted by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) and the Montana Pesticide Stewardship partnership Program, and planned topics that will be covered in this event. The event is co-hosted by the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program. He informed the Board that MWCC solicited MCD sponsorship for the event and informed them of the various options to financially sponsor this event. The Board did not present a motion to offer sponsorship funding and no action was taken.

Revised Draft of Employee Handbook – The Board agreed to table discussion of this draft until the August meeting when full board attendance is anticipated.



Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal - Watkins mentioned MCD became members of the Chamber in 2025. He discussed that last year the Chamber supported the MCD speaker series, Conservation on Tap. Watkins has also participated in the Chamber's Forest Resource Council Committee over the past year.

Art Pencek moved to pay the Missoula CD's 2026 membership dues to the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

Correspondence and Upcoming Events – Information was included in Supervisor Packets.

Site Inspections Scheduling – The date for the August site inspection has yet to be determined.

Programs

Grants Program

MCD Grants

OpMG-05-26 RCWG Fox Farm Pollinator Garden - Vogt reviewed the grant application that included a 10-year maintenance agreement with the City of Missoula and two letters of recommendation. Vogt reported that the Grant Committee recommended awarding the amount requested with photo point requirements.

Art Pencek moved to award Operations Mini Grant OpMG-05-26 RCWG Fox Farm Pollinator Garden as recommended by the Grants Committee for the \$500 requested with the conditions that photo points be established showing the site 1) prior to site prep, 2) after site prep and prior to planting, 3) following implementation/planting, and 4) annually during bloom time for a period of at least 2 years. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

CTG-03-26 Laura Lundquist Ecosystem Conservation Summit - Vogt reviewed the application and the request to assist with travel expenses to attend the summit. Vogt reported that the Grant Committee recommended awarding the amount requested with specific reporting requirements.

Bart Morris moved to award Conservation Training Mini Grant CTG-03-26 Laura Lundquist Ecosystem Conservation Summit as recommended by the Grants Committee for the \$250 requested with the condition that a detailed report of what was learned from the summit and how it will assist in future reporting on Missoula County conservation-related issues and topics be provided. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

EdMG-02-26 Target Range Native Plant and Ethnobotanical Garden - Vogt reviewed the grant application for the project at Target Range School. The teacher submitting the application has been working with MSU Extension



Agent, Sarah Holden, and the site will be maintained by the school's garden club, including through the summer months. Vogt reported that the Grant Committee recommended awarding the amount requested with photo point and funder acknowledgement requirements.

Art Pencek moved to award Education Mini Grant EdMG-02-26 Target Range Native Plant and Ethnobotanical Garden as recommended by the Grants Committee for the full \$500 requested with the conditions that photo points be established showing the site 1) prior to site prep, 2) after site prep and prior to planting, 3) following implementation/planting, and 4) annually during bloom time for a period of at least 2 years and that the Missoula CD logo be added to any sign(s) installed to recognize the District as a funding partner. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

Outside Grants – Vogt did not offer a report.

Soil Health/Equipment Program – Vogt reported that the no-till drill will be displayed outside the Glacier Ice Rink with other large machinery during the Western Montana Fair. Staff mentioned to the Board that the Toyota 4Runner will get new tires before fall.

Pollinator Program – Skovlin reported that nearly all the 2026 wildflower seed packets have been distributed and that she provided a quarterly report to Green Mountain CD for their grant reporting to DNRC.

Other New Business – Cheryl Harrelson introduced herself as a retired fluvial geomorphologist now living part-time in Seeley Lake. She retired from an engineering firm in Wyoming that did work across the west. Prior to that she worked for the USFS. She stated that she had contacted Karen Williams through CRC and inquired about what the Districts were involved with locally and expressed interest in assisting MCD in ways relevant to her experience. Williams shared how Harrelson was the primary author on a 1994 USFS paper, "Stream Channel Reference Sites: An Illustrated Guide to Field Technique." Harrelson provided background on her work with Luna Leopold, a prominent geomorphologist and hydrologist, and Dave Rosgen.

Staff reported that planning is underway for the 2027 Western Montana Grazing and Ag Conference. The planning committee met on July 9th and will meet again in mid-August. Tim Puczkowskyj, the new district administrator from the Bitterroot CD, and Jessie Walthers of the Flathead CD have joined the planning committee. Caroline McDonald of Lake CD stepped down after this year's conference. Skovlin and Vogt discussed speaker ideas resulting from attending the Montana Range Tour at Thomas Herefords in Gold Creek in June.

Art Pencek asked John Hart to speak to the issue of whether Supervisors can all participate in email communications collectively or whether this is only legal if it is between less than a quorum of the Board. This was a particular issue in last week's discussions of whether there would be a quorum of Board members able to participate in the July 13th meeting or if it needed to be rescheduled. Hart clarified that the Supervisors should avoid discussing or debating matters that will come before the entire Board for a discussion so that members of the public have full access to this information.



However, matters such as scheduling or rescheduling meetings are those that Board members may have in an electronic quorum discussion through email. Watkins discussed how staff have been trained to use BCC when communicating to all Board members to avoid facilitating discussions via electronic communications, and that Hart's clarification is helpful for future conversations with the Board via email.

Old Business

Other Old Business – None was presented.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Payment of bills and claims handled during the Treasurer Report.

Robert Schroeder moved to adjourn the July 13th, 2026 Missoula CD monthly meeting at 7:48 pm. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Greenwalt was not present for this vote.

The next regular Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 13th, 2026 at 5:30 pm** in the 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	-	-	-
Libby Maclay	14	-	-
Travis Greenwalt	7	-	-
Art Pencek	16	-	-
Robert Schroeder	16	-	-
Bart Morris	16	-	-
Martin Oakland	-	-	-

Timothy Hall

8/10/2026

Minutes approved by

Date

Sonja Skovlin

7/27/2026

Minutes prepared by

Date