

**April 19, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on April 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman John H. Jackson, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker.

**Updates on County Projects**

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob stated that the crew took care of some soft spots on Blacktail Road. Mike asked about the Rock Creek Bridges Project. Bob replied that the permits are done. He will give Karl Yakawich a call to check on the status.

Coroner Julie Briggs joined the meeting and read aloud a letter she had prepared regarding her frustration about the lack of information she is receiving from health officials after a death occurs. This is especially disturbing to her regarding deaths that occur after an individual receives a Covid vaccine. She is requesting that the commissioners appoint an oversight committee to follow up on deaths and collect information and/or data for the Coroner. Julie stated that she has been denied information from the clinic.

The commissioners commented that they will give this some thought and asked Julie to provide more information after consulting with other Coroners across the state.

Facilities Manager Chris booth, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Treasurer Cathy Huckle and Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

Cathy supplied the commissioners with the March Cash report. Our Refuge Revenue Sharing money came last week. It was not as much as last year but it is split 60/40 as previously discussed. The SRS money was received 2 weeks ago and it continues to be less every year. Unless it is reauthorized, this will be the last year we receive it.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Repaired soft spots on Blacktail Road.
- Bladed on the Argenta Road.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

**LIMA AREA**

- Plowed snow on the following roads: South Valley, North Valley, Elk Lake
- Bladed on Dell Airport Road.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads
- Equipment service and repair.

**WISDOM AREA**

- Bladed on Upper North Fork Road.
- Removed barricade on Rock Creek Road.
- Cleaned a culvert on Little Lake Creek Road.
- Shop cleaning and maintenance
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting be approved with changes. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.




**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda****Discussion & Action ~ Resolution 2021-08 ~ Appointing Special Deputy County Attorney**

County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting and began the discussion. Mike Gee from the Attorney General's office will be taking a case to help Jed.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Resolution 2021-08 ~ Appointing Special Deputy County Attorney be adopted. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the resolution can be viewed below:



109666 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2021-08 Page:1  
 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 4/19/2021 At 4:15 PM  
 Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
 By: *Stacey Reynolds*

**RESOLUTION #2021-08**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**WHEREAS**, due to unforeseen circumstances that have arisen in the Beaverhead County Attorney's office, the Beaverhead County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance on that case filed in Beaverhead County District Court identified as *State v. Clayton A. Douglas, DC-20-3955*; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a Special Deputy County Attorney be appointed to take over the prosecution of the aforementioned case; and

**WHEREAS**, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-4-2705 authorizes the County Commissioners to authorize the county attorney to employ special counsel to assist in the prosecution of any criminal case pending in the county; and

**WHEREAS**, The Beaverhead County Attorney consents to such arrangement for the sole responsibility of prosecuting the above-referenced case; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Gee, Assistant Attorney General, consents to said appointment and arrangement for the sole responsibility of prosecuting the above-referenced case;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

That Assistant Attorney General Michael Gee is hereby appointed as Special Deputy County Attorney for Beaverhead County for the purpose of handling the prosecution of the aforementioned case.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That under the terms of this agreement, witness fees and expenses, jury costs, and other normal costs associated with trial will be the County's responsibility as with all other prosecutions. As is reasonable, Beaverhead County will also be responsible for travel costs accumulated by Assistant Attorney General Michael Gee in conjunction with his prosecution of this case.

**DATED THIS 19th day of April 2021.**

**ATTEST:**

*Stacey Reynolds*

Stacey Reynolds  
Clerk and Recorder

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*C. Thomas Rice*

C. Thomas Rice  
Commissioner

*Michael J. McGinley*

Michael J. McGinley  
Commissioner

*John H. Jackson*

John H. Jackson  
Chairman

**Discussion & Action ~ Application for Jackson School Isolation Status**

County Superintendent of Schools Linda Marsh joined the meeting and began the discussion. She also provided the commissioners with a notice that she will be retiring at the end of July this year.

The reason that OPI requires this is if the number of students falls below 10 for 3 consecutive years, then a form must be filled out and go through several other



channels, then Helena has the final say if it is listed as Isolation or not. This affects the amount of money they receive. Jackson has been below 10 students for three years now. This is their second application; their first application was done in 2018 and at that time, they had 5 students.

The enrollment numbers have declined every year. Linda has written a letter of support for Jackson to be granted isolation status; she recommends that the commissioners approve this for the Jackson school.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Jackson School be listed as Isolation Status. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Jackson signed the application.

### Recess


*Recess Commission Meeting for 911 Communication Board Meeting and lunch.*


At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Jackson reconvened the meeting with Commissioner McGinley, Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present.

### Drought Task Force

DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht was absent so his assistant Rochelle set up the Drought Task Force Meeting.

Chairman Jackson opened the meeting at 1:35 P.M. A copy of the sign in sheet can be viewed below:

JURISDICTION USING SOFT MATCH: <u>Beaverhead County DES</u>		POINT OF CONTACT OR LEAD INSTRUCTOR: <u>Tom Wagenknecht</u>		EVENT/MEETING NAME: <u>Drought Task Force</u>		LOCATION: <u>BVHD CO. Courthouse Commissioners' Room</u>		DATE AND TIME: <u>04/19/2021 - 1:30pm</u> CONTACT HOURS:		Training/Event/Meeting Sign in Sheet			
Name/Title	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost per	Hourly & per Volunteer	Total Soft Match						
<u>Casen Elliott</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Dillon Trils</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Katie Peabody</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>CVA</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Dennis Miotke</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>EB Unit</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Travis Wilson</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>WFD</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Tracy Sawyer</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>BVHD Co</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Tom Rice</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Commissioner</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Cindy Decker</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Commish Assist</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											

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Name/Title	Email or Phone #:	EMPG/Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	Cost per	Hourly & per Volunteer	Total Soft Match						
<u>Mike McGinley</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Commissioner</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>Rochelle Hoernig</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
<u>DES-BVHD County</u>		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											
		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No											



**National Weather Service**

Arin Peters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association joined the meeting via "GoToMeeting" and began his presentation.

**Bureau of Rec/East Bench Irrigation/Clark Canyon Water Users – Dennis Miotke**

Dennis handed out his progress report (a copy of which can be viewed below) and reviewed it aloud. Dennis noted that the inflows for the last five days in Clark Canyon Reservoir, are the lowest he has seen in the last 34 years.

DROUGHT TASK FORCE MONTHLY MEETING			
April 19, 2021			
<u>PROGRESS REPORT</u>			
<u>CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:</u>			
	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>	
YEAR: MARCH 2021	5539.48'	141,799 a/f	81% Full, 111% of avg.
YEAR: MARCH 2020	5542.77'	157,440 a/f	90% Full, 126% of avg.
	Difference	- 15,641 a/f	
Present Elevation: 5540.15 feet; 144,890 Storage: a/f 83% Full, 110% of avg.			
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 65 cfs/day			
Present releases: 51.06 cfs			
INFLOWS FOR: MARCH 2021	9,904 a/f	161 cfs/day	67% Avg
INFLOWS FOR: MARCH 2020	12,221 a/f	199 cfs/day	83% Avg.
RELEASES FOR: MARCH 2021	3,069 a/f	Storage Gain: 6,835a/f	
RELEASES FOR: MARCH 2020	5,518 a/f	Storage Gain: 6,703 a/f	
<b>SNOW PACK:</b> Above Clark Canyon Reservoir			
	April 19, 2021	78%	
	April 19, 2020	106%	
Above Lima Dam			
	April 19, 2021	66%	
	April 19, 2020	102%	
<b>Lima Dam:</b>			
April 19, 2021: Elevation: 6575.54 ft; Storage: 47,959 a/f; 56% Full; 104% of avg.			
April 19, 2020: Elevation: 6577.97 ft; Storage: 58,291 a/f; 68% Full; 116% of avg.			
	Difference	-10,332 a/f	
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 134 cfs/day			
Present releases: .26cfs			

**Centennial Valley Association Drought Coordinator – Katie Pabody**

The Centennial Valley Association Drought Coordinator Katie Pabody joined the meeting and introduced herself.

**DNRC**

None

**Forest/BLM**

None

**State Lands**

None

**Dillon VFD**

None

**County Fire Warden**

None

**City of Dillon**

None

**Extension Service**

None

**Fish, Wildlife and Parks**

None

**Madison County DES Report**

None

**Watershed Report**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next Drought Task Force Meeting will be tentatively set for May 10, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse.

This meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

**Legislative Update**

None today

**Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

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

**Payment of Invoices**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$149,918.38, beginning with check #207012 and ending with check #207062. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

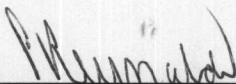
**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**

There were no public comments.

**Adjourn**

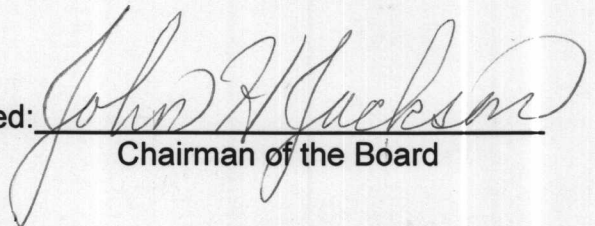
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board