

July 12, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman John H. Jackson, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Commissioner Mike McGinley was absent attending the Annual NACo Conference in Maryland.

Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob stated that Stone Creek is having mag chloride applied today and Nissan, Carter Creek and the Sweetwater next Wednesday. They will be installing a stop sign on White Lane. The crew mowed a little bit on the Byway but didn't go all the way to the top because of fire danger.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth, Sheriff Paul Craft, DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht and GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting.

Chris advised that West Electric is here to take care of the law enforcement air conditioner today. The Courthouse and County Attorney central air will have to wait until next year.

Paul stated that he has spent a lot of time dealing with the local fires and traffic control. He feels that since Hwy 43 is a State highway, they shouldn't be calling local law enforcement but should be contacting another agency for traffic control. The Alder Creek fire has been keeping him busy as well. He is trying to be prepared for evacuations should they need to occur. Everyone is really keeping an eye on the Butler Site structure because it must be protected at all costs.

Tracy's daughter will be getting married this weekend, so he will be taking a few days off but will be a phone call away.

Tom W. advised that he was with DNRC most of the weekend dealing with fires. He also mentioned the Butler Site and the importance of protecting it. The resources at all levels are very thin right now. Tom has been contacted for the possibility of using the Search & Rescue Building as a base. The two biggest fires are the Trail Creek and the Alder Creek fires. There is supposed to be a transition meeting tonight at 6 pm but Tom is still waiting for details. Commissioner Jackson stated that he will attend as it will be held in Wise River.

Tom W. asked Tracy to get ahold of SW Telephone about hooking up communications at the Wise River airport. Tracy will take care of that.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK July 4th to July 10th, 2021 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Stone Creek, Nissan, Carter Creek and Sweetwater.
- Mowed on the Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway.
- Repaired a fuel pump at Grant.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Lima Dam, North Valley and South Valley.
- Sign repair on Big Sheep Creek Road.
- Bridge end marker repair on Lima Dam Road.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Moved equipment.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Little Lake Creek, Twin Lakes, and Moose Creek.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**Drought Task Force**

DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht set up the Drought Task Force Meeting. The meeting convened at 11:00 a.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>07/12/21 @ 11:00pm</u> CONTACT HOURS:		Training/Event/Meeting Roster		MONTANA DISASTER EMERGENCY SERVICES DES	
Name / Title	Email & Phone #	Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	.50 Cost per	2013 Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	LEAVE SHARED AREA BLANK					
<u>TRAVIS Wilson</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Organization: LVFD</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Debbie's MISTKE</u>	<u>EBTD</u>	Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Organization: EB Unit</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Cosca Gillott</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Organization: Dillon Tribune</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Ave Hansen</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Organization: Public Health</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Rachelle Hoerning</u>		<u>Yes / No</u>											
<u>Organization: BVHD CO DES</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Yasica Murray</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Ext Agent</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Rob Wre</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Planning</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
												Page Total	

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Name / Title	Email & Phone #	Federally Funded?	Trip Miles	Total Hours	.50 Cost per	2013 Hourly \$ for Volunteers	Total Soft Match	LEAVE SHARED AREA BLANK					
<u>Tom Rice</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Tracy Sawyer</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Organization: BVHD Co</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Cindy Decker</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Commish Asst.</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>John H Jackson</u>		Yes / <u>No</u>											
<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Address:</u>												
<u>Tom Wagenknecht</u>		<u>Yes / No</u>											
<u>DES coord</u>	<u>Address:</u>												

National Weather Service

Arin Peters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association joined the meeting via "GoToMeeting" and began his presentation. A copy of this presentation can be

found in the DES office. This was a very dismal presentation as we have now entered into D3 (extreme drought).

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. Bad news all around.

DROUGHT TASK FORCE MEETING				
July 12, 2021				
PROGRESS REPORT				
CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR:				
	ELEVATION	STORAGE		
YEAR: JUNE 2021	5528.74'	96,770 a/f	49% Full,	75% of avg.
YEAR: JUNE 2020	5538.90'	139,151 a/f	79% Full,	119% of avg.
	Difference	- 42,381 a/f		
Present Elevation: 5525.58feet; 85,335 Storage: a/f 49% Full, 75% of avg.				
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 190 cfs/day				
Present releases: 751 cfs				
INFLOWS FOR: JUNE 2021	8,013 a/f	135 cfs/day	32% Avg	
INFLOWS FOR: JUNE 2020	18,010 a/f	303 cfs/day	72% Avg.	
RELEASES FOR: JUNE 2021	43,098 a/f	Storage used: 35,085 a/f		
RELEASES FOR: JUNE 2020	29,069 a/f	Storage used: 11,059 a/f		
SNOW PACK: Above Clark Canyon Reservoir				
	July 12, 2021	20%		
	July 12, 2020	0%		
Above Lima Dam				
	June 12, 2021	0%		
	June 12, 2020	0%		
Lima Dam:				
July 6, 2021: Elevation: 6569.76 ft; Storage: 29,223 a/f; 34% Full; 74% of avg.				
July 6, 2020: Elevation: 6579.72 ft; Storage: 66,599 a/f; 80% Full; 115% of avg.				
	Difference	- 37,376 a/f		
Inflows (Last five (5) days Average: 64 cfs/day				
Present releases: 413 cfs				

Centennial Valley Association Drought Coordinator – Katie Pabody

The Centennial Valley Association Drought Coordinator Katie Pabody did not join the meeting today.

DNRC
None

Forest/BLM
None

State Lands
None

Dillon VFD
None

County Fire Warden

Tom W. stated that things are just not good right now. The current conditions out there right now, there are two significant fires locally. This is truly serious. The Trail Creek fire is very volatile; it has jumped over Highway 43. We have a very critical radio site at Butler that he is worried about. The fire is somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 acres. Alder Creek is 282 acres as of this morning. Between the hot weather and the dryness, it could be disastrous. There are about 120 structures that could be in harm's way. The fire resources are stretched very thin too. Quite frankly, SW Montana is probably *nothing* compared to California and Oregon. So, we will be struggling with having enough resources.

Sue asked about the Birch Creek fire. Tom replied that it was in a very rocky spot and they were able to get right on it; we are very thankful that it didn't blow up. All these fires were started by lightning.

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 August 9, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Recess

At 12:00 noon, Chairman Jackson recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Jackson reconvened the meeting with Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present. Commissioner McGinley is absent attending the Annual NACo Conference in Maryland.

Preliminary Budget Discussion

At this time, the preliminary budget was discussed.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

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

Payment of Invoices

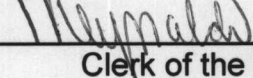
The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$386,474.48, beginning with check #207555 and ending with check #207620. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

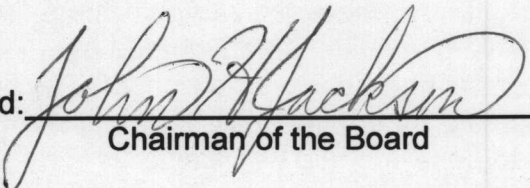
Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

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