

Park Conservation District

5242 Highway 89 South Livingston, MT 59047
O: (406) 946-3007 C: (406) 223-1048 E: parkcd@usda.gov

BOARD MEETING: MINUTES

August 4, 2026 – 11:00am

USDA Conference Room, 5242 US HWY 89 S, Livingston, MT 59047

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jodi Arthun, Judy O'Hair, Ned Zimmerman, Dave Haug, Martin Davis

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: Ashley Lowery – Operations Director, Becky Saunders – District Administrator, Danielle Proctor – Watershed coordinator, Scott Opitz – FWP, Nate Brown – NRCS, Erin Steva – Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Michael Miller on Zoom.

***Automatic no votes for Board members not present**

1. **11:04 am - Call the Regular Park CD Board Meeting to Order – Judy O'Hair, Vice Chair**
**Excused absences: Jamie Lannen and Dustin Homan*
2. **Montana Conservation Association - Greater Yellowstone Coalition**
Erin Steva presenting: Gallatin Forest Partnership's, Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act
 - **Erin shared the proposed GYCRA Wilderness Protection and Recreation Act.**
3. **310 Applications: Inspection Reports, Discussion and Board Decision:**
 - **Motion to accept applications – Dave made motion, Martin 2nd, motion carried 5-2**
 - A. **PK-36-26:** Quinn Creek – Scott Cahill
Adding material over existing crossing.
 - **Approved**
 - **15-day waiver**
 - **Jodi made motion, Ned 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
 - B. **PK-37-26:** Quinn Creek – Scott Cahill
Seeking extension of previously approved permit PK-33-25
Vegetation removal.
 - **Approved**
 - **15-day waiver**
 - **Jodi made motion, Martin 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
 - C. **PK-38-26:** Mission Creek – Montana Haze, LLC – Heather Levy
Removal of sedimentation from in stream pond.
 - **Approved with modifications**
 - **Pond Sediment excavation allowed only to 5' depth**
 - **Spoils must be removed out of flood plain.**
 - **Recommend sloping back at 4:1 for safety**
 - **They may apply for maintenance permit in the future.**
 - **15-day waiver**
 - **Jodi made motion, Dave 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
 - D. **PK-39-26:** Yellowstone River – Mountain Limited – Haley Kinch
Installation of two utility poles for fiber optic to cross the Yellowstone River
 - **Approved**
 - **15-day waiver**
 - **Ned made motion, Jodi 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**

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4. Old 310 Applications

- A. PK-25-26:** O'Rea (Area) Creek – Josh Skattum,
Re-installation of culvert across creek for vehicle crossing.
- **Approved with modifications**
 - **Slope off of each side of the road shall be 2:1 to prevent erosion and road loss.**
 - **Culvert shall be counter sunk below the current stream bed to allow better passage and to prevent piping of the stream under the pipe.**
 - **15-day waiver**
 - **Projects needs to be complete by November 1, 2026**
 - **Jodi made motion, Martin 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
- B. PK-31-26 -E:** Pine Creek – Gene Carter,
Pine Creek hydro dam repair
- **Approved once PCD receives information on material installed (Section D-3 completed)**
 - **Ned made motion, Dave 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Items

- A. Timesheets, Checks, Financial Reports, P&L, Balance Sheet, claim forms.
- **Dave made motion to approve financials, Jodi 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
- B. Checks: CEM Bookkeeping, Evan Stout
- C. MT Department of Revenue annual report
- **Permissive and Mill Levy report will be provided at September board meeting – Ashley and Becky to work on.**
 - **Checks will be written for MACD dues in September**

6. Minutes – July 7, 2026 Minutes (Need Signature)

- **Ned made motion to approve the July 7, 2026 meeting minutes, Jodi 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**

7. Park Conservation District Business

- A. 310 Rules
- **Board decided to remove the public hearing requirements for adopting new 310 rules.**
 - **Ned made motion, Judy 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**
- B. 310 Application timeline
- **Becky shared the 310 application timeline.**
 - **Becky to determine what 'accepting an application' means.**
- C. 310 permit length
- **Becky shared that the board had the authority to set the permit expiration date to whenever they choose. It has to be recorded on the supervisory decision form (Form 273). If no date is listed the expiration is one year from the date of decision.**
- D. Rosengren Violation
- **Becky gave an update.**
 - **EPA has been ordered to drop the criminal case**
 - **EPA is still perusing the Civil Case**
 - **Becky has asked Paul Spitler (county attorney) to contact Rebecca Little Owl,**

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EPA Civil attorney to see where they are at in the process

- **Board is waiting to see what Paul finds out before we proceed.**

E. Point of Rock Water Reservation Application

- **Becky provided update that the WGM Group (Cole Peebles) will be performing a correct / complete review and starting mapping and water availability review for the Criterial Assessment (a component of the Technical Analysis and application review process)**
- **Cole Peebles will be keeping Mary Hendrix and myself posted on the process**

F. Annual Working Plan – 2026

- **No changes made from the 2025 Annual Working Plan**
- **Board signed**
- **Becky and Ashley will review for 2027**

G. Workshops

- **Becky proposed 2 possible workshops the PDC could host.**
- **Realtor workshop – in collaboration with Gallatin CD**
 - **Board is in favor – would like it to be hosted in Park County.**
 - **Would like to see noxious plants on the agenda, in addition to 310 permit information.**
 - **Need to connect with County Weed Board.**
- **Rain Barrel workshop**
 - **Partnering with watershed groups.**
 - **Becky to check on barrels from Harrington in Butte or Lehrkinds in Great Falls**

8. Planning & Development Board Update– *Dustin Homan*

- **No update – Dustin absent.**

9. NRCS Update – Nate Brown

- **D1-D2 Drought**
- **NRCS Restructuring meeting being held 8/6/26**
- **Deadline for applications is end of Oct.**

10. Watershed Business:

A. UYWG – September 10

a. July 30 Drought meeting update

- **Becky shared the d3drought.org website that was shared during the meeting**

B. SVWG – September 21

- **Danielle and Ned attended the Paradise Ramble**
- **PCCF Drought grant approved**
- **August 18 Summer producer meeting 5-8pm at Spurline**

C. Watershed scheduling and planning capacity updates

a. UYWG – program coordinator position

- **Ned made motioned to look into and plan for Danielle becoming the SVWG coordinator and to look at potentially hiring a coordinator for the UYWG, Martin 2nd, motion carried (5-2)**

b. 319 Grant Update

- **Danielle looking to focus on the 319 Grant and the SVWG**

11. Public Comment

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12. Adjourn 2:30pm

- Ned made motioned, Judy 2nd, motioned carried (4-3 *Martin left just before adjournment)

 9/1/26
Minutes approved by Date

 9/1/26
Minutes prepared by Date

NEXT MEETING: September 1, 2026 – 11am