

Call to Order: 9am

Supervisors Present: Briana Schultz, Loren Blanksma, Mike Hansen, Bob Logar, Sherwin Leep, Tammy Swinney (zoom), Jason Camp (zoom), and associate supervisor Nolan Morgan.

Supervisors Absent:

Staff present: Becky Clements, Elizabeth Emeline, Bea McNamara, Audra Bell

Guests Present: Chris Mahoney (NRCS), Keith Wellstone (FWP), Taylor Winkel (RESPEC), Dave Rosgen (Wildland Hydrology), Jeremy May (Headwaters Engineering), Louse Loucks (CA Ranch), Rebecca Kruger (AGAI).

Zoom attendees: Faith Doty, Ryan Olson, Sarah Friederichs, Jacob Lacey.

310 MEETING AGENDA

310 Applications

Applicant Number: GD 78-25		Perennial Stream: Willow Creek	
s Applicant	Hyalite Engineers		
Landowner:	Lagacy Canyon LLC		
Contractor/Agent:	Jackson Contractor Group		
Type of Project:	Crossing/ Roads		
Purpose:	The purpose of this project is to provide an ATV and walking bridge to allow the property owner (Warriors & Quiet Waters) to access the eastern portion of the property. This will enhance their ability to provide nature-based experiences for combat veterans.		
Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 7/15/26	End Date: 9/15/26	
Inspection Date:	1/6/26		
Inspection Recommendation:	Approval with modifications		
Inspection Comment	East bank is currently stabilized with riprap. Bank will likely get disturbed during building removal. Recommend re-grading and spreading riprap along bank. Pull riprap out of creek that has slid off hill. Leave existing vegetation in place to extent possible.		
318 Authorization			
Discussion:	Briana recuses. Inspection team reports- project for Warriors and Quiet Waters. Existing crossing on west side, so there is not a lot of vegetation to remove. Riprap on the east side. Need to regrade that riprap. No issues with the project. No concerns from FWP biologist. Spans creek and floodplain. Minimal impact. Won't affect stream function. Riprap has sloughed into creek, recommended to clean that up while they're on site with the project. Applicant is agreeable to this.		
Decision:	Sherwin Leep motions to approve with modifications. Mike Hansen supported. All in favor, motion carried.		

Applicant Number: GD 81-25	Perennial Stream: Mandeville Creek
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Applicant	Casey Tippens
Landowner:	Brodey Simkins
Contractor/Agent:	
Type of Project:	Crossing/Roads
Purpose:	The project proposes to install a 73' long and 138" diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert, as shown in the attached Bozeman Trax-Track C Rail Extension plan sheets, to maintain creek flows at the track crossing. The culvert will include a 3' thick rip rap apron and a 11.5' step bevel on each culvert end (see plan sheet C1 .5).
Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 3/1/26 End Date: 4/1/26
Inspection Date:	1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation:	Approval as proposed
Inspection Comment	Crossing location looked appropriate. Culvert size is adequate. Length is long and team would like to review plans further prior to discussion with board. Applicant was no at site visit and plans not attached in application.
318 Authorization	
Discussion:	Inspection team reports project is for a crossing to create an extra rail spur. Large diameter culvert- sufficient in size. 73' long- doesn't need fish resting structure. Countersink 20% of diameter. 2.3' of stream material will be embedded through the culvert. Plans look good, good location.
Decision:	Bob Logar motions to approve as proposed with inspection comments. Loren Blanksma supported. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 01-26	Perennial Stream: UT of the Gallatin River
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Applicant	Morgan McReynolds
Landowner:	Jessica McReynolds
Contractor/Agent:	Morrison- Maierle, Faith Doty
Type of Project:	Crossing/Roads
Purpose:	The design positions the road crossing perpendicular to the unnamed tributary to minimize stream impacts. To allow unimpeded flow of the unnamed tributary to the Gallatin River, the project would install a 64 foot, 60-inch diameter, reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culvert within the tributary and below the road. Two other culverts would be installed to the west and east, to ensure the site receives adequate drainage and prevent erosion of the road surface (see EX-1, attached for location and dimensions). To minimize impacts, culvert diameters outside of the

main waterway crossing were kept as small as possible while meeting roadway grade requirements.

Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 4/6/26 **End Date:** 5/1/26

Inspection Date: 1/6/26

Inspection Recommendation: Approval with modifications

Inspection Comment 63 ft of culvert, 5 ft diameter to create access to west side of property. Countersink culvert 20% of diameter and match to existing grade. BMPs during construction to minimize sedimentation during culvert installation and road grading. Road embankment will give 4-5 ft buffer from stream bank on downstream side of road.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Inspection team reports- constrained on property- need this crossing to provide access. Balance wetland impacts- large wetland. Culvert is appropriately sized. Recommend to countersink 20% and embed streambed material throughout culvert. Engineer agrees to increase culvert size to 72" and counter sink to 12 inches. Will be adequate for this tributary to the Gallatin. BMPs will be practiced during construction.

Decision: Loren Blanksma motions to approve with modifications in inspection comments. Mike Hansen supports. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 03-26	Perennial Stream: Godfrey Creek
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Applicant Northwestern Energy

Landowner:

Contractor/Agent:

Type of Project: Other

Purpose: This project is a wildfire mitigation project with the goal of replacing poles that could fail and cause wild fires. The poles identified will be replaced using a bucket truck. New holes will be augured for the new poles and the existing poles will be removed. Holes will be approximately 2-3ft in diameter and 6-7ft deep. All excavated material will be used to backfill around the new pole.

Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 1/1/26 **End Date:** 3/31/26

Inspection Date: 1/6/26

Inspection Recommendation: Approval as proposed

Inspection Comment Applicant wishes to replace at-risk power poles in-kind. The proposed work will not directly impact channel bed or banks. The work should avoid any alterations to the stream. Spoils from new holes will not be placed in the stream or adjacent wetland area.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Replace power poles. Some of the power poles were not jurisdictional, but appreciate the application. Make sure to not place fill in stream or anywhere where it can end up in the stream. Keep construction material as far away as possible.

Decision: Sherwin Leep motioned to approve with inspection comments and 15 day waiver. Loren Blanksma supports. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 04-26	Perennial Stream: Rey Creek
Applicant	John Zuelke
Landowner:	
Contractor/Agent:	Roadarmel Construction
Type of Project:	Road/crossing
Purpose:	To provide access on both sides of creek/property through an easement access through a neighbor's property. The plan is to place a rail car bridge to access land on the other side of the creek.
Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 4/10/26 End Date: 4/11/26
Inspection Date:	1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation:	Approval as proposed
Inspection Comment	Applicant seeking to install rail car bridge. Bridge will sit on concrete footings outside of water and span approximately 51 feet well beyond the bank terrace. Additionally, the bridge will sit 3 to 4 feet above water surface. No fill is outlined and the bridge will provide adequate capacity. A discussion was had about limiting disturbance to existing trees and shrubs, and leave root systems intact, which the applicant was receptive to.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Creek crossing. 57' span. Using railcar rather than culvert. Recommend to leave root structure of any removed vegetation. Limit vegetation removal as much as possible. Good span. 3-4" above the water level.

Decision: Mike Hansen motions to grant approval as proposed. Bob Logar supported. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 05-26	Perennial Stream: Baxter Lane Roadside Ditch
Applicant	Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
Landowner:	True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:	
Type of Project:	Road/Crossing
Purpose:	The purpose of the proposed crossing is to provide access to a proposed baseball field on the site.

Applicant Number: GD 07-26	Perennial Stream: Baxter Roadside Ditch
Applicant	Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
Landowner:	True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:	
Type of Project:	Road/Crossing
Purpose:	The purpose of the proposed crossing is to provide vehicle access to the property.
Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 5/1/26 End Date: 10/1/26
Inspection Date:	1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation:	Non jurisdictional
Inspection Comment	Aligns with discussions had in December inspection at site.
318 Authorization	
Discussion:	Placement of culvert + fill. Same ditch. Does not impact conveyance for agriculture.
Decision:	Bob Logar motions to declare as non-jurisdictional. Sherwin Leep supports. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 08-26	Perennial Stream: Niebel Puckett Ditch
Applicant	Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
Landowner:	True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:	
Type of Project:	Road/Crossing
Purpose:	The purpose of the proposed crossing is to install water and sewer mains for the development, as well as provide a gravel vehicle access to the utilities.
Proposed Construction Date:	Start Date: 5/1/26 End Date: 10/1/26
Inspection Date:	1/6/2026
Inspection Recommendation:	Non jurisdictional
Inspection Comment	Controlled by headgate; can be shut off. Downstream user will stay informed. Aligns with discussions had in December inspection at site.
318 Authorization	
Discussion:	Confirmed headgate. Flow can be turned off. One downstream user, who has been consulted.
Decision:	Sherwin Leep motions to declare as non-jurisdictional. Loren Blanksma support. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 09-26 **Perennial Stream:** Baxter Creek

Applicant: Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
Landowner: True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:
Type of Project: Road/Crossing
Purpose: The purpose of the proposed crossing is to install water and sewer mains for the proposed site work and baseball fields.
Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 5/1/26 **End Date:** 10/1/26
Inspection Date: 1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation: Approve with modifications
Inspection Comment: Open trench to run utilities (sewer and water main). Confirm sewer line has sleeve around pipe. Stream to be restored once utilities have been installed to match existing. Ensure utilities run 2x below scour depth. Water to be bypass pumped.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Proposed trenching for utilities. Open trenching. Water will be pumped. Utilities placed. Sleeve sewer recommended. Jeremy says the city allows for diggable concrete fill rather than a sleeve, which is what they are going to do for the sewer. 4' separation between utilities and bottom of stream.
Decision: Mike Hansen motions to grant approval with modifications. Bob Logar supports. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 10-26 **Perennial Stream:** Baxter Ditch

Applicant: Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
Landowner: True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:
Type of Project: Road/Crossing
Purpose: The purpose of the proposed crossing is to install water and sewer mains for the development, as well as a gravel access road.
Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 5/1/26 **End Date:** 10/1/26
Inspection Date: 1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation: Approve with modifications
Inspection Comment: 48" diameter to match upstream culvert at Oak. Native materials to be present within culvert barrel. Culvert capacity is sufficient. Confirm sewer line has sleeve around pipe. Ensure utilities run 2x below scour depth. Water to be bypass pumped if necessary.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Culvert proposed is adequately sized. Be sure to counter sink. Use the same slurry cover as prior application.

Decision: Mike Hansen motioned to approve with inspection comments. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.

Applicant Number: GD 11-26	Perennial Stream: Unnamed Drainage
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or Applicant Headwaters Engineering, Jeremy May
36' Landowner: True North Partners
Contractor/Agent:
Type of Project: Road/Crossing
Purpose: The purpose of the proposed crossing is to install water and sewer mains for the development, as well as a paved urban road and associated sidewalks.
Proposed Construction Date: **Start Date:** 5/1/26 **End Date:** 10/1/26
Inspection Date: 1/6/26
Inspection Recommendation: Approve with modifications
Inspection Comment 30" diameter to match storm sewer capacity upstream. Culvert is over 80', however, no major concerns with fish passage. Recommend for culvert to be countersunk 20% of diameter.

318 Authorization

Discussion: Another utilities project. 80' culvert. Designed to account for storm water conveyance through the drainage. No concern with fish passage. Counter sink. Soft subset -will need to remove a decent amount to counter sink. Minimum of 30" in diameter-might have to upsize due to the countersink.

Decision: Bob Logar motions to approve with modifications. Mike Hansen supports. All in favor, motion carried.

Complaints

Emergency Applications

Extension Request

Applicant Number: GD 06-25	Perennial Stream: Sixteenmile Creek
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Applicant Wildland Hydrology, Dave Rosgen
Landowner: Climbing Arrow Ranch
Contractor/Agent:
Type of Project: Channel/banks
Purpose: Wildland Hydrology (Dave and Brandon Rosgen) has developed a Natural Channel Design" to help reconnect Sixteenmile Creek to its historic floodplain. The project will also use natural channel design methods to actively restore the pattern, dimension and profile of Sixteenmile Creek (a

Applicant Number:	GD 06-25	Perennial Stream:	Sixteenmile Creek
		meandering C4 stream) to natural reference conditions. We plan to use our data along with reference reach concepts to tailor restoration to improve specific aquatic conditions in Sixteenmile Creek.	
Proposed Construction Date		Start Date:	End Date:
Inspection Date:		10/8/24	
Inspection Recommendation:		NA	
2023 Inspection Comments:		Great project in partnership with FWP. It should be of considerable benefit to the resource. Additional design detail will be provided, targeting December for board decision unless board deems information furnished to date is sufficient. Construction timeline and permit timeline are more conducive to December approval.	
318 Authorization Issued?		Yes	
2025 Discussion		Additional details submitted by applicant. Thorough plans submitted by top notch experts. Technically- no advisements. Big project. Will be an improvement to deteriorating conditions. 190 page report submitted containing 2 years of data compiled for this project. Have plans for monitoring after the project to assess improvements. Present conditions are putting thousands of pounds of sediment into the stream. This project will improve conditions greatly. Emphasis on conservation restoration. Discussion whether a secondary review was conducted. Applicant states they did not receive the letter requesting the outside review and requested to resend the letter. Further discussion on whether an outside review is necessary due to the thorough review by GCD inspection team.	
2025 Decision		Bob Logar motioned to approve as presented. Jason Camp supported. Briana thinks there needs to be a review by an outside party due to the massive nature of the project Briana Shultz opposes; all others approve. Motion carries.	
Extension Request Reason		Large scale project, Multiyear implementation	
2026 Discussion:		Status update received. No inspection, but good photos were included in report. Things are looking good so far. Mutli year construction due to size of project. During construction inspection requested- maybe summer. Rosgen reports before and after progress were discussed. Reconnected the floodplain. Started late last year- have only done about a mile so far. Hoping for more progress this year. Flow measurements, fish data has increased, upward trends and improvements are ongoing for this project so far. Will provide reports each year as the project moves along. Monitor and tweak as they move forward with the project. Instream sediment trap is temporary due to large beaver dam in the area. Will need at least one more extension for this project next year. Tammy mentioned to necessity to update the board of	

Applicant Number: GD 06-25	Perennial Stream: Sixteenmile Creek
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2026 Decision:

any substantial modifications to the project. New permit will be required for the additional extension. This will trigger another field review, which the board/inspection team supports.
Loren Blanksma motions to approve extension request. Sherwin Leep supports. All in favor, motion carried.
Reinspection tour- October.

Other 310 Business:

310 Old Business:

- City Code- Letter was sent to city and county commissions. Haven't heard back yet. Will work on this more coming up.
- Scope of Services – GD 47-25. Sent to Hailey. Moving forward.
- 310 Penalties Working Group Updates- Hailey's proposal. Bond/lien proposal. Stream classification. Discretion component important to keep. GCD board like Hailey's proposal. Incorporate some of SMZ classification into it.

310 Coordinator's Report- Audra- See report

Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business

Adjournment of 310 Meeting- Mike Hansen motioned to adjourn at 1059. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Guests & Public Comments on District Business Meeting-

Governance Calendar

- Minutes to DNRC, C&R- 12/18/2025
- Positive Pay to GC Treasury- 12/19/2025
- 941 Q4-3 + Q4 filing- 1/7/2026
- UEI- Q4- 1/7/2026
- Local Government Survey to US Census Bureau- 1/7/2026

Cost-share Applications

Consensus Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Minutes- Mike Hansen motioned to approve as presented. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carried.
- Excuse Absent Members- all present

NRCS Report –

- Lots of extra moisture in December. Warmer weather is increasing water content. Dense snow up in mountains.
- Regenerative Agriculture program is brand new to NRCS. Soil health assessments will be required.

Supervisor Report: Planning Boards

- Planning board- meets next week
- County Planning Board-
 - Nolan reports- State association- MT Association of Planning- Has been chatter about eliminating the requirement of CD representation on planning boards. Hampering county business due to frequent absences and quorum issues.
 - Property with ag convenience. Divy off property to divide parcels. Didn't have to go through the subdivision review. Those parcels have now been sold. So, county to now lift the convenience. Question of legality. Nolan was the only voice of dissention and it was approved without merit.
 - Belgrade is dissolving their planning board- will fall under county planning.
 - Noah notes that in his experience with planning boards as a whole in this valley – ag/water is not a priority and is easily brushed aside. Very urban focused. Preference/Deferential given to developments. Variances are practically rubber stamped.
- GLWQD- No meeting in Jan. Hiring.
- MACD Update- Meeting next Tuesday
- Gallatin Watershed Collaborative- No updates
- DNRC Update- see report

Staff Reports

- Administrator's Report- Becky
- NRS Report- Elizabeth – Grant reporting. Farmer's Canal- extended. No invasive species samples from the summer monitoring.
 - Grants/Agreements/Contract Report

- Education and Outreach Director- Bea- Gallatin Valley Earth Day speaker series has started. GCD speaker series kicks off next week. Getting back into schools.
- AGAI-Rebecca- recently had annual meeting. Dos and don't for ditches in backyard.

Old Business

- Supervisor elections
 - Candidate filing period has been changed to February 4-March 4, 2026
- Other old business?

New Business

- Tree Orders- 1/20 for partners, 1/21 for general public.
- Other new business?

Parking Lot

Accounting (Deposit, Credit Card, Invoices) + Updated P&L, Balance Sheet

- Bob Logar motioned to accept the financials. Sherwin Leep supported. All in favor, motion carries.

Adjournment of Business Meeting- Mike motioned, Sherwin supported.


Minutes approved by _____ Date 2/19/2026

Becky Cloments
Minutes prepared by _____ Date 2/9/2026

Bozeman City Commission
121 N Rouse Ave.
Bozeman, MT. 59715



Est. 1949
Conservation
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Dear Members of the Bozeman Commission,

The Gallatin Conservation District (GCD) was recently made aware of the code updates approved by the Bozeman Commission on October 21, 2025, including revisions to the Wetland and Watercourse Regulations. GCD would like to formally raise concerns regarding references to the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 Law) contained within the adopted code.

GCD was not approached or consulted regarding the inclusion or interpretation of the 310 Law during the drafting or approval process. When a special district or permitting authority is referenced in municipal code, it is critical that a representative of the commission or its staff coordinate directly with the permitting authority to ensure that statutory requirements and procedures are accurately represented.

Specifically, GCD was made aware of the code development through a third party. While the intent of this provision is understandable, GCD no longer conducts jurisdictional determinations in the manner described in the adopted language. This concern was communicated to the code developer during the final drafting stages; however, the issue was not resolved prior to the final adoption. As a result, the current code contains references to a procedure that does not exist.

To clarify GCD's role, determination of whether a project requires a 310 permit occurs only after a project is formally brought before the GCD Board. This requires submission of a complete 310 application, including a preliminary design package, for projects that may impact perennial streams or rivers. GCD cannot evaluate permit applicability without an actual project.

Since adoption of the updated Bozeman code, project managers have begun submitting applications to GCD without a defined project, solely to satisfy City requirements. This approach places the permitting process out of sequence and has resulted in a stalemate between GCD, the City, and project applicants.

To address these issues constructively, GCD proposes a meeting with the commission, code developers and GCD representatives to identify appropriate language and procedures for inclusion in the unified code. Our goal is to reach a practical middle ground that aligns municipal requirements with state law and existing GCD processes. Ideally, this discussion would occur before the code is formally implemented to avoid continued confusion.

GCD values collaboration with the City of Bozeman and remains committed to effective resource protection while supporting responsible development. We look forward to the opportunity to work together to resolve these concerns.

Respectfully,

Gallatin Conservation District

CC: Gallatin County Commissioners

P.O. Box 569
Manhattan MT. 59741
406-282-4350
www.gallatincd.org



Est. 1949
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Development
Self Government

Technical Review of Rey Creek Ranch Restoration Project

For a Sediment entrainment effectiveness study

Background

The Gallatin Conservation District (hereafter, GCD) administers the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, known as the 310 Law. Under the 310 Law, GCD has jurisdiction to require permits for any work being conducted in or near a perennially flowing stream.

GCD received an application in August 2025 for a 1-mile habitat and water quality enhancement project on Rey Creek. The overarching goals of the project are: 1. Turbidity mitigation, 2. Channel restoration, and 3. Installation of a new bridge. The project has received substantial project opposition from downstream water users due to a historical project's impact on the natural sediment regime. In 2012 GCD approved a similar project on Rey Creek. The opposing parties state the 2012 project did not reach the original project goals for the reduction of sediment by reactivating abandoned wetlands but additionally added to the sediment load. GCD never received a formal complaint about this project. Due to these concerns, GCD is inclined to perform a technical review of the current design to ensure project effectiveness relating to the sediment regime.

Scope of Work and Deliverables

GCD is seeking a qualified consultant to conduct a technical review of this project. The review would consist of an investigation to help the GCD board of Supervisors approve, deny, or modify the project as proposed. The technical review parameters are:

1. Determine whether the designed project will provide net benefits to the natural sediment regime on the Rey Creek watershed.
2. Evaluate the potential of sediment contribution downstream of project site from project implementation prior and post construction.
3. Determine sediment trap options as a viable solution for settling out suspended sediments at the lower end of the project reach during and after construction.

Deliverables

1. A report to the GCD Board of Supervisors providing a second opinion on the design of the overall project and the sediment retention pond. This will need to be finalized before the August 2026 310 meeting.
2. A presentation of the report to the Board of Supervisors during a board meeting and availability to answer questions during the meeting and subsequently. Board meetings take place on the third Thursday of every month.

Available Resources

- Data from previous research conducted on this section of stream.

Timeline

All deliverables must be submitted by July 5th, 2026.

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310 Coordinator Report
Gallatin Conservation District

310 Business

13	New 310 Application	0	Emergency Application
0	Modification	0	Complaints
1	Extension Requests	0	Permits entered into Gilly
6	Site Inspections	0	Reinspections

- Fielded questions and information related to the 310-application process.
- Scheduled inspections and prepped all meeting materials
- Updated scope of services for GD 47-25 and sent to DNRC
- Sent letter to City and County Commissions

Water Year to Date of 1/9/2026 (Water year begins October 1-September 30)

Gallatin:	Jan, 112%	Dec, 87%
Madison:	Jan, 114%	Dec, 62%
Jefferson:	Jan, 84%	Dec, 58%
Yellowstone:	Jan, 105%	Dec, 91%

Programs; for 2026

EQIP; Regenerative agriculture (new pilot program; 5 years)

-3 applications

EQIP: Tip; Animal confinement

-no applications

Bridger/Bangtails 2026; Forest health, fuels reduction

- 9 applications

RCPP; 2026; Properties on easements; program is currently out of money

-1 application

CSP 2026 (No more renewals; will be batched with regular csp)

-8 application

Community Agriculture 2026; Community Agriculture funding pool will not be available in Montana for FY 2026.

-13 applications;

Horseshoe Hills (TIP) 2026;

- 7 application

Rooting for Soil Health (TIP) Area wide

-None from Gallatin

NWQI; 2026

- 9 applications

Organic special initiative

-1 application

New TIP for improving grazing land health (north Bridgers)

- 2 application

-Practices

Watering facility, livestock pipeline, spring development, wells, brush management, prescribed grazing, fence, weed control

Groups (updates)

Watershed council/Water collaborative;

-annual meeting (12/11/2025) Partner updates

Trout Unlimited;

-none

Extension:

-none

Fire Adapted (county):

-prescribed burns and pile burning happening in N. Bridgers, Battle ridge area, Hyalite, West Yellowstone

-Northwest energy; has grant program for fire awareness, education

Stockgrowers:

-none

AGAI:

-annual meeting dates/speakers

-AGAI is suing DNRC for the exempt wells that have been awarded; due to some awarded that are going against the exempt well intended purpose

-mapping middle creek ditch

-gallatin water trust working to sell water rights; in order to monetize their water rights for water recharge.

-ground water/water storage

Weed District:

-Hiring

Events

Past;

AGAI annual meeting Jan 6 at Stockman Bank (Manhattan, Mt. 12-3)

Field tour with GVLT

Future;

All employee meeting; Billings; Feb 4-6

Soil Health symposium Feb 2-4, 2026 (Billings Hotel and Convention Center)

DEQ meeting on NWQI; Feb 25, Livingston

-update on program

Trainings

MISC



REPORT TO MT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS JANUARY 2026

Catey's Comments

Hello CDs!

My January report covers CDB updates and January conservation events.

The grants awarded in the FY26 P3 Grant cycle are below. Congrats to the awardees and thanks to all the CDs who applied and participated in the grant process.

Mary Hendrix with the CDB developed the MT Conservation Districts Water Reservations Explorer. I know most CDs in my area don't have water reservations, but it is still a cool resource to check out.

Finally, a couple conservation events taking place in Missoula that offer great educational opportunities for CDs.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun New Year's!

P3 AWARDEES

- Congratulations to the P3 awardees:
 - Lake County CD – 2026-2027 Pollinator Initiative & Native Plant Cost Share Program
 - Green Mountain CD: 2026-2027 Area 5 Pollinator and Native Grass Initiative
 - Sweet Grass County CD: Employee Organization Travel and Training Expenses
- Once again, thank you to all the CDs who submitted applications for the P3 cycle and participated in the grant hearings. I appreciate the work you put into your applications and your participation in the CDB P3 grant program.

MT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS WATER RESERVATIONS EXPLORER

- For those CDs with water reservations, Mary Hendrix with the CDB developed the [Montana Conservation Districts Water Reservations Explorer](#)
- The explorer is a GIS platform that provides general access to view publicly noticed project areas that shape CD water reservation boundaries.

WESTERN MT GRAZING & AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

- The Missoula CD with the help of partners including Lake County CD will host the Western MT Grazing & Agriculture Conference January 29th – 30th
- The WMGAC is a two-day conference with speakers, panels, and presentations that aim to offer small and large ag producers an opportunity to educate themselves on relevant topics and meet other producers to share experiences and information.
- The event is hosted by Missoula CD in the GW Marks Exploration Center in Missoula

INVASIVE SPECIES TO WATCH IN MONTANA – A TALK BY RUSS HARTZELL, MONTANA
INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

- Russ Hartzell, Program Coordinator for the Montana Invasive Species Council, will provide an all-taxa overview of invasive species to watch for in Montana on January 27th in Missoula.
- His talk will highlight the collaborative efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals working to protect Montana's lands and waters, and how to support and amplify this work. He will also share practical actions we can all take to prevent, detect, and manage invasive species across the state.
- For more information contact Russ Hartzell at Russ.Hartzell2@mt.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

January 1 New Year's Day
January 27 Invasive Species to Watch for Talk, *Missoula*
January 29-30 WMGAC, *Missoula*
February 2-3 Grant Management Training - *Virtual - [Info. and Registration](#)*
February 23 [Leopold Conservation Award Application](#) Deadline

Please contact me if you would like me to attend meetings via Zoom or in person.



Catey Bauer | Conservation District Specialist
Conservation Districts Bureau, CARDD
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1539 Eleventh Avenue, Helena, MT 59601
PHONE: 406-465-0948 EMAIL: catey.bauer@mt.gov



Administrator's Report- January 15, 2026

Accounting

- Paid bills and taxes, PERS and payroll

Media

- Updates to Facebook and website.

Board Meeting

- Information, planning, organization for the January meeting. Agenda + December minutes prepped.

Other: Miscellaneous

- Weekly-ish staff meetings
- Positive Pay upload for December- 12/19/25
- ACH to GC Treasury
- Work with Audra on 310 tasks and procedures + Gilly
- 941- Q4-3 + Q4 filing- 1/7/26
- UEI filing- Q4- 1/7/26
- Reconcile all accounts
- HOA board meeting - monthly
- Regular HOA communications
- Ace Handyman coordinated for HOA
- Reconciliation reports- research of old records for errors
- 310 Civil Penalties research + participation in working group + "homework" completed
- Undecorate office for Christmas
- Supervisor training ideas to MACD
- AGAI grant- processed payment
- Election resolution to GC Elections Department
- Leave calculations for M. Hendrix
- 2026 tax tables + begin switching 2025 files to 2026
- Swag ordered
- GCD Directory updates with MACD
- Ipad to RESPEC for inspections
- Supervisor 2025 mileage invoices prepped
- AGAI annual meeting + help with tech
- MPERA troubleshooting
- Local Government Survey to US Census - 1/7/26
- SMZ Procedures, rules, and regulations meeting

Discussion Items:

Meetings in Conference Room (scheduled):

- AGAI/DDAMP- 1/29, 11-5
- 4-H- 1/21
- Booster Club- 1/28

Upcoming workshops/Meetings (attending):

- HOA BOD Meeting- 1/26
- 310 Civil Penalties Working Group meeting- 1/13, 1/27
- CD Roundtable- 1/21, 10-11
- Area 6 EO meeting- 1/22, 10am
- Land and Water Stewardship WS- 1/21

Grants: Closing Before the End of 2026 / Continuing into 2027 / Not yet finalized

(See attached Excel sheet for full grant overview. Below is a brief status summary.)

- **ARPA Farmers Canal: Progress report submitted** Construction in progress will be completed before 1/31/26. Final reporting will follow installation of galvanized walkways in January.
- **DNRC Watershed Management Grant (with AGAI): Progress report submitted**, see Rebecca Kurnick's December report attached.
- **RDG Planning Grant, GV Managed Aquifer Recharge: Progress Report submitted**
- **CD Administrative Grant: MACD Dues & 2024 310 Permits:** Will be in progress until Sp 26.
- **RDG Planning Grant-2027 Biennium, GV Managed Aquifer Recharge: Awarded** Working on start-up documentation with TU and GWT. **Chatting with Caitlin about procurement.**
-

Cost Share Programs:

Well Testing Cost Share & Conservation Cost Share: No new applications.

Outreach:

Water Supply Report: The December 2025 Water Supply Report was completed, posted online, & distributed via email.

DDAMP Meetings: Upcoming presentation on WSOR data synthesis and how it can relate to 310 permitting at January 29th meeting.

Events & Meetings Attended:

- State ARPA Call – 12/16
- Planning grant check in – 12/18
- AGAI Meeting – 12/19

Out of Office: December 25th & 26th, 2025
January 1st – 13th, 2026

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

- ARPA Eng Calls – TBD
- EO Roundtable – 1/21
- MT DNRC Nursery Sale Opens! – 1/21
- Area 6 EO Meeting – 1/22
- Water Collab. Call – 1/27
- AGAI Meeting – 1/29
- DDAMP Meeting – 1/29
- Soil Health Symposium – 2/3-4

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Emeline | elizabeth@gallatincd.org

Grant Report | Gallatin Conservation District Board Meeting | January 2025

Grants	Funding Provided For:	Partners?	Date Approved	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Funded	Grant Progress (Funds used or committed) (12/2025)	Current Amount spent or reimbursed by GCD (12/2025)	Final Amount Reimbursed to GCD	Final Report Submitted	Final Report Deadline
ARPA - South Cottonwood Headgate Rehabilitation (AC-22-0188)	Water quality improvement, Headgate rehab	Farmers Canal, Gallatin County	12/16/2021	\$184,000.00	\$184,000.00	\$96,928.82	\$96,928.82			1/31/2026
DNRC Watershed Planning Grant (WMG-24-0103)	Capacity for AGAI	AGAI	2/15/2024	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$18,560.00	\$18,560.00			12/31/2026
DRNC RDG - Managed Aquifer Recharge Network (RTP-25-0220)	Understand aquifer recharge along the Middle Creek irrigation ditch.	TU, GWT & Middle Creek Ditch Co.	4/17/2025	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$23,873.60				12/31/2026
DNRC CD Admin Grant FY2026	Funding for MACD Dues		1/18/2025	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00	Must wait until 2026	3/30/2026
2026 RDG Planning Grant	Aquifer Recharge Study, Phase 2	TU, GWT & Middle Creek Ditch Co.	9/18/2025	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00					
Completed Grants				Total Grant Funds:						
Active Grants				\$348,300.00	\$153,662.42	\$129,788.82	\$14,300.00			
Not yet finalized										

Partnership Coordinator Activities Update - GCD

December 2025

Engagement

- Presentation at Gallatin Water Collaborative Annual Meeting
- General engagement with non-water users
- Annual AGAI Membership Meeting planning
- Weekly communication with AGAI board and president

Upcoming:

- Annual Meeting Jan. 6 2026,
- DDAMP Meeting #2 January 26th th GCD. AGAI member voice!

Education

- Planning for winter workshops with GCD and NRCS
- City of Bozeman/AGAI meeting to discuss easements and educational materials for city to use with planning department
- Quarterly Newsletter sent out with update on Coordinator activities since last newsletter
- Interpretive signs under production!
- Article for MSU publication Live & Landscapes - Ditch Do's and Don't's for Landowners (est publication end of January)

Upcoming: Invites for winter workshops, Draft outreach/FYI article about upcoming ditch maintenance to be published in February, Find willing members for "Pitch in for the Ditch" clean up day.

Fundraising

- Participated in 2-day Grant Writing workshop
- Capacity funding search and strategy work
- Updates to the AGAI Website
- Embroidered hats expected early Next week
- Foam hats are here!
- Corporate sponsor outreach
 - OnX
 - Kenyon Noble
 - Duckworth
- The Foundation for Montana History: Oral Histories grant project

Upcoming: Revised list of potential funding opportunities

New Business/Pending Discussion/Decisions

- Call Tree
- Workshops
 - Realtors/Developers

- Members/Water users
- Community - "Pitch in for the Ditch" winter/spring clean up

Bea McNamara
Staff Report: January 2026
Education & Outreach Director

Education

- Manhattan Afterschool Program (1/12).

Outreach

- GVED planning meeting (1/6).
- AGAI and NRCS planning meeting for speaker series and summer lands tour (1/13).
- GVED Ted Turner event: help set up, facilitate and attend (1/14).
- Speak at the BSWC alumni panel (1/15).
- Visit partner agencies while hanging up posters: Dept of Ag, DNRC, WWF, Nature Conservancy, GVLTC, Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Office and Garden Work

- Finalize and send out the Annual Report.
- Laminate big HOM posters for education programs.
- Turn compost and combine piles.
- Reach out to schools: Manhattan, Cottonwood, Monforton, Ophir about January through May classroom visits.
- Tend to MFM business: Valentines market in February, create and send out 2026 registration forms to vendors, food trucks, and musicians.
- Plan Manhattan Afterschool program from the 12th.
- Tend to GVED food court planning.
- Drop off donations at HRDC.
- Grant management
- Contact realtor agencies about the speaker series
- Promote the Land and Water Speaker Series on various online platforms.
- Hang flyers around Bozeman, Belgrade and Manhattan for the speaker series.